

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 57 (Sub-No. 61X)

March 13, 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

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on February 21, 2014 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended four 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. Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific shall consult with Racine County officials and the State of Wisconsin to determine if a floodplain permit is required and if so, comply with its reasonable requirements.
2. Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.
3. Prior to beginning any salvage activities, Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific (Soo Line) shall consult with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to determine whether state coastal management consistency certification is required. Soo Line shall report the results of these consultations in writing to the Office of Environmental Analysis prior to the onset of salvage operations.

4. Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific (Soo Line) 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. Soo Line shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the SHPO, any other Section 106 consulting parties and the public. Soo Line 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.

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