

SERVICE DATE - DECEMBER 14, 2000

This decision will be included in the bound volumes of the STB printed reports at a later date.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Finance Docket No. 33388

CSX CORPORATION AND CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.,
NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION AND
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
— CONTROL AND OPERATING LEASES/AGREEMENTS —
CONRAIL INC. AND CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION

Decision No. 178

Decided: December 12, 2000

Environmental Condition No. 11 of Appendix Q of Decision No. 89¹ (Decision No. 89, slip op. at 401-02), requires Applicants, with the concurrence of the responsible local governments, to mitigate train wayside noise (locomotive engine and wheel/rail noise) at noise-sensitive receptor locations on certain rail line segments. Environmental Condition No. 11 further provides that: “Applicants shall certify compliance with this condition within 2 years of the effective date of the Board’s final decision. This condition shall not apply to those communities that have executed Negotiated Agreements with Applicants that satisfy the communities’ environmental concerns.”²

On October 27, 2000, NS provided us with a copy of a Negotiated Agreement between NS and the Town of Elkton, VA, dated September 22, 2000, and accepted by the Town of Elkton on September 29, 2000. According to NS, this Negotiated Agreement effectuates the Board’s preference for privately negotiated solutions stated in Decision No. 89, slip op. at 153. NS requests that Environmental Condition No. 11 be amended to reflect the parties’ Negotiated

¹ In Decision No. 89, served July 23, 1998, we approved, subject to certain conditions, including environmental mitigation conditions, the acquisition of control of Conrail Inc., and Consolidated Rail Corporation (collectively, Conrail) and the division of Conrail’s assets by CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc. (collectively, CSX), and by Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (collectively, NS). CSX and NS are referred to as Applicants.

² Environmental Condition No. 11 required compliance with this provision within 2 years of the effective date of Decision No. 89, or by August 22, 2000. At the request of NS, by decision served on August 22, 2000, the compliance deadline in Environmental Condition No. 11 was extended 1 year until August 22, 2001, to allow NS to complete implementation of the condition through additional negotiated solutions with communities and an individualized noise mitigation program.

Agreement by deleting the Town of Elkton receptors from those identified on the Riverton Junction, VA, to Roanoke, VA line segment (N-100), and that the Negotiated Agreement between NS and the Town of Elkton be added to the NS Subsection of Environmental Condition No. 51 of Appendix Q in Decision No. 89, which requires NS to comply with the terms of all Negotiated Agreements developed with states, local communities, and other entities regarding environmental issues associated with the Conrail transaction. See Decision No. 89, slip op. at 420-21. The Town of Elkton concurs with the request.

In view of the Negotiated Agreement between NS and the Town of Elkton, VA, we will: (1) add the Negotiated Agreement to Environmental Condition No. 51 of Appendix Q of Decision No. 89; and (2) amend Environmental Condition No. 11 of Appendix Q of Decision No. 89 to delete the Town of Elkton receptors from those identified on the Riverton Junction, VA, to Roanoke, VA line segment because the noise mitigation for that community has been superseded by the NS/Town of Elkton Negotiated Agreement.

This action 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. In accordance with the Negotiated Agreement between NS and the Town of Elkton, VA, dated September 22, 2000, and accepted by the Town of Elkton on September 29, 2000, the following is added to the NS Subsection of Environmental Condition No. 51 of Appendix Q of Decision No. 89:

22. Town of Elkton, Virginia, Negotiated Agreement dated September 22, 2000, and accepted by the Town of Elkton on September 29, 2000.

3. In addition, Environmental Condition No. 11 of Appendix Q of Decision No. 89 is amended to delete the receptors that meet wayside noise mitigation criteria applicable to the Town of Elkton from those identified on the Riverton Junction, VA, to Roanoke, VA line segment because such receptors/noise mitigation have been superseded by the Negotiated Agreement.

4. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Burkes, and Commissioner Clyburn.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary