

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 463 (Sub-No. 2X)

May 9, 2019

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 April 23, 2019 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.

Conclusions

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

1. Alabama Railroad Co. (ALAB) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, has been completed. ALAB shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Alabama Historical Commission (SHPO) and the public. ALAB may 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.
2. To address the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's concerns about the federally threatened Red Hills salamander and its habitat, Alabama Railroad Co. shall not store or place equipment or materials on any steep slopes in Monroe County and shall implement the use of best management practices while conducting salvage activities.

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

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