

file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by October 26, 2015. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 5, 2015, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to Soo Line's representative: W. Karl Hansen, Stinson Leonard Street LLP, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

Soo Line has filed environmental and historic reports that address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 23, 2015. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), Soo Line shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the Line. If consummation has not been effected by Soo Line's filing of a notice of consummation by October 16, 2016, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>2</sup>Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "[www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov)."

Decided: October 13, 2015.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Tia Delano,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2015-26383 Filed 10-15-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. FD 35874]

#### Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company—Track Construction and Operation Exemption—in Howard County, Tex

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Issuance of Draft Environmental Assessment; Request for Comments.

**SUMMARY:** On February 24, 2015, Applicants, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. (LSR) and Southern Switching Company (SSC), filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) 10502 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1121.1. The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is responsible for ensuring the Board's compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. Applicants seek Board authority for LSR to construct and SSC to operate approximately 3.18 miles of rail line that would connect to an existing Union Pacific Railroad Company mainline and provide rail service to an industrial park property near Big Spring, in Howard County, Texas. The primary purpose for the proposed action is the efficient delivery of frac sand by rail to the industrial park property, where it would be transloaded to trucks for delivery to crude oil wellhead locations in the Permian Basin. Applicants anticipate that the proposed rail line would support an average of five trains per week.

Today, OEA has issued the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which

is available on the Board's Web site, [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov), by clicking "Decisions" under "Quick Links," and locating the document under the service date of 10/16/2015. The Draft EA identifies the natural and man-made resources in the area of the proposed rail line and analyzes the potential impacts of the proposal on these resources. Based on the information provided from all sources to date and its independent analysis, OEA preliminarily concludes that construction of the proposed rail line would have no significant environmental impacts if the Board imposes and Applicants implement the recommended mitigation measures set forth in the Draft EA.

**DATES:** Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the Draft EA by November 16, 2015. OEA will consider and respond to comments received on the Draft EA in the Final EA. The Board will issue a final decision on the proposed transaction after issuance of the Final EA.

Filing Environmental Comments: Comments submitted by mail should be addressed to: Kenneth Blodgett, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, Attention: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 35874. Comments may also be submitted electronically on the Board's Web site, [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov), by clicking on the "E-FILING" link on the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Please refer to *Docket No. FD 35874* in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth Blodgett at the address above or by phone at 202-245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.

**Tia Delano,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

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