

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-551 (Sub-No. 1X)

18 November 2009

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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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 30, 2009 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended five 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, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Knox and Kane Railroad Company (Knox and Kane) shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) prior to beginning salvage activities. If NGS identifies geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment, Knox and Kane shall notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers in order to plan for the possible relocation of the geodetic station markers by NGS.
2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Knox and Kane Railroad Company shall consult with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding its requirements and, if applicable, shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the Corps.

3. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Knox and Kane Railroad Company shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PA DOT) regarding PA DOT requirements if any work is to be performed within PA DOT right-of-way in Clarion County and, if applicable, shall comply with the reasonable requirements of PA DOT.
4. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Knox and Kane Railroad Company shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) Waste Management Program, Air Quality Program, and Watershed Management Program to address their concerns about reclamation, demolition, and storage of materials along the corridor and, if applicable, shall comply with the reasonable requirements of PA DEP.
5. Knox and Kane Railroad Company (Knox and Kane) 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. Knox and Kane shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) regarding any consultations with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the public. Knox and Kane 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.

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

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