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SERVICE DATE - JUNE 16, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 253X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY-ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION-IN
EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SC

Decided: June 15, 2004

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments to abandon and discontinue service over a 4.5-mile line of railroad between milepost AB-1.5 at Escambia Junction and milepost AB-6.0 at Trenton, in Edgefield County, SC. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on May 18, 2004 (69 FR 28193-94). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on June 17, 2004.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on May 21, 2004. Comments to the EA were due by June 7, 2004. No comments were received. In the EA, SEA advised that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified two geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment and has requested 90 days' notification in advance of any activities that will disturb or destroy these markers. Therefore, SEA recommends that NS be required to notify NGS 90 days prior to salvage activities.

SEA also states that the Edgefield County Administrator submitted comments recommending that NS consult with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) regarding cleanup issues for the hazardous waste site. Therefore SEA recommends that, prior to beginning salvage activities, NS be required to consult with SCDHEC regarding cleanup issues for the Federal Pacific Electric-SCD 036 137 248 hazardous waste site.¹

Finally, SEA states that the South Carolina State Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have not yet completed their review of the

¹ In its EA, SEA noted that NS indicated that one hazardous waste site is located near the right-of-way between mileposts AB-1.5 and AB-2.0. The Federal Pacific Electric-SCD 036 137 248 site covers 20 acres. The site contains an onsite 3-acre pond, which was previously used for treated wastewater effluent, and a paint sludge drying bed.

proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommends that, prior to beginning salvage activities, NS consult with the Clearinghouse and NRCS.

The conditions recommended by SEA will be imposed. As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the rail line described above is subject to the conditions that NS shall: (1) consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to conducting any salvage activities that would disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers; (2) prior to beginning salvage activities, consult with the SCDHEC regarding cleanup issues for the Federal Pacific Electric-SCD 036 137 248 hazardous waste site; and (3) prior to beginning salvage activities, consult with the Clearinghouse and NRCS.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary