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OEA

SERVICE DATE – MARCH 6, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

SUPPLEMENTAL 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

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

On October 31, 2024, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a verified notice with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking authority to abandon approximately 31.3 miles of rail line 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). By decision served December 19, 2024, the Board imposed a condition requiring NSR to consult with the South Carolina Department of Transportation regarding its concerns about maintenance and safety of at-grade crossings.

Modifications to the Final EA

In a letter dated November 8, 2024, the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) indicated that there may be geodetic survey markers in the area of the right-of-way that could be disturbed by the proposed abandonment. Accordingly, OEA recommends a condition requiring NSR to notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning abandonment-related salvage activities to allow time for any geodetic survey markers that may be present in the right-of-way to be preserved.

Conclusions

OEA recommends that the condition recommended in the Final EA, as well as the additional condition recommended in this document, should be imposed upon any decision

granting abandonment authority.¹ The conditions are:

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.
2. Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall notify the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov at least 90 days prior to beginning abandonment-related salvage activities.

If the above conditions are 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.

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 these condition(s) is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.