Outlook

[External] Environmental Comments Regarding Proposed Railroad Acquisition

From Elaine Mathias <emathias@elcosd.org>
Date Mon 9/28/2026 12:07 PM
To upnsmergereis@vhb.com <upnsmergereis@vhb.com>; UPNS Merger <upnsMergerEIS@stb.gov>
Cc UPNS Merger <upnsMergerEIS@stb.gov>

1 attachment (2 MB)
ELCO SD Communication.pdf;

You don't often get email from emathias@elcosd.org. Learn why this is important

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Good afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the proposed acquisition of Norfolk Southern Railway by Union Pacific Railroad Company.

On behalf of the Eastern Lebanon County School District, please find attached our letter providing comments regarding the proposed transaction and its potential impact on our school community, students, and local infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as part of the environmental review process. We appreciate your consideration of the concerns outlined in our letter.

Sincerely,

Elaine Mathias, PCSBA
Business Manager
ELCO School District
180 ELCO Drive
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7117, Ext. 10810

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From: UP NS Merger <upnsmergereis@vhb.com>
Date: Friday, August 21, 2026 at 11:09 AM
To: Lori Mosser <lmosser@elcosd.org>
Subject: Consultation Request - Docket No. FD 36873, Union Pacific Acquisition of Norfolk Southern

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Hello Lori Mosser,

This email is to inform you about a proposed railroad acquisition that may impact resources in your community or under your jurisdiction. Union Pacific Railroad Company is seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to acquire Norfolk Southern Railway Company (the Transaction).

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis is requesting preliminary comments on the Transaction. Please click this link https://www.stb.gov/upns-eis-fd36873/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/UP-NS-Agency-Preliminary-Consultation-Letter.pdf for a letter that provides information about the Transaction and how to submit environmental comments.

Sincerely,



Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

UP-NS Merger EIS
Email: UPNSMergerEIS@stb.gov
Information Line: 888-533-6493 (Toll free)
Website: https://www.stb.gov/upns-eis-fd36873/

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EASTERN LEBANON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Karen R. Nell, Ed. D., Superintendent
Dr. Michael A. Gerhart, Ed. D., Asst. Superintendent
Elaine Mathias, PCSBA, Business Manager

September 28, 2026

Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Environmental Comment- Proposed Acquisition of Norfolk Southern by Union Pacific

Dear Members of the office of Environmental Analysis,

I am writing on behalf of the Eastern Lebanon County School District to submit formal comments regarding the environmental review of the proposed acquisition of Norfolk Southern Railway by Union Pacific. While our primary school facilities do not directly border the rail right-of-way, this transaction will significantly and adversely impact our school community, students, and local infrastructure.

Per the shared interactive map, our surrounding area is already exceeding established safety thresholds for localized air quality and environmental noise. Consolidating freight operations and increasing rail traffic along these aging lines will compound these existing hazards while introducing severe safety and financial burdens:

- **Air Quality and Health:** Elevated particulate matter and diesel exhaust emissions directly harm developing children, contributing to higher rates of pediatric asthma and school absenteeism.
- **Noise Pollution:** Ambient noise levels already exceed comfortable thresholds, and increased train frequency will further disrupt students' sleep, well-being, and cognitive focus.
- **Derailment Risk:** Higher freight density elevates the catastrophic risk of hazardous material spills or major derailments near areas that area heavily populated by our students and families.
- **Intersection and Road Repair:** Increased rail traffic and corresponding weight accelerate the wear and tear at grade crossings, shifting the persistent financial and logistical burden of road repairs onto local taxpayers, and disrupting school bus transit on a continual basis.

We specifically request that the Board mandate strict mitigation measures, including rail safety upgrades, local infrastructure repair support, noise barriers, and constant air quality monitoring.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Frantz
Director Building and Grounds
Eastern Lebanon County School District