

# Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

J. Randy Young, PE  
Executive Director

101 East Capitol, Suite 350  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
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Mike Beebe  
Governor

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Tracy Copeland, Manager  
State Clearinghouse

FROM: ✓ Mr. J. Randy Young, P.E., and Chairman  
Technical Review Committee

SUBJECT: DOCKET #AB-1076 X  
Caddo Valley Railroad Company – Abandonment Exemption  
In Clark, Pike and Montgomery Counties, Arkansas  
COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORTS

DATE: November 8, 2011

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Members of the Technical Review Committee have reviewed the above referenced project; Caddo Valley Railroad Company proposes to abandon approximately 32.20 miles of its rail line between Railroad Milepost 447.0 and 479.2, which is a portion of the northern segment of the Norman Branch Line. Due to deteriorated track conditions and seriously adverse financial circumstances, Caddo Valley Railroad Company was compelled to suspend all rail services on the Line in May 2009. No local traffic has moved over the Line during the past two years, and there is no overhead traffic. No complaint regarding cessation of service has been filed, is pending, or has been ruled upon in favor of a complainant in the past two years. The Line has had only two customers in the past ten years, Bean Lumber Company, Inc. and GS Roofing Products Company, Inc. Bean Lumber Company, Inc. has ceased operations and filed for bankruptcy. Abandonment of the Line will result in the removal of the rail, crossties, and possible the upper layer of ballast. Caddo Valley Railroad does not intend to disturb any bridges or sub-grade or sub-grade structures. It anticipates it will enter into an agreement with Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority, which will rail bank the right-of-way in order to preserve the rail corridor, which consists of easements dating back to the 19th and early part of the 20th Century.

### The Committee supports this project.

Agency comments are included for your review.

The opportunity to comment is appreciated.

JRY/ddavis



STATE OF ARKANSAS

# Department of Finance and Administration

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

1515 West Seventh Street, Suite 412  
Post Office Box 8031  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8031  
Phone: (501) 682-1074  
Fax: (501) 682-6208  
<http://www.state.ar.us/dia>

## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: Tracy L. Copeland, Manager - State Clearinghouse *THC* **#2524**

DATE: October 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Docket No. AB-1076X Caddo Valley Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption-  
in Clark, Pike and Montgomery Counties, Arkansas - Combined Environmental and  
Historic Report.

Please review the above stated document under provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act,  
Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Arkansas Project  
Notification and Review System.

Your comments should be returned by October 28, 2011 to - Mr. Randy Young, Chairman,  
Technical Review Committee, 101 E. Capitol, Suite 350, Little Rock, AR 72203.

NOTE: It is imperative that your response be in to the ANRC office by the date requested.  
Should your Agency anticipate having a response which will be delayed beyond the  
stated deadline for comments, please contact Ms. Debby Davis of ANRC at (501)  
682-3830 or the State Clearinghouse Office.

☒ Support ☐ Do Not Support (Comments Attached)

☒ Comments Attached ☐ Support with Following Conditions

☐ No Comments ☐ Non-Degradation Certification Issues  
(Applies to ADEQ Only)

Name(print) John Turner Agency ANRC Date 10-28-2011

Telephone Number 501 682 1608

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ed Swaim, Chief, Water Management Division *ES*  
**CC:**  
**FROM:** John Turner, Program Coordinator  
**DATE:** October 26, 2011  
**RE:** Docket No. AB-1076X Caddo Valley Railroad Company - Abandonment Exemption-  
in Clark, Pike and Montgomery Counties, Arkansas - Combined Environmental and  
Historic Report.

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ANRC has reviewed the above report. At this time there are no objections to the proposal so long as the mitigation process (avoid, minimize, compensate) is adhered to in regards to wetlands and streams. Appropriate methodologies should be implemented when determining the extent of unavoidable impacts and compensation ratios for wetlands (Charleston Method) and streams (Little Rock Method). The appropriate amount of compensatory mitigation required to offset the impacts should be implemented to insure the mitigation is appropriate to "obtain no overall net loss to wetlands" as agreed to within the 1990 EPA/Corps MOA concerning the Determination of Mitigation Under the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.

Additionally, I recommend that the most current best management practices (BMPs) be made a part of the planning process for the removal of the tracks and crossties. These efforts will help minimize erosion and maintain water quality in the area.

I have attached the application for your review, decision, and signature.

Attachment



STATE OF ARKANSAS

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

## Department of Finance and Administration

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8031  
Phone: (501) 682-1074  
Fax: (501) 682-5206  
<http://www.state.ar.us/dfa>

### MEMORANDUM

TO: All Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: Tracy L. Copeland, Manager - State Clearinghouse

DATE: October 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Docket No. AB-1076X Caddo Valley Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption-  
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☐ Comments Attached ☐ Support with Following Conditions

☒ No Comments ☐ Non-Degradation Certification Issues  
(Applies to ADEQ Only)

Name(print)

William Prior

Agency

AGS

Date

10-17-2011

Telephone Number

683-0117



STATE OF ARKANSAS

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OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: All Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: Tracy L. Copeland, Manager - State Clearinghouse

DATE: October 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Docket No. AB-1076X Caddo Valley Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption-  
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Name(print) Dorey Akin Agency AFC Date 10/17/11

Telephone Number 501-276-1561



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### MEMORANDUM

TO: All Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: Tracy L. Copeland, Manager - State Clearinghouse

DATE: October 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Docket No. AB-1076X Caddo Valley Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption-in Clark, Pike and Montgomery Counties, Arkansas - Combined Environmental and Historic Report.

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River Basins

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☐ Support

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☐ Support with Following Conditions

☒ No Comments

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Name(print) Robert K. Leonard Agency AGFC Date 10-27-11

Telephone Number 978-7361



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OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

Department of Finance  
and Administration

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OCT 14 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

TO: All Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: Tracy L. Copeland, Manager - State Clearinghouse

DATE: October 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Docket No. AB-1076X Caddo Valley Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption-  
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The AHTD will make comments to the Surface  
Transportation Board by their December 12, 2011  
deadline.

Name(print) John Fleming Agency AHTD Date 11/7/11

Telephone Number 501-569-2595

## **Richard Streeter**

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**From:** Hooks, Jason <HOOKS@adeq.state.ar.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2011 1:53 PM  
**To:** 'rhstreeter@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Environmental Reviews

Mr. Streeter,

I received two letters from you requesting environmental review. I provide the following comments on behalf of the ADEQ Water Division. The projects are the abandonment of the Norman Branch Line at two locations. The first segment extends from Railroad milepost 429.25 near Gurdon to Milepost 447 near Antoine, totaling 17.55 miles in Clark and Pike Counties, Arkansas. The second segment extends from Railroad Milepost 447 near Antoine to Milepost 479.2 near Birds Mill, totaling 32.2 miles in Clark, Pike, and Montgomery Counties, Arkansas.

The abandonment of these segments of rail and the discontinuation of rail service will not likely cause violations of State Water Standards. Should any stream crossing structures be demolished or repaired, then the activity will require further review for impacts to Waters of the State. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I will forward your letters to the Hazardous Waste Division for their review.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

### **Jason Hooks**

Ecologist, Water Division  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
phone (501) 687-0028  
[hooks@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:hooks@adeq.state.ar.us)