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SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 16, 2024

OEA

EAXX-472-00-0-1730458972

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 415X)

**Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption –
In Henderson and Polk Counties, N.C., and Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, S.C.**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:
(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

In this proceeding, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in Henderson and Polk Counties, North Carolina, and Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, South Carolina. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 31.3 miles from milepost W 26.0 in Henderson County, NC, to milepost W 57.3 in Spartanburg County, SC (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on November 25, 2024 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the South Carolina Department of Transportation regarding its concerns about maintenance and safety of at-grade crossings.

¹ If an interim trail use agreement under 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 is reached for the Line (or a portion thereof), compliance with this condition is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.

If the above condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.