

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-57 (Sub No. 57X)

October 9, 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 September 21, 2009 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended one environmental condition 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 condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo) shall retain its interest in and shall take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. Soo shall report back to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Minnesota Historical Society (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) and the public. Soo 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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