



HEI-20732

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

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December 16, 2014

Mr. Diana F. Wood
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street EW, Room 1110
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Railroad Abandonment between Mileposts CP 9.40 and CP 9.86
City of Hopewell
DHR File No. 2014-0799/Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 364X)

Dear Ms. Wood,

Thank you for meeting with Roger Kirchen and me on December 2nd at the rail abandonment site to review the issues at hand pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. DHR understands that the Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) is proposing to abandon service for 0.46-miles of rail between milepost CP 9.40 and CP 9.86 in the City of Hopewell. The project will be receiving federal approval from the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

We have reviewed the Environmental and Historic Report and STB's Environmental Assessment (Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 364X) for Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) Company LLC – Abandonment Exemption – in the City of Hopewell, Virginia. Our Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) shows that there are five (5) resources that cross the proposed abandonment: the Petersburg Battlefield I (DHR ID#123-5024) and Petersburg Battlefield II (VLR/NRHP-eligible; 123-5025), Appomattox Manor (VLR/NRHP-listed; 116-0001), City Point Historic District (VLR/NRHP-listed; 116-0006), and archaeological site 44PG0431. As such, these buildings, districts, landscapes, and sites must be considered historic properties for the purposes of Section 106.

Based upon our site visit to the rail line, it is our opinion that the section of line in the City Point area does not retain enough physical or historical integrity to convey its association,

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feeling, or setting to significant events. There are other historic properties in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), including the Petersburg Battlefield I (DHR ID#123-5024) and Petersburg Battlefield II (VLR/NRHP-eligible; 123-5025), Appomattox Manor (VLR/NRHP-listed; 116-0001), City Point Historic District (VLR/NRHP-listed; 116-0006), and archaeological site 44PG0431, however, in our opinion, the abandonment of the line, pursuant to this undertaking, would have *no adverse effect* to these historic properties. We have no further concerns with this undertaking.

Should you have any additional questions, I can be reached at (804) 482-6084 or via email, andrea.kampinen@dhr.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrea Kampinen
Architectural Historian, Review and Compliance Division

Cc: Julie Steele, NPS

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