

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 290 (Sub-No. 350X)

October 19, 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

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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In this proceeding, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice of exemption to abandon approximately .71 miles of rail line and to discontinue service over a connecting 1.29-mile segment of rail line in Essex County, New Jersey. Because SHPO had not completed its identification and evaluation procedures at the time of the Board's December 2, 2014 decision, the Board imposed a Section 106 condition requiring NSR to: a) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed; b) report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer, any other Section 106 consulting parties, and the public; and c) not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

On October 19, 2017, OEA received a comment from Katherine J. Marcopul of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Natural and Historic Resources, Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating that based on information provided by NSR, the proposed abandonment would have no effect on historic resources listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the Section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the December 2, 2014 decision be removed.

Conclusions

OEA recommends that the Section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the December 2, 2014 decision be removed.

OEA CONTACT: Danielle Gosselin, 245-0300