

EO-1461
KB

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 117 (Sub-No. 7X)

July 1, 2010

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on June 11, 2010 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended 2 environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Prior to beginning any salvage activities, Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company shall consult with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to address DNR's concerns about possible impacts to state species of concern and the implementation, if appropriate, of measures to minimize any impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources.
2. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the railroad's salvage activities, Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company shall immediately cease all work and notify the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), interested Federally recognized tribes, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). SEA shall then consult with the SHPO (or THPO), interested Federally recognized tribes, the railroad, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

If the above conditions are imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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