

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 55 (Sub-No. 740X)

July 1, 2015

RECOMMENDATION: Remove Coastal Zone Management Condition

On May 7, 2015, CSX Transportation Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) in connection with the proposed abandonment of a line of railroad and any associated common carrier obligation in Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York. In its June 25, 2015 decision, the Board imposed a condition requiring the following actions by CSXT:

(a) prior to beginning any salvage activities, consult with the New York Department of State (DOS) to determine whether state coastal management consistency certification is required; (b) report the results of these consultations in writing to OEA, prior to the onset of salvage operations; (c) obtain state coastal management consistency certification if it is determined that the proposed project is located in a coastal zone management area and coastal management consistency certification is required; and (d) wait to file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until it reports the results of these consultations in writing to OEA and the Board has removed this condition.

New Comments On the Abandonment

One June 30, 2015, CSXT submitted to OEA comments from the DOS. The DOS finds that the abandonment is not likely to affect coastal zone resources and that no further consultation is required.

Conclusions

Based on the DOS comments described above, OEA recommends that the Board remove the Coastal Zone Management condition that was imposed in the June 25, 2015 decision.

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