

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 55 (Sub-No. 786X)

April 2, 2019

ABANDONMENT TYPE

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking authority for CSXT to abandon an approximately 0.23-mile rail line in Alachua County, Florida.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on January 31, 2019. In the EA, OEA stated that CSXT submitted an historic report to the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (or SHPO) as required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8. At the time the EA was prepared, SHPO had not commented on the historic report; and therefore, OEA was unable to consider the SHPO's opinion in determining whether the proposed abandonment could affect historic properties. Accordingly, pending the outcome of consultations with the SHPO, OEA recommended that the following condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority:

- CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) 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, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, has been completed. CSXT shall report back to OEA regarding any consultations with the SHPO and the public. CSXT 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.

The comment period on the EA closed on February 14, 2019 and no new comments were received. Consequently, in the Final EA OEA recommended that the Section 106 condition recommended in the EA be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority.

By decision served on February 25, 2019, the Board imposed the Section 106 condition recommended by OEA.

New Comments

On March 25, 2019, OEA received a March 20, 2019 comment letter from the SHPO (attached), in which the SHPO states that the undertaking (i.e., the proposed abandonment) would “have no effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.” (DHR Project File No.: 2018-6183-C)

Conclusions

Pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), and following consultation with the SHPO and the public, OEA has determined that the proposed abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The documentation for this finding, as specified at 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(d), consists of the railroad’s historic report, all relevant correspondence, the EA, the Final EA and this Supplemental Final EA, which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public through posting on the Board’s website at <http://www.stb.gov>.

This completes the Section 106 process and OEA recommends that the Section 106 condition imposed by the Board in this proceeding be removed at this time.

Attachment

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March 25, 2019

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 786X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Alachua County, FL**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Enclosed please find the a letter dated March 20, 2019, from Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources concurring with CSX Transportation, Inc.'s determination that the proposed abandonment will have no effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,



Melanie B. Yasbin
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Enclosures



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

LAUREL M. LEE
Secretary of State

Gene Payne
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202

March 20, 2019

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2018-6183-C, Received by DHR: February 26, 2019
Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 786X)
Project Name: *CSX Transportation Abandonment Exemption in Alachua*
County: Alachua

To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

A review of the Florida Master Site File indicates that CSX Transportation, Inc. has proposed the abandonment of a section of the historic Jacksonville, Gainesville & Gulf Railroad (8AL5393), for which our office has insufficient information to make a determination of eligibility for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. While our office has insufficient information to evaluate the entire rail line, the section of rail line within this project area does not appear to be eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Therefore, our office concurs with CSX Transportation, Inc.'s determination that the proposed abandonment of this section of the Jacksonville, Gainesville & Gulf Railroad will have no effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Hall, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at *Kristen.Hall@dos.myflorida.com*, or by telephone at 850.245.6342 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely,

Timothy A Parsons, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Historical Resources
& State Historic Preservation Officer