

STATE OF ILLINOIS



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**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION BUREAU / RAIL SAFETY SECTION**

Michael E. Stead

Rail Safety Program Administrator

April 27, 2017

Ann D. Begeman, Acting Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**RE: Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Between
Mansfield and Bloomington, IL, in McLean, DeWitt and Piatt Counties,
Illinois, AB-290 (Sub-No. 393X)**

Dear Ms. Begeman:

The Illinois Commerce Commission Railroad Safety Section (ICC Staff) acknowledges receipt of Norfolk Southern Railway Company's (NS) letter and attachments, dated April 20, 2017, stating the company's intent to file a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in STB Docket AB-290 (Sub-No. 393X), on or about May 5, 2017.

This office has reviewed NS's letter and attachments, and offers the following comments:

1. In the Environmental Report 49 CFR 1105.7(e)(1) Proposed Action and Alternatives, NS states: *"Following abandonment, the Line's rail and track material will be salvaged. Salvage will consist of removing the rail and track material from the existing roadbed...the contractor will smooth the roadbed to a level surface."* **Response: ICC Staff notes that in addition to the track material removal and smoothing of the railroad bed, NS will need to remove a total of 38 public highway-rail grade crossings and 32 private grade crossings from various roadways, including removal and disposal of any remaining crossing surface material, track material, and warning devices/signage. NS will also need to arrange filling of the pavement void spaces to the satisfaction of the various highway agencies and private individuals. A list of the various crossings in the abandonment area is enclosed.**

The NS Strategic Management Group has assured ICC Staff that it is coordinating to accomplish the grade crossing removals to the satisfaction of the various highway agencies and land owners. As such, ICC Staff takes no exception to NS's proposed abandonment exemption.

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NS will need to submit a Form 1 Notice to the ICC RSS before commencing the removal at any of the 38 public grade crossings, and then file a Form 2 Notice upon completion of the work and reopening of the public roadways.

I trust this information will be helpful. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at (217) 557-1285 or mstead@icc.illinois.gov.

Very truly yours,



Michael E. Stead
Rail Safety Program Administrator

Enclosure

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McLean County Highway Department
Piatt County Highway Department
DeWitt County Highway Department
City of LeRoy
Village of Downs
City of Bloomington
City of Farmer City
Village of Mansfield
Blue Ridge Township, Piatt County
Santa Anna Township, DeWitt County
Empire Township, McLean County
Old Town Township, McLean County
Downs Township, McLean County
Bloomington City Township, McLean County
IDOT, Region 3, District 5
IDOT, Central Bureau of Local Roads
IDOT, Office of Chief Counsel

