

## Priority Response Requested Environmental and Historic Review

October 2, 2014

State Clearinghouse (or alternate)  
State Environmental Protection Agency  
Head of County (Planning)  
Environmental Protection Agency  
(regional office)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife

National Geodetic Survey  
National Park Service  
U.S. Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
State Historic Preservation Office  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Re: Proposed Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service of 144.3 miles of Missouri Central Railroad Company track in Cass, Pettis, Benton, Morgan, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Gasconade, and Franklin Counties, Missouri, STB Docket AB-1068 (Sub-No. 3X) and STB Docket AB-1070 (Sub-No. 3X)**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Missouri Central Railroad Company ("MCRR") is planning to file a Notice of Exempt Abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 144.3 miles of railroad in two segments in STB Docket No. AB-1068 (Sub-No. 3X). The first short segment covers the railroad line between mileposts 263.5 and 262.906 in Cass County, Missouri. The second segment covers the railroad line between milepost 215.325 in Pettis County, Missouri and milepost 71.6 in Franklin County, Missouri. The Central Midland Railway Company ("CMRC") is planning to jointly file a Notice of Exemption to Discontinue service and operating rights over the same two segments (from MP 263.5 to 262.906, and from MP 215.325 to 71.6) in STB Docket No. AB-1070 (Sub-No. 3X).

The State of Missouri is interested in establishing a trail on the right-of-way, and MCRR is willing to negotiate rail-banking the line pursuant to the National Trails System Act at 16 USC § 1247(d). The trail would be a separate action by the State and would be an extension of a trail being developed on previously abandoned portions of the MCRR right-of-way.

This rail line is part of the line frequently described as the Rock Island Corridor. The rail line proposed for this abandonment traverses through the following United States Postal Service ZIP Codes:

ZIP code	counties covered by code
64080	Cass
65360	Pettis, Benton
65335	Benton
65325	Benton
65078	Morgan
65084	Morgan

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65011	Morgan
65026	Morgan, Miller
65032	Miller, Cole
65040	Cole, Miller
65075	Miller
65058	Miller, Osage
65085	Osage
65048	Osage
65001	Osage
65035	Osage
65013	Osage, Maries
65014	Osage, Gasconade
65066	Gasconade
63091	Gasconade
63037	Gasconade, Franklin
63056	Franklin
63013	Franklin

A map is attached.

Pursuant to the STB's regulations at 49 CFR §§ 1105.7, 1105.8, and 1152.50, MCRR is requesting that you assist MCRR in identifying any potential effects of the proposed abandonment in the areas described below. MCRR's salvage and removal of rail will not include removal of ballast and is not anticipated to have ground disturbance activities. Thus, MCRR does not anticipate any adverse environmental or historic impacts. However, if you identify any adverse environmental or historic impacts, please also describe any actions that you believe may help mitigate the impacts. If you have any comments to offer, please provide MCRR with a written response that can be included in a Combined Environmental and Historic Report to be filed with the STB and served on appropriate agencies.

MCRR requests identification of any potential adverse effects on:

- federal, state, and local water quality standards
  - designated wetlands
  - soil and natural resource conservation
  - prime agricultural land
  - local and/or regional land use plans
  - national or state parks or forests
  - 100-year flood plains
  - endangered or threatened species
  - critical habitats
  - wildlife sanctuaries or refuges
  - land or water uses within a designated coastal zone
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MCRR also requests response if:

- there is a need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC §§ 1342 and 1344)
- there are known hazardous waste sites or hazardous material spills on the right-of-way
- the site and structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- there is a likelihood of archaeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties on the right-of-way
- there are historic or archaeological resources immediately adjacent to the right-of-way

Your comments, if any, will be included in the Combined Environmental and Historic Report. We request that you provide any comments on the above matters to the undersigned on or before Thursday October 23, 2014. You may email your response to [sandra.brown@thompsonhine.com](mailto:sandra.brown@thompsonhine.com), or fax your response to me at 202.331.8330. If you need further assistance, please contact me at 202.263.4101. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours very truly,



Sandra L. Brown  
Thompson Hine LLP  
Suite 700  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 263-4101 (telephone)  
(202) 331-8330 (facsimile)  
*Attorney for Missouri Central Railroad Company*

enclosure (map)



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**Certificate of Service**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Initial Consultation letter was served by overnight mail on the 2nd day of October 2014 on the following:

**State Clearinghouse (or alternate):**

Sara VanderFeltz  
Federal Assistance Clearinghouse  
Office of Administration  
State Capitol Building, Room 125  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Head of County (Planning):**

Cass County Commissioners  
102 East Wall Street  
Harrisonville, MO 64701

Pettis County Commissioners  
415 South Ohio Avenue, Suite 212  
Pettis County Courthouse  
Sedalia, Missouri 65301

Benton County Commissioners  
316 Van Buren Street  
Warsaw, MO 65355

Morgan County Commissioners  
Morgan County Courthouse  
100 East Newton  
Versailles, MO 65084

Miller County Commissioners  
2001 Highway 52  
Tuscumbia, MO 65082

Cole County Commissioners  
311 East High Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Osage County Commissioners  
205 Main Street  
Linn, MO 65051

**National Geodetic Survey:**

NGS Information Services  
NOAA, N/NGS12  
National Geodetic Survey  
SSMC-3, #9202  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

**State Environmental Protection**

**Agency:**

Department of Natural Resources  
1659 E. Elm Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**National Park Service:**

Midwest Regional Office  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

**U.S. Natural Resources**

**Conservation Service:**

State Conservationist  
USDA, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
Missouri State Office  
Parkade Center, Suite 250  
601 Business Loop 70 West  
Columbia, MO 65203-2546

**State Historic Preservation Office:**

Mr. Bill Bryan  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Office  
Department of Natural Resources  
1659 E. Elm Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

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Maries County Commissioners  
211 Fourth Street  
Vienna, MO 65582

Gasconade County Commissioners  
119 East 1st Street, Suite 2  
Hermann, MO 65041

Franklin County Commissioners  
400 East Locust  
Union, MO 63084

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**  
Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District  
601 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**(regional office):**  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 7  
11201 Renner Blvd.  
Lenexa, KS 66219

**State Coastal Zone Management**  
**Agency (if applicable):**  
Not applicable.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife:**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 3  
Suite 990  
5600 American Blvd. West  
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

  
Sandra L. Brown

# Missouri Central Railroad Company

STB Docket No. AB-1068 (Sub-No. 3X)

STB Docket No. AB-1070 (Sub-No. 3X)

