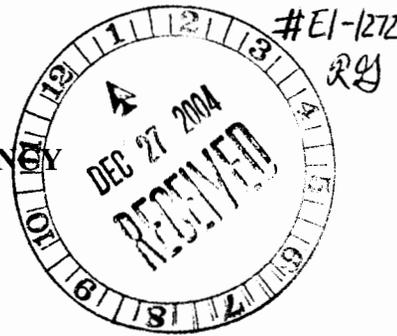




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 REGION V  
 77 West Jackson Boulevard  
 Chicago, IL 60604



Date: December 16, 2004

Rini Ghosh  
 Surface Transportation Board  
 Case Control Unit  
 Washington, DC 20423

**Regarding: Environmental Assessment of Norfolk Southern Railway Company  
 Abandonment Exemption in Champaign County, Illinois  
 Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 250X)**

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

The Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch has received the document listed above. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act; U.S. EPA reviews and comments on major federal actions. Typically, these reviews focus on Environmental Impact Statements, but we also have the discretion to review and comment on other environmental documents prepared under NEPA if interest and resources permit.

We did not undertake a detailed review of the document you sent to this office, and will not be generating comments because of the reason selected below.

- The document was not prepared under NEPA.
- The document was given a cursory review, but other workload priorities precluded us from detailed review and comment.
- The document was given a cursory review, and we determined that there were no significant concerns meriting comment.
- We opted to wait for the next level of documentation on this project before deciding whether or not to comment.

We reserve the right to reconsider undertaking a review at future planning stages, or if significant new data on the project is made available by the sponsoring agency or other interested parties. Thank you for providing information on the project.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief  
 NEPA Implementation Section  
 Office of Science, Ecosystems, and Communities