



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 MICHIGAN AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550

January 8, 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Planning Office
Environmental Analysis Branch



Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

RE: STB Docket No. AB-1107X

This is in response to correspondence of December 18, 2012, from Mr. Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., regarding the abandonment of approximately 10.67 miles of rail line in Van Buren County, Michigan. The subject rail line for abandonment extends from milepost 19.88 to milepost 30.55, in the general vicinity south and west of Paw Paw, Michigan. The following comments are provided under our civil works and floodplain management programs.

Our civil works program does not include any current plans to develop waterways in the vicinity of your project; nor do we have any current or proposed flood control studies for the area described in your letter.

It is our understanding that the proposed abandonment will be to the existing roadbed and that the abandonment activities, which include materials salvage, would not involve any excavation, grading, fill placement, or other ground or soil disturbance, and that the underlying roadbed would not be disturbed. Based on the information supplied, it appears that since all activities will be to existing facilities or within rights-of-way and on higher ground, the proposed work would not impact any existing floodplains. However, coordination with local officials and with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is advised to be consistent with any local or state floodplain regulatory requirements, especially to ensure that items incidental to rail and roadbed removal do not result in flow restrictions of the applicable waterways. Any changes to stormwater inflows to the receiving waters and/or associated culverts, as a result of the project, would also have to be coordinated with the appropriate local and/or state offices.

Our Regulatory Office will be providing a response relative to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in a separate mailing under Department of the Army Regulatory file number LRE-2013-00011-280. Please refer to this file number in any inquiry regarding this Regulatory review.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed railroad abandonment in Van Buren County, Michigan (STB Docket No. AB-1107X). Questions regarding our regulatory review should be directed to Mr. Donald Reinke, Chief, Compliance and Enforcement Branch, Regulatory Office, at 313-226-6812. Other questions may be directed to Mr. Paul Allerding at 313-226-7590 or me at 313-226-2476.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Uhlarik, Chief
Environmental Analysis Branch

Copy furnished:

Mr. Robert A. Wimbish, Esq.
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