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SERVICE DATE – MARCH 27, 2015

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 32 (Sub-No. 106X)

BOSTON AND MAINE CORPORATION—DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE
EXEMPTION—IN ESSEX COUNTY, MASS.

Decided: March 27, 2015

Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over the Manchester and Lawrence Branch, approximately 1.4 miles of railroad line extending between milepost 0.00 and milepost 1.4 in Essex County, Mass. (the Line), which is owned by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 10,566). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on March 28, 2015.

B&M filed environmental and historic reports with its verified notice of exemption. The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) examined the reports, verified their data, and analyzed the probable effect of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment. OEA served a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on March 3, 2015. OEA did not receive any comments in response to the EA. A Final EA was issued on March 19, 2015.

In the above-entitled proceeding, no environmental or historic preservation issues have been raised by any party or identified by OEA. Accordingly, a finding of no significant impact under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(g) will be made pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1011.7(a)(2)(ix).

It is ordered:

1. Discontinuance of the Line will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment and conservation of energy resources or on historic resources.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.