

MULLINS LAW GROUP PLLC*Transportation Solutions for the 21st Century*2001 L Street NW, Suite 720
Washington, DC 20036ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 8, 2025
Part of
Public RecordCrystal M. Zorbaugh
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July 8, 2025

VIA E-FILINGCynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company– Discontinuance Exemption– In
Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia, AB-290 (Sub-No. 421X)

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, Subpart F – Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NSR") is filing a verified discontinuance notice of exemption permitting NSR to discontinue common carrier rail service over an approximately 11.0-mile long rail line located between railroad milepost B 51.0 +/- near Riverton Junction in Front Royal, Virginia and milepost B 62.0 +/- in Strasburg, Virginia (the "Line") that traverses portions of United States Postal Zip Code territories 22657 and 22630. A \$5,200.00 filing fee has been paid via Pay.gov. If there are any questions about this matter, please contact me directly, either by telephone: at 202-663-7831 or by e-mail: czorbaugh@mullinslawgroup.net. If I am unavailable, you may contact Spencer M. Naake, who can be reached at (202) 663-7829 or by e-mail at snaake@mullinslawgroup.net.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Crystal M. Zorbaugh*Crystal M. Zorbaugh
Attorney for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Enclosures

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY– DISCONTINUANCE EXEMPTION– IN
SHENANDOAH AND WARREN COUNTIES, VIRGINIA**

AB-290 (Sub-No. 421X)

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPT DISCONTINUANCE

**Hanna M. Chouest
NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION
650 W Peachtree St N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30308
Tel: (470) 571-5208**

July 8, 2025

**Crystal M. Zorbaugh
Spencer M. Naake
Harrison W. Hemminghaus
MULLINS LAW GROUP PLLC
2001 L St., N.W.
Suite 720
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel.: (202) 663-7831
Attorneys for Norfolk Southern Railway
Company**

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

AB-290 (Sub-No. 421X)

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY– DISCONTINUANCE EXEMPTION– IN
SHENANDOAH AND WARREN COUNTIES, VIRGINIA**

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPT DISCONTINUANCE

INTRODUCTION

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NSR”) hereby submits a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. part 1152, subpart F (Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances) for NSR to discontinue its rail common carrier obligation over an approximately 11.0-miles of rail line, extending from Milepost B 51.0 +/- near Riverton Junction in Front Royal, Virginia and Milepost B 62.0 +/- in Strasburg, Virginia (the “Line”). The Line has not served any customers for over two years.

The Line traverses the United States Postal Zip Code territories of 22657 and 22630. The entirety of the Line is located within Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia. No customers have been served on the Line for over two years.

Per the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(b) and (d), NSR provides the following information in support of this notice of discontinuance of service:

Certification: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)

NSR certifies that the Line satisfies the criteria for discontinuance under the exemption provisions at 49 C.F.R. part 1152, subpart F. See Certification of Michael McClellan, Vice President, NSR (Exhibit A). NSR hereby certifies that the Line satisfies the criteria for its discontinuance of common carrier service under the class exemption procedures, because, during the past two years,

NSR has provided no local or overhead common carrier service over the Line, nor has it received any requests for common carrier service over it.

Proposed Consummation Date: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2)

The proposed discontinuance of service will be consummated on or after August 27, 2025 (50 days after filing the notice of exemption).

Additional Information Required: 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.22(a)(1)-(4), (7)-(8) and (e)(4)

Exact name of applicants (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1)):

Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Whether applicants are common carriers by railroad (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(2)):

NSR is a common carrier by railroad subject to the Board's jurisdiction under 49 U.S.C.

Subtitle IV.

Relief sought (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(3)):

NSR has chosen to invoke the discontinuance class exemption procedures to be relieved of its common carrier obligation over the Line.

Pursuant to this notice of exemption, NSR hereby invokes the Board's two-year-out-of-service class exemption procedures to discontinue rail service over an approximately 11.0-mile-long rail line, extending from Milepost B 51.0 +/- near Riverton Junction in Front Royal, Virginia and Milepost B 62.0 +/- in Strasburg, Virginia in Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia. All of the track is in Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia. The Line traverses the United States Postal Zip Code territories 22657 and 22630.

Map (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(4)):

A detailed map showing the location of the Line is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Applicant's representatives (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(7)):

NSR's representatives to whom correspondence should be sent are as follows:

Crystal M. Zorbaugh
Spencer M. Naake
Harrison W. Hemminghaus
MULLINS LAW GROUP PLLC
2001 L St., NW, Suite 720
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 663-7831

USPS ZIP codes (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(8)):

The Line is located in the following United States Postal Zip Code territories: 22657 and 22630.

