



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

August 28, 2025

Thomas R. Brugato
Covington & Burling LLP
850 Tenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

By email at tbrugato@cov.com and pwhitfield@sidley.com

Re: Docket No. FD 36873, Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Railroad Company – Control – Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company; Waiver of Six-Month Prefiling Notice and Approval of Third-Party Contractor

Dear Mr. Brugato:

Thank you for your letter dated August 26, 2025 requesting a waiver of the prefiling notice required under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(a)(1) and approval of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), as an independent third-party contractor. As part of the above-referenced proceeding, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will conduct an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related environmental laws.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(c), OEA is granting your August 26, 2025 request for waiver of the six-month prefiling notice and your request for approval under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(d) for retention of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) as an independent third-party contractor. OEA will work with VHB to prepare the appropriate environmental document on behalf of the Board for the proposed transaction. As stated in your letter, OEA will directly supervise the independent third-party contractor and review and approve all environmental documents.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Webster of my staff at 202-360-0742 or by email at Elizabeth.Webster@stb.gov.

Sincerely,

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis