

Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date 6-20-2012	# of pages 1
To Marcellus C.		From USFWS	
Co./Dept. Kirchner		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax # 757-823-5807		Fax #	

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Norfolk, Virginia 23510-9202

EI-20131

Marcellus C. Kirchner
Director Strategic Planning
(757) 629-2679
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May 1, 2012

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Region 4
Century Center
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345

2012-TA-0463

MAY 23 2012

RE: Docket No AB-290 (Sub-No. 334X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company -
Abandonment – in Calhoun County, Alabama

Dear Sir or Madam:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company is considering the abandonment of 1.81 miles of rail line between former Eastern Alabama Railway Milepost LAM 508.08 and Milepost LAM 509.89 in Calhoun County, Alabama. A map is included delineating the area under consideration.

During the removal of track and materials, if any, Norfolk Southern does not anticipate the use of any new access roads, the need to conduct dredging, or the use of fill. Only existing public and private access roads and the Norfolk Southern right of way should be needed to facilitate operations. In addition, the underlying roadbed will not be disturbed. There is one bridge on the line immediately south of 13th street. During the removal of track and materials the bridge may be removed; however, any debris or other material will be removed from the area, preventing any of the material from entering waterways. Norfolk Southern will also take all measures to prevent and/or control the occurrence of spills or of any pollutants from entering surrounding waterways.

Should Norfolk Southern abandon the rail segment, the approval of the Surface Transportation Board is required. In addition, Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (8i) and (8ii) require Norfolk Southern to address the following statements:

- (i) "Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects."
- (ii) "State whether wildlife sanctuaries of refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects."

Norfolk Southern believes that our actions will not adversely impact any endangered or threatened species and their habitats or wildlife sanctuaries and parks; however we would appreciate your review and input. Please direct your responses and questions to Kearston Comegys at Kearston.Comegys@nscorp.com or mail to:

Kearston Comegys, Coordinator Abandonments
Strategic Planning – 12th Floor
Norfolk Southern Corporation
3 Commercial Place
Norfolk, VA 23510

Very truly yours,

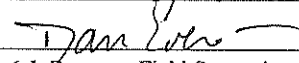


Marcellus C. Kirchner



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street – Daphne, Alabama 36526
Phone: 251-441-5181 Fax: 251-441-6222

No federally listed species/critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. As described, the project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. We recommend use of best management practices specific to your project (See <http://www.fws.gov/daphne/section7/bmp.html>).


William J. Pearson, Field Supervisor

Date

6-20-2012

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