

OEA
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SERVICE DATE – JULY 15, 2024

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 1330X

**The State of Oklahoma by and through the Oklahoma
Department of Transportation – Abandonment Exemption –
In Payne County, Okla.**

Docket No. AB 1040 (Sub-No. 1X)

**Stillwater Central Railroad, LLC. – Discontinuance Exemption –
In Payne County, Okla.**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:
(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

In this proceeding, the State of Oklahoma by and through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Stillwater Central Railroad, LLC (SLWC) filed a notice with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with ODOT's abandonment and SLWC's discontinuance of a line of railroad located in the City of Stillwater in Payne County, Oklahoma. The rail line proposed for abandonment and discontinuance is approximately 3.2 miles in length and extends from milepost 30.74 to milepost 27.54 in the city of Stillwater (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on June 24, 2024 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Modifications to the Draft EA

Upon further independent review, OEA believes that the Draft EA contains an error in the recommended condition that has been corrected in this Final EA. Accordingly, OEA recommends that "the railroad's" be deleted from the first sentence of the condition. This modification is reflected in the condition below.

Conclusion

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the condition recommended in the Draft EA, as modified by the recommendation in this document, should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during abandonment-related salvage activities, the State of Oklahoma by and through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) will immediately cease all work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested Federally recognized tribes, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey (OAS), and the Oklahoma Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA will then consult with OAS, SHPO, interested Federally recognized tribes, ODOT, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

If the above condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.

¹ If an interim trail use agreement under 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 is reached for the Line (or a portion thereof), compliance with this condition is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.