



E1-3144

CD

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Secretary of Natural Resources

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August 23, 2007

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Surface Transportation Board
Environmental Analysis Section
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Abandonment of 15.34 Miles of Norfolk Southern Railway, Mileposts VB 0.12 to VB 15.46
City of Norfolk, City of Virginia Beach, VA
DHR File No. 2007-0837

Dear Ms. Rutson:

We have received a request to review and comment upon the above-referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It is our understanding that Norfolk Southern Railway proposes to abandon 15.34 miles of rail line with a sixty-four foot right of way between VB 0.12 and VB 15.46. Specifically, rail line between milepost VB 4.8 and VB 0.12 will be acquired by the City of Norfolk for use as a public transit corridor, with no proposed salvage. There is no definite plan for the remainder of the line between VB 4.8 and VB 15.46.

We concur with your recommendation that neither the line segment nor any structures on the line proposed for abandonment are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. There will be no historic properties affected by this project. We would encourage Norfolk Southern Railway, however, to continue to pursue options such as walking or biking trails or other public transit opportunities for the abandoned line segment.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our comments. I may be reached at tonk.horton@dhr.virginia.gov or, by phone at (804) 367-2323, extension 137.

Sincerely,

Toni W. Horton, PhD
Office of Review and Compliance.

CC: Ms. Kathy Headrjck, Norfolk Southern Corporation

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