

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB-1254X

17 August 2017

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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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on July 31, 2017 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

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

In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the Winamac Southern Railway Company and US Rail Holdings, LLC's (Applicants') salvage activities, the Applicants shall immediately cease all work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA shall then consult with the SHPO, the railroad, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

If the above condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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