

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

#EO-2216

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 55 (SUB-NO. 718X)
AND
DOCKET NO. AB 507 (SUB-NO. 1X)

January 3, 2014

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**

☐ () **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, the CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) and the Florida Northern Railroad Company (FNOR) filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.52 seeking approval for CSXT to abandon 11.62 miles of rail line and for FNOR to discontinue service over approximately 9.81 miles of rail line located in Alachua County, Florida. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on December 13, 2013 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended four environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusion

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

1. The CSXT Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) shall consult with the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department prior to initiating salvage of the rail line to determine what, if any, permits may be required for salvage operations on the rail line.
2. CSXT shall consult with the Alachua Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission prior to initiating salvage of the rail line to determine what, if any, procedures and/or permits may be needed to protect Gopher tortoise habitat areas within 25 feet of the proposed salvage operations.
3. CSXT shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

4. CSXT 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, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed. CSXT shall report back to OEA regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office and the public. CSXT 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.

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

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