

Blodgett, Kenneth

EI-26828

From: Tracy Hoffman <Tracy.Hoffman@thc.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Blodgett, Kenneth
Subject: RE: Docket No AB 1291X
Attachments: 4705_001.pdf

Importance: High

Mr. Blodgett:

Please see the attached determination regarding submittal for Docket No. AB 1291X.

Thanks,
Tracy



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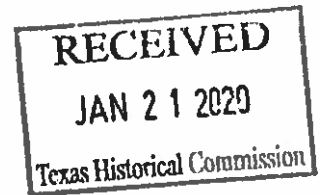


Duplicate
Determination received
in previous filings.

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OEA

SERVICE DATE – JANUARY 17, 2020



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Docket No. AB 1291X
Alcoa Energy Services, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption
in Milam County, Tex.**

NO HISTORIC
PROPERTIES AFFECTED
PROJECT MAY PROCEED
Mark Wolfe Justin KeKette
2/3/2020

BACKGROUND

In this proceeding, Alcoa Energy Services, Inc. (AESI) filed a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in Milam County, Texas that extends approximately 6.0 miles from MP 0.0 at the town of Marjorie to MP 6.0 (the Line). A map depicting the Line in relationship to the area served is appended to this Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). If the notice becomes effective, AESI will be able to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances and to dispose of the right-of-way.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

AESI submitted a combined Environmental and Historic Report that concludes the quality of the human environment would not be affected significantly as a result of the abandonment or any post-abandonment activities, including salvage and disposition of the right-of-way. AESI served the Environmental and Historic Report on a number of appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as required by the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) environmental rules [49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b)].¹ The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has reviewed and investigated the record in this proceeding.

According to AESI, common carrier operation on the Line ceased in February of 2018 following the closure of a smelter facility (the Sandow Facility) which had been operated by a corporate predecessor of Alcoa USA Corp. (A-USA). A-USA is the current owner of the Sandow Facility assets and surrounding land. AESI acquired the railroad assets that comprise the Line from the Rockdale, Sandow & Southern Railroad Company at the end of 2018.

AESI states that the power plants and smelter associated with the Sandow Facility have been de-commissioned and the Sandow Facility will never be restored to operation. AESI does

¹ The Environmental and Historic Reports are available for viewing on the Board's website at www.stb.gov by going to "Proceedings & Actions," selecting "Filings," and then conducting a search for AB 1291X.