

H EO-2911

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 1250 (SUB-NO. 1X)

June 13, 2017

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

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

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, HC Railroad, LLC (HC Railroad) filed a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 seeking to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of rail line extending from milepost 17.4 to milepost 23.8 in Rush County, Indiana. The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on May 12, 2017 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended no environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

OEA received two comments (see attached) during the 30-day comment period. By letter dated May 24, 2017, the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service commented that the proposed abandonment would not cause a conversion of prime farmland. And by email dated May 31, 2017, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (IDNR), commented that it was reviewing the proposed abandonment and formal comments would follow. OEA has since received verbal clearance from IDNR that the proposed abandonment would not affect the quality of the human environment, including fish and wildlife and their habitat, because no salvage or other land/water disturbances would occur. Accordingly, OEA concludes that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Attachment

OEA CONTACT: Diana Wood 
202-245-0302
Diana.Wood@stb.gov

Distribution: Office of Proceedings
OEA Chron
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United States Department of Agriculture

HEI-26068
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Indiana State Office
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278
317-290-3200

May 24, 2017

Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Docket Number AB 1250 (Sub-no.1X)
395 East Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Wood:

The request from HC Railroad, LLC for an Abandonment Exemption of approximately 6.4 miles of rail line extending from mile post 17.4 to mile post 23.8 in Rush County, Indiana (Docket Number AB 1250; Sub Number 1X), as referred to in your letter received May 15, 2017, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

If you need additional information, please contact Rick Neilson at 317-295-5875.

Sincerely,

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#E1-26095

Wood, Diana

From: DeRolf, Kelly L <KDerolf@dnr.IN.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 12:15 PM
To: Wood, Diana
Subject: ER-19820, Rush Co, Docket No. AB 1250 (Sub-No. 1X)

Dear Diana Wood :

This is a standard informational email in response to your request for an Environmental Review. We would like you to know that the review is in process and a formal response will be forthcoming. Please refer to the ER number in the subject line on all future correspondence regarding this project.

**** Future environmental review requests can be submitted electronically to: environmentalreview@dnr.in.gov. This is only FYI if you are not already doing so.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at 317-232-8163 or cstanifer@dnr.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Christie Stanifer
Environmental Coordinator
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
402 West Washington St, Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2781
(317) 232-8163
Fax: (317) 232-8150



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