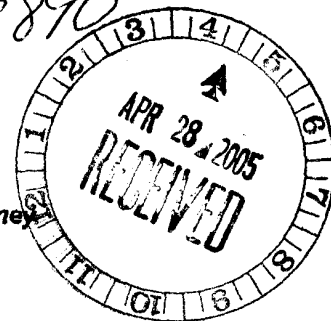




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April 28, 2005

via fax 202-565-9002 and mail

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 238X), Norfolk Southern Railway
Company – Abandonment Exemption – in Buchanan County, VA -
Consent to Extension of NITU and Request to Extend Consummation
Deadline Date

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Board served a decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment with respect to 4.0 miles of Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) line of railroad between milepost BH-0.0 at Bull Creek and milepost BH-4.0 at Harman, in Buchanan County, VA on September 3, 2004. The NITU, which was issued to permit interim trail use negotiations between the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors and NSR, was set to expire March 2, 2005. The Board extended the consummation date deadline for exercise of the abandonment exemption authority to May 1, 2005.

By letter to the Board dated April 26, 2005, Buchanan County filed a new trail use request, rather than a request to extend the negotiation period set after its original request for a NITU was granted. In any event, it appears that although NSR and the County have been negotiating with respect to the possible interim trail use of the right-of-way, the County inadvertently failed to file for an extension of the negotiation period by March 2, 2005. Nonetheless, NSR has not exercised the abandonment exemption authority for this line and consents to a 180-day extension of the trail use negotiation condition or to the issuance of a further NITU as may be appropriate. Accounting for a weekend, we calculate that this new negotiation period would end November 21, 2005.

NSR also requests that the consummation date deadline be extended to 60 days after the expiration date of the extended trail use negotiation period to January 20, 2006. The circumstances of this case show one of the reasons for such extensions of

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
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April 28, 2005
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the consummation deadline date. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,


James R. Paschall

cc via fax 276-762-5593

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cc: Mr. John T. Moon