

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 117 (Sub-No. 8X)

July 19, 2012

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 July 3, 2012 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 and no new comments were received. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the conditions previously recommended in the EA be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E) shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Rock Island Field Office (USFWS) to discuss the abandonment's potential impacts to federally-listed threatened or endangered species that may occur in the vicinity of the line. EJ&E shall report the results of this consultation to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in writing. Should any potential impacts be identified, the railroad shall consult with OEA and USFWS to develop appropriate mitigation measures.

2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company shall consult with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Water Resources regarding the abandonment's potential impacts to floodplains and comply with the reasonable requirements of the Office of Water Resources to mitigate any potential impacts.

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