

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 511 (Sub-No. 6X)

June 11, 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

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on May 22, 2012 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

OEA received one comment after issuance of the EA. The comment was submitted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) (see attached, EI-18906).

In its letter, IDEM stated that it knows of no existing hazardous waste sites or hazardous material spills within the right-of-way of the proposed abandonment. IDEM notes that there have been several incidences of hazardous spills from one-eighth to one-quarter mile from the right-of-way, but that these have been remediated and pose no harm to the project area.

IDEM cautions, however, that there may be a potential for residual contamination of the railroad bed from rail crossties that may contain arsenic and pentachlorophenol. OEA therefore recommends the imposition of a new condition requiring the Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis to consult with IDEM regarding its concerns.

Final Recommendations

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the condition recommended in the EA, as well as the new condition recommended in this document should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The combined conditions are:

1. Prior to the commencement of salvage activities, the Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis shall consult with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to ensure that its concerns are appropriately addressed.
2. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the railroad's salvage activities, Central Railroad

Company of Indianapolis shall immediately cease work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested federally recognized tribes, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA shall then consult with the SHPO, interested federally recognized tribes, CERA, and other consulting parties to determine whether mitigation measures are necessary.

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

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