



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

www.deq.virginia.gov

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus
Director

August 18, 2026

Elizabeth Webster
Surface Transportation Board (Docket No. FD 36873)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Scoping Response - Docket No. FD 36873 - Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Company – Control – Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Dear Ms. Webster:

This letter is in response to the scoping request for the above-referenced project.

As you may know, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), through its Office of Environmental Impact Review (DEQ-OEIR), is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. Similarly, DEQ-OEIR coordinates Virginia's review of federal consistency documents prepared pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act which applies to all federal activities which are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resources of Virginia's designated coastal resources management area must be consistent with the enforceable policies Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. Please note that while DEQ will review and respond to the NEPA document for this project, we do not wish to become a consulting party to the development of the document.

DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS

In order to ensure an effective coordinated review of the NEPA document and federal consistency notification should be sent directly to OEIR. We request that you submit one electronic to eir@deq.virginia.gov (25 MB maximum) or make the documents available for download at a website, file transfer protocol (ftp) site or the VITA LFT file share system (Requires an "invitation" for access. An invitation request should be sent to eir@deq.virginia.gov). We request that the review of these documents be done concurrently, if possible. Please allow adequate time for these concurrent reviews. Specifically, we request a minimum of a 60-day review period.

The NEPA document and the federal consistency documentation (if applicable) should include U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps as part of their information. We strongly encourage you to issue shape files with the NEPA document. In addition, project details should be adequately described for the benefit of the reviewers.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT: PROJECT SCOPING AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

While this Office does not participate in scoping efforts beyond the advice given herein, other agencies are free to provide scoping comments concerning the preparation of the NEPA document. Accordingly, we are providing notice of your scoping request to several state agencies and those localities and Planning District Commissions, including but not limited to:

Department of Environmental Quality:

- DEQ Regional Office*
- Air Division*
- Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection*
- Office of Local Government Programs*
- Division of Land Protection and Revitalization
- Office of Stormwater Management*

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Department of Health*

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Department of Wildlife Resources*

Virginia Marine Resources Commission*

Department of Historic Resources

Virginia Energy

Department of Forestry

Department of Transportation

Note: The agencies noted with a star (*) administer one or more of the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and its implementing regulations in Title 15, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 930, federal activities, including permits, licenses, and federally funded projects, located in Virginia's Coastal Management Zone or those that can have reasonably foreseeable effects on Virginia's coastal uses or coastal resources must be conducted in a manner which is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Virginia CZM Program.

Additional information on the Virginia's review for federal consistency documents can be found online at [Federal Consistency | Virginia DEQ](#)

DATA BASE ASSISTANCE

Below is a list of databases that may assist you in the preparation of a NEPA document:

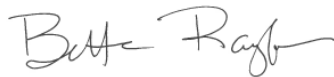
- DEQ Online Database: Virginia Environmental Geographic Information Systems
Information on Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities, Impaired Waters, Petroleum Releases, Registered Petroleum Facilities, Permitted Discharge (Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits) Facilities, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Sites, Water Monitoring Stations, National Wetlands Inventory:

- www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/VEGIS.aspx
- DEQ Virginia Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS)
Virginia's coastal resource data and maps; coastal laws and policies; facts on coastal resource values; and direct links to collaborating agencies responsible for current data:
 - https://www.deq.virginia.gov/?splash=https%3a%2f%2fgaia.vcu.edu%2fportal%2fapps%2fsites%2f%23%2fgemsmaps&__isexternal=true
- MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal
The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is a publicly available online toolkit and resource center that consolidates available data and enables users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others.
 - <http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/visualize/#x=-73.24&y=38.93&z=7&logo=true&controls=true&basemap=Ocean&tab=data&legends=false&layers=true>
- DHR VCRIS
The Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (VCRIS) is an online database that contains the inventory of buildings, districts, archaeological sites, and other types of properties:
 - <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/programs/vcris/>
- DCR Natural Heritage Search
Produces lists of resources that occur in specific counties, watersheds or physiographic regions:
 - www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/dbsearchtool.shtml
- Wetland Condition Assessment Tool (WetCAT)
 - <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/wetlands-streams/wetcat>
- DWR Fish and Wildlife Information Service
Information about Virginia's Wildlife resources:
 - <http://vafwis.org/fwis/>
- Total Maximum Daily Loads Approved Reports
 - <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/programs/water/waterqualityinformationtmdls/tmdl/tmdldevelopment/approvedtmdlreports.aspx>
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation: Identify VOF-protected land
 - <http://vof.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Database: Superfund Information Systems
Information on hazardous waste sites, potentially hazardous waste sites and remedial activities across the nation, including sites that are on the National Priorities List (NPL) or being considered for the NPL:

- www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm
- EPA RCRAInfo Search
Information on hazardous waste facilities:
 - www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html
- Total Maximum Daily Loads Approved Reports
 - <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quality/tmdl-development/approved-tmdls>
- EPA Envirofacts Database
EPA Environmental Information, including EPA-Regulated Facilities and Toxics Release Inventory Reports:
 - www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html
- EPA NEPAassist Database
Facilitates the environmental review process and project planning:
 - <http://nepaassisttool.epa.gov/nepaassist/entry.aspx>

If you have questions about the environmental review process, please feel free to contact me. I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



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