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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 311X)

March 18, 2010

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

☐ Notice of Exemption ☒ Petition for Exemption ☐ Regulated Abandonment

☐ **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on February 16, 2010 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended no environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

James Riffin, Zandra Rudo, Carl Delmont, Lois Lowe, and Eric Strohmeyer, collectively, the "Offerors," filed comments on the EA. Offerors comment on certain information provided by NSR in NSR's verified Petition for Exemption filed with the Board. Offerors comments have been noted. Offerors provided the Board with Confidential Marketing Information on January 5, 2010, which addresses the profitability of the rail freight operation. This information, which pertains to the merits of the case, does not change SEA's environmental analysis. No freight service has moved over the line since April of 2005. The proposed abandonment would not result in any further diversion of freight traffic to other transportation systems or modes beyond that which happened prior to that time.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended and no conditions are recommended by SEA. Accordingly, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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