AT

PUBLIC CROSSINGS

	DOT#	XING TYPE CD	COUNTY	NEAR	CITY	TOWNSHIP	STREET	MILE	JURISDICTION	AADT	WARN DEVICE
1	543292Y	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	CR 1200 E	48.30	Township	175	Crossbucks
2	543294M	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	CR 1100 E	49.40	Township	75	Crossbucks
3	543296B	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	CR 1000 E	50.30	Township	125	Crossbucks
4	543298P	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	CR 900 E	51.40	Township	25	Crossbucks
5	543301V	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	CR 800 E	52.40	Township	100	Flash Lites (mast)
6	543303J	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	CR 700 E	53.20	Township	50	Crossbucks
7	543304R	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	In	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	INDIANA STREET	54.50	State	4 250	Gates
8	543305X	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	In	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	E HIGH STREET	54.80	Municipal	500	Flash Lites (mast)
9	543306E	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	In	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	E ALLEN STREET	54.90	Municipal	700	Flash Lites (mast)
10	543310U	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	Near	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	N JOHN STREET	55.60	Township	1 200	Flash Lites (mast)
11	543316K	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	Near	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	CR 1500 N	56.80	Township	29	Crossbucks
12	543319F	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	Near	FARMER CITY	WEST	OLD PRINCIPAL RD	58.20	Township	125	Crossbucks
13	543323V	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	CR 2950 E	59.80	Township	79	Crossbucks
14	543325J	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	CR 150 N	60.30	Township	79	Crossbucks
15	543326R	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	ROUTE 136	61.00	State	1 450	Flash Lites (mast)
16	543327X	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	CR 2775 E	62.20	Township	29	Crossbucks
17	543329L	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	S EAST STREET	64.25	Municipal	409	Crossbucks
18	543340L	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	S CHESTNUT STREET	64.35	Municipal	5 900	Flash Lites (mast)
19	543341T	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	S MAIN STREET	64.40	Municipal	409	Crossbucks
20	543342A	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	W CEDAR STREET	64.45	Municipal	259	Flash Lites (mast)
21	543343G	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	S WEST STREET	64.55	Municipal	209	Crossbucks
22	543344N	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	W PINE STREET	64.59	Municipal	109	Crossbucks
23	543345V	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	N BUCKER STREET	64.70	Municipal	209	Flash Lites (mast)
24	543346C	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	W CENTER STREET	64.74	Municipal	109	Flash Lites (mast)
25	543347J	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	N HEMLOCK STREET	64.90	Municipal	309	Crossbucks
26	543349X	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	N ALLEN STREET	64.90	Municipal	59	No W/D (flag req'd)
27	543351Y	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	CR 2450 E	66.20	Township	9	Crossbucks
28	543353M	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	CR 2375 E	67.30	Township	100	Crossbucks
29	543356H	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	DOWNS	CR 2200 E	69.25	Township	100	Crossbucks
30	543361E	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	DOWNS	DOWNS	S SEMINARY STREET	71.10	County	5 200	Flash Lites (mast)
31	543363T	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	DOWNS	DOWNS	W MAIN STREET	71.29	Municipal	0	Flash Lites (mast)
32	543367V	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	BLOOMINGTON	CR 1900 E	72.89	County	1 550	Flash Lites (mast)
33	543368C	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	OLDTOWN	CR 850 N	73.06	Township	9	Crossbucks
34	543370D	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	CR 1750 E	74.79	Township	400	Crossbucks
35	543371K	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	CR 975 N	75.50	County	325	Crossbucks
36	543374F	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	HARVEST HILL AVE	76.40	Township	150	Crossbucks
37	543377B	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	WOODRIG ROAD	77.30	Township	2 450	Crossbucks
38	543378H	Pub-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	RHODES LANE	77.90	Municipal	5 400	Crossbucks

PRIVATE CROSSINGS

	DOT#	XING TYPE CD	COUNTY	NEAR	CITY	TOWNSHIP	STREET	MILE	JURISDICTION	AADT	WARN DEVICE
1	543293F	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	PRIVATE ROAD	48.80			
2	543295U	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	PRIVATE ROAD	50.10			
3	543297H	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	PRIVATE ROAD	50.80			
4	543299W	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	PRIVATE ROAD	51.80			
5	543300N	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	PRIVATE ROAD	52.00			
6	543302C	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	Platt	Near	MANSFIELD	BLUE RIDGE	PRIVATE ROAD	52.70			
7	543312H	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	Near	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	PRIVATE ROAD	55.90			
8	543315D	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	Near	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	PRIVATE ROAD	56.60			
9	543317S	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	Near	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	PRIVATE ROAD	57.20			
10	543318Y	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	De Witt	Near	FARMER CITY	SANTA ANNA	PRIVATE ROAD	57.70			
11	543320A	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	WEST	PRIVATE ROAD	58.68			
12	543321G	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	WEST	PRIVATE ROAD	58.90			
13	543322N	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	PRIVATE ROAD	59.60			
14	543324C	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	PRIVATE ROAD	59.90			
15	543328E	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	PRIVATE ROAD	63.20			
16	543348R	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	LE ROY	EMPIRE	PRIVATE ROAD	64.90			
17	543350S	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	PRIVATE ROAD	65.40			
18	543352F	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	EMPIRE	PRIVATE ROAD	66.60			
19	543354U	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	67.60			
20	543356B	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	LE ROY	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	68.92			
21	543357P	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	69.70			
22	543358W	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	69.90			
23	543369D	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	70.30			
24	543360X	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	70.70			
25	543362L	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	In	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	71.20			
26	543365G	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	72.10			
27	543366N	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	72.20			
28	543369J	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	DOWNS	DOWNS	PRIVATE ROAD	73.50			
29	543372S	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	PRIVATE ROAD	75.90			
30	543373Y	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	PRIVATE ROAD	76.20			
31	543375M	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	PRIVATE ROAD	76.70			
32	543376U	Priv-Hwy-At Grade	McLean	Near	BLOOMINGTON	BLOOMINGTON	PRIVATE ROAD	77.00			