Suitability of the Line for Other Public Purposes (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(e)(4)):

Because this proceeding involves the discontinuance of common carrier service and not abandonment, NSR understands that the question of whether the Line contains federally granted rights-of-way is inapplicable, and the Line would not be suited at this time for alternative public use. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

Labor Protection

Because the Line has been inactive for over two years, no railroad employees will be adversely affected by the exercise of discontinuance authority. Nevertheless, NSR's employees who may be adversely affected by the proposed discontinuance will be adequately protected by the labor protective conditions set forth in Oregon Short Line R. Co – Abandonment – Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

Certifications

Attached hereto as Exhibit C are Certificates of Service and Publication certifying compliance with the advance notice and newspaper publication requirements set forth at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) and 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12, respectively.

Environmental and Historic Report

The proposed action entails the discontinuance of common carrier service over the Line. Accordingly, this proceeding is exempt from environmental reporting requirements under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(c) and from historic reporting requirements under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(b), and the Board will not prepare an environmental assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Crystal M. Zorbaugh

Hanna Chouest
NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION
650 West Peachtree St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
Tel: (470) 571-5208

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July 8, 2025

Attorneys for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY– DISCONTINUANCE EXEMPTION–
IN SHENANDOAH AND WARREN COUNTIES, VIRGINIA**

AB-290 (Sub-No. 421X)

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPT DISCONTINUANCE

VERIFICATION

Verification

I, Michael McClellan, Vice President for Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NSR") hereby verify under penalty of perjury that to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing filed discontinuance notice of exemptions are true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to make such verification on behalf of NSR in connection with this proceeding before the Surface Transportation Board.

Executed this 8th day of July 2025



Michael McClellan
Vice President
Norfolk Southern Railway Company

**BEFORE THE
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IN SHENANDOAH AND WARREN COUNTIES, VIRGINIA**

AB-290 (Sub-No. 421X)

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPT DISCONTINUANCE

EXHIBIT A

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF GEORGIA:

SS:

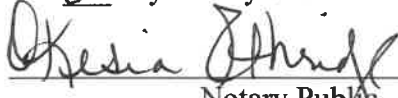
CITY OF ATLANTA:

Michael McClellan makes oath and says that he is Vice President for Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NSR"); that the approximately 11.0-mile long rail line, extending from Milepost B 51.0 +/- near Riverton Junction in Front Royal, Virginia and Milepost B 62.0 +/- in Strasburg, Virginia in Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia (the "Line"), over which service is to be discontinued, is subject to his supervision and direction; that no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two (2) years and any overhead traffic on the Line can be rerouted over other lines and that no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the 2-year period.



Michael McClellan
Vice President

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 8th day of July 2025.



Notary Public

Okesia Ethridge
NOTARY PUBLIC
Spalding County, Georgia
My Commission Expires 12/16/2028

My commission expires:

12/16/2028

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IN SHENANDOAH AND WARREN COUNTIES, VIRGINIA**

AB-290 (Sub-No. 421X)

