

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 290-389X

May 9, 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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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on March 28, 2017 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended two environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. OEA received one comment during the comment period and issued a Final EA on April 13, 2017. After issuance of the Final EA, OEA received a late comment and issued a Supplemental Final EA on April 20, 2017 recommending a new condition.

On May 8, 2017, OEA received a call from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Ecological Services Field Office (USFWS) regarding the USFWS condition recommended in the EA. After consulting with USFWS, OEA has determined that the proposed abandonment would not adversely affect the Roanoke Logperch (fish) that might be present in the project area because NSR indicates in its Environmental Report that it has no plans to undertake any in-stream work, or dredge and/or use any fill materials in connection with the proposed abandonment. Salvage activities would be limited to the removal of tracks and ties and would be confined to the rail right-of-way. Accordingly, OEA is no longer recommending any mitigation related to biological resources.

Conclusions

OEA recommends that the condition regarding flood risk management previously recommended in the EA and the additional condition recommended in the April 20th Supplemental Final EA be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The combined conditions are:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Flood Risk Management Program for the Upper Roanoke River.

2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to address citizen concerns regarding black foundry waste located in the right-of-way of the proposed abandonment.

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

OEA CONTACT: Danielle Gosselin, 245-0300