

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 290 (Sub-No. 350X)

December 17, 2014

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

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on December 2, 2014 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. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Jersey Field Office, to determine if any further review is necessary.
2. Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed. NSR shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer, any other Section 106 consulting parties, and the public. NSR 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, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

OEA CONTACT: Danielle Gosselin, 245-0300