

From: [deborah.brooks](#)
To: [Mordi, Sally](#)
Subject: [JIRA] (IMOV-7487) STB Docket No. AB 1302X; City of Temple, Texas—Abandonment Exemption—in Bell County, Texas
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:34:06 PM

A comment is added on your issue:

Re: STB Docket No. AB 1302X; City of Temple, Texas—Abandonment Exemption—in Bell County, Texas

Thank you for informing the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) of the City of Temple (The City)'s decision to abandon approximately 6.277 miles of rail line between near Belton, Texas, milepost 0.0, and Smith, Texas, milepost 6.277, in Bell County, Texas (the "Line"). The City also anticipates establishing interim trail use and rail banking of the Line under 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29.

There could be geodetic survey marks located in the area described, and any marks still present could be disturbed by the abandonment. While it is illegal to disturb or destroy a mark, sometimes disturbing or destroying a mark is unavoidable. In such cases, the mark can often be preserved or reset with advanced planning. NGS provides the public with tools to search for and locate survey marks, see the NGS Data Explorer (<https://geodesy.noaa.gov/NGSDataExplorer/>).

If a mark will be disturbed by the abandonment, The City should consult with NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb, or destroy any geodetic marks identified nearby. Information is available online to help reset marks or report disturbed/destroyed marks:

<https://geodesy.noaa.gov/surveys/mark-recovery/index.shtml>

<<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://geodesy.noaa.gov/surveys/mark-recovery/index.shtml&sa=D&ust=1560385764139000&usg=AFQjCNGDkoXCHtBcDJBsXm2KQLkhwYDxQ>>.

This notice is also being shared with Dan Prouty (Dan.Prouty@noaa.gov, mobile-361-205-3904), Texas' Regional Geodetic Advisor, so he may work with any interested local agencies or stakeholders.

If you have additional questions, email **NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov** <**NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov**>.

Sincerely,

Deborah M. Brooks
Communications Specialist
deborah.brooks@noaa.gov

More information on preserving marks, mark resets, and destroyed marks.

Preserving Marks

Significant resources were invested to create an extensive geodetic network across the United States by establishing precise coordinates at physical survey marks. Disturbing or destroying these marks reduces geodetic control available to local surveyors, so please make every effort to preserve this valuable network.

Mark Resets

If a mark is about to be destroyed (e.g., due to planned construction), it may be possible to reset the mark and retain the geodetic control. Review the Bench Mark Reset Procedures (https://geodesy.noaa.gov/PUBS_LIB/Benchmark_4_1_2011.pdf) or contact your closest geodetic advisor (<https://geodesy.noaa.gov/ADVISORS/index.shtml>).

Please do not attempt to reset a mark that has been separated from the base. Any remnants of destroyed marks must be properly discarded and not reused in any manner, as this is a violation of Federal law.

Destroyed Marks

If it is determined that a mark has been destroyed, please provide enough photo evidence to show how this determination was made. To submit this information to NGS, follow the instructions regarding "destroyed marks" on the Mark Recovery Entry web page (https://geodesy.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/recvy_entry_www.prl).

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