

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

STB Docket No. AB 1296X

***R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD PROPERTY, LLC—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN SCOTT, CAMPBELL, AND ANDERSON COUNTIES,
TENNESSEE***

COMMENT OF NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY

On October 6, 2021, the Surface Transportation Board (the “STB” or “Board”) issued a decision in the above referenced proceeding requesting additional information from R.J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC (“RJC”) regarding a petition to reopen an exemption to abandon a rail line extending from milepost 0.95 at or near Oneida, TN., to the end of the line at milepost 42.0 at or near Devonia, TN., a distance of approximately 41.05 miles in Scott, Campbell, and Anderson Counties, TN. (the Line). According to the petition filed on behalf of Anderson County, TN., the abandonment of the Line will leave a branch line ‘stranded’ from the interstate rail network (the “Beech Segment”). The Board ordered RJC to file supplemental information regarding the ownership of the Beech Segment. Because Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NSR”) was at one time the owner of the land underlying the line, the Board invited NSR to comment on this proceeding.

As described in the Board’s October 6 decision, NSR can confirm that Southern Railway Company, a predecessor to NSR, purchased the Tennessee Railroad Company out of bankruptcy in the 1970s. *See, Tenn. Ry. – Purchase – Tenn. R.R.*, Docket No. FD 27312 et al. (ICC served July 3, 1973). The Tennessee

Railroad Company was reformed as the Tennessee Railway Company, a subsidiary of Norfolk Southern Railway Company, incorporated on January 15, 1973. The Tennessee Railway Company subsequently conveyed via quitclaim deed the property to the NC Railroad, Inc on February 28, 2006. NSR has located the deeds associated with that purchase and can confirm that the Tennessee Railway Company conveyed the property underlying the Line, including the property underlying the Beech Segment, to NC Railroad, Inc. The conveyance included main tracks, siding, spurs, and other appurtenant railway facilities.

NSR has further searched its records in an effort to identify any grant of authority to operate the Beech Segment, or any grant of abandonment authority of the Beech Segment. Unfortunately, NSR has not identified any such records in its possession. Accordingly, while NSR can confirm that ownership of the property conveyed to the NC Railroad, Inc., NSR cannot confirm whether the Beech Segment remains a part of the interstate rail network.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hanna M. Chouest

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***Counsel to Norfolk Southern Railway
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November 5, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 5, 2021, I served the foregoing Comment of Norfolk Southern Railway Company electronically upon all parties of record in this proceeding.

/s/ Hanna M Chouest

Hanna M. Chouest
Norfolk Southern Corporation