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPT DISCONTINUANCE

EXHIBIT B

MAP

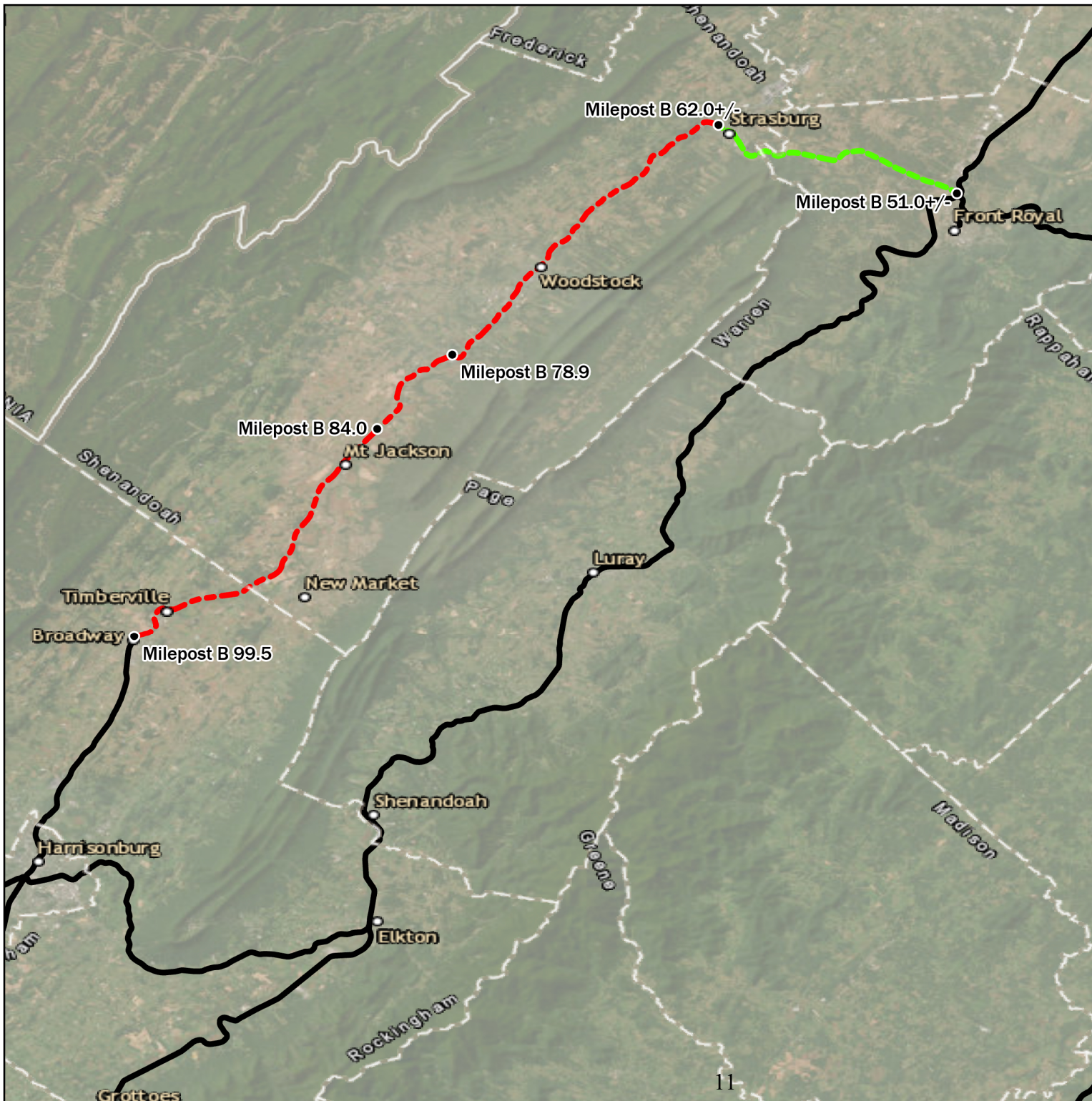


B-Line

Front Royal, VA (MP B 51.0 +/-) to
Strasburg, VA (MP B 62.0 +/-)
AB-290 (Sub. No. 421X)

- NS Tracks
- Proposed Discontinuance
- Previously Discontinued

Docket Number	Low Milepost	High Milepost
AB 290 383X	B 62.0	B 78.9
AB 290 51X	B 78.9	B 84.0
AB 290 391X	B 84.0	B 99.5



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VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPT DISCONTINUANCE

EXHIBIT C

CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE/PUBLICATION

Certificate of Service of Advance Notice

49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) – Notice

I certify that, on June 24, 2025, in keeping with 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1), I caused the following parties to be served with the written notice of intent of Norfolk Southern Railway Company to invoke the Board's notice of exemption procedures to discontinue rail service over an approximately 11.0-mile long rail line, extending from Milepost B 51.0 +/- to Milepost B 62.0 +/- in Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia (the "Line").

Division of Public Utility Regulation

Division of Public Utility Regulation
P.O. Box 1197
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Tiffany Robinson, Director
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
600 East Main Street, Suite 2102
Richmond, VA 23219

Department of Defense (Military Traffic Management Command, Transportation Engineering Agency, Railroads for National Defense Program)

Sean Neef
Headquarters Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
Railroads for National Defense Program
1 Soldier Way, Rm 3129
Scott AFB, IL 62225-5006

The National Park Service, Recreation Resources Assistance Division

Mr. Bob Ratcliffe, Chief
Chief, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C. Street NW, Room 1344
Washington, DC 20240

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Chief of the Forest Service

Tom Schultz, Chief
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

July 8, 2025

/s/ *Crystal M. Zorbaugh*

Crystal M. Zorbaugh
Attorney for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Certificate of Newspaper Publication

49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 – Newspaper Notice

I certify that a “Notice of Intent to Discontinue Service” was published in the form prescribed by the Board for discontinuance notices of exemption (49 C.F.R. § 1105.12). The notice was published one time on June 30, 2025, in The Northern Virginia Daily, a newspaper of general circulation in Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia.

July 8, 2025

/s/ Crystal M. Zorbaugh

Crystal M. Zorbaugh

Attorney for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

NVD Northern Virginia Daily
B-Line_B51-B62_Discontinuance | 6-30
Notices & Legals

I certify that the attachment hereto contains a true and accurate copy of what was published in NVD Northern Virginia Daily in consecutive issues on the following dates:

6/30/2025

Affiant further says that That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:

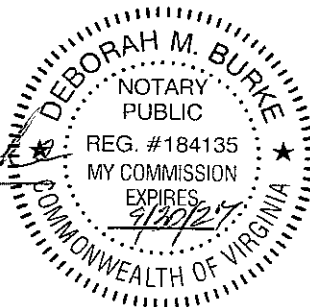
John Null
Authorized Agent

State of Virginia County of Shenandoah

Signed and sworn to me this 6/30/2025.

Deborah M. Burke
Notary Public

My commission expires: 9/30/27



Customer No: 168559
Affidavit Contact Name: Spencer Naake
Affidavit Contact Address: Mullins Law Group
2001 L Street NW, Suite 720
Washington, DC 20036
Affidavit Batch ID: 2201
Affidavit ID: 5425

COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT

https://onp.navigahub.com/ew/onp/localstorage/ad/materials/277907/insertion_1.jpg

