

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 286 (SUB-NO. 7X)

December 5, 2013

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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In this proceeding, the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway Company filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking approval authority to abandon a 4.2-mile portion of rail line in Passaic and Morris counties, New Jersey. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) in this proceeding on November 15, 2013 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.

Conclusion

The EA comment period has ended and no comments were received. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the two conditions recommended in the EA be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

- 1. The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation 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. The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the New Jersey Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) and the public. The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation 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. The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey at least 90 days prior to the beginning of salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.**

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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