

June 9, 2026

Docket No. 36873

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
June 11, 2026
Part of
Public Record

To Whom It May Concern:

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper submits the following comments regarding the proposed acquisition of Norfolk Southern Railway by Union Pacific Corporation.

In the Town of West Seneca, NY, there is an abandoned railroad bridge owned by Norfolk Southern that spans Buffalo Creek. The rail corridor that was served by this abandoned railroad bridge has been inactive for over ten years, and the rail lines on both sides of the abandoned railroad bridge have been removed. The structure no longer serves any rail transportation purpose and has become a liability to the surrounding community.

The bridge presents multiple public concerns. The abandoned railroad bridge contributes to ongoing flooding risks along Buffalo Creek by trapping sediment and ice thereby causing flooding during periods of high flow and storm events which threaten nearby residential neighborhoods.

The bridge also poses a significant public safety hazard. Despite being abandoned, the structure remains accessible and is routinely used by pedestrians, creating an unsafe condition due to its deteriorated state and lack of maintenance.

Given that the bridge no longer supports railroad operations and presents documented environmental, flooding, and public safety concerns, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper requests that the Surface Transportation Board requires its removal as a condition of approval for the proposed transaction. If the Board determines that bridge removal cannot be required as part of the transaction, we request that ownership of the structure be transferred to the Town of West Seneca or another responsible party to facilitate its removal.

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper requests that the Board ensures that the bridge is either removed as part of the acquisition process or transferred to a responsible public entity for removal and remediation.

All Parties of Record were sent a copy.

Sincerely,



Emily Burch
Senior Project Coordinator