

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

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POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**STB DOCKET NO. AB-290 (SUB-NO. 287X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company –
Abandonment – Brunswick County, VA**

Recommendation: Removal of Section 106 condition.

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(x) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(x) NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

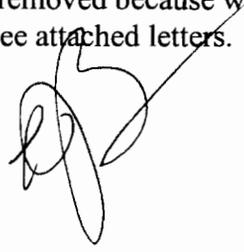
SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on May 7, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended a Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments to the EA were due by May 22, 2007. No comments were filed. Accordingly, the Section 106 condition recommended by SEA in the EA was imposed by the Board in a decision of May 31, 2007.

In a letter of October 22, 2007 the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (VASHPO) stated that in their opinion the proposed abandonment would have no adverse effect upon the Lawrenceville Historic District provided that Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) agrees to reclassify the rail line between mile posts FD 92.4 and FD 92.40 as lead industrial lead track; with no salvage of track materials; and, the 2.8 mile segment between FD 92.4 and FD 95.2 be left intact for potential interim trail use to preserve the historic character of the Lawrenceville Historic District. NS also has agreed to leave the bridges, culverts and appurtenant rail road structures such as round houses, lights, signs, etc., in place. In a letter of October 31, 2007 to the Board, NS has agreed to the conditions outlined by the VASHPO in their letter of October 22, 2007. NS has requested that the Board remove the Section 106 condition.

SEA recommends that the Section 106 condition be removed because we believe that NS has satisfied the conditions set forth by the VASHPO. See attached letters.

SEA CONTACT: Phillis Johnson-Ball 245-0304.





Norfolk Southern Corporation
Law Department
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-9241

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October 31, 2007

via facsimile and original and 10 copies via mail

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

via facsimile (202)245-0454
Attn: Phyllis Johnston-Ball

Re: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub. No. 287X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company - Abandonment - Brunswick County, VA - Notice of Exemption

Dear Mr. Williams:

As follow up to our letter to you of October 24, 2007, please be advised that in accordance with the direction of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Historic Resources, Office of Review and Compliance, Norfolk Southern Railway Company, upon abandonment, will reclassify the rail line between milepost FD 90.20 and FD 92.40 as an industrial lead track and will leave same in place, with no salvage of tracks or materials; and, the 2.8 mile segment between FD 92.4 and FD 95.2 will be left intact for potential interim trail use to preserve the historic character of the Lawrenceville Historic District. Norfolk Southern Railway Company will leave the bridges, culverts, and appurtenant railroad structures such as round houses, lights, signs, etc., in place, only removing the non-historic rails and ties.

NSR believes that these actions satisfy the conditions set forth in the SHPO's letter. With this additional information and commitment along with the statements in the SHPO's letter, we believe the Board can remove the Section 106 historic preservation process condition in this proceeding. Thus, we renew the request for removal of the condition in our October 24, 2007 letter.

Yours very truly,

James R. Paschall

JRP/kchy



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

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2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Ki'patrick
Director

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October 22, 2007

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

RE: Abandonment of Five Miles of Norfolk Southern Railway
DHR File No. 2007-0132

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for submitting additional information on 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 five miles of rail line with a 100 foot right of way between FD 90.20 and FD 95.20. It is our opinion that this project will have no adverse effect upon the Lawrenceville Historic District (DHR #251-5001), provided that the following conditions are met:

First, according to new information submitted, the rail line between milepost FD 90.20 and FD 92.40 would be reclassified as an industrial lead track and left in place, with no salvage of tracks or materials.

Second, the 2.8 mile segment between FD 92.4 and FC 95.2, runs through the Lawrenceville Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and contains contributing resources such as archeological remains of the 19th-century roundhouse and other associated rail yard buildings. As such, we recommend that this segment be left intact for the Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails interest in acquisition for public use and to preserve the historic character of the Lawrenceville Historic District. We understand that the Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails has requested interim trail use, and will receive partial funding for the acquisition through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. We fully support this use of the abandoned rail line.

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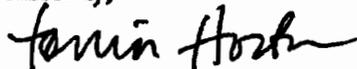
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Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our comments. I may be reached at tonia.horton@dhr.virginia.gov, or by phone at (804) 367-2323, extension 137.

Sincerely,



Tonia W. Horton, PhD
Office of Review and Compliance

CC: Ms. Kathy Headrick, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Mr. Bill Munson, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation