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July 5, 2006



Original and 10 copies via 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. 243X), Norfolk Southern Railway
Company - Abandonment - In Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, North
Carolina - Notice of Exemption

Dear Mr. Williams:

In a decision served August 18, 2005 in this matter, the Board imposed conditions on the exemption permitting Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) to abandon a 2.4-mile rail line between Milepost R.124.2 and Milepost R-126.6 in Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, NC. The notice of exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on July 20, 2005 (70 F.R. 41813) and corrected on August 3, 2005 (70 F.R. 44719). The deadline date for filing a letter of consummation of the abandonment was set at July 20, 2006.

NSR notifies the Board that consultation and reporting conditions remain outstanding so there are legal barriers to consummation of the abandonment. Moreover, NSR is negotiating agreements to transfer the property to the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Piedmont Triad Research Park. These matters will remain outstanding on the deadline date.

NSR does not request an extension of the date for consummation of the abandonment in this proceeding because the date will be extended due to the requirement to satisfy the conditions in the decision served August 18, 2006. In line with the Board's regulations, NSR will consummate the abandonment within 60 days of the completion of the environmental consultation conditions and report to the Board. In the event of changed circumstances, such as completion of the conditions and report but pendency of the transfer agreements, NSR will ask for an extension of the

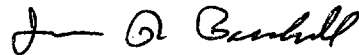
Mr. Vernon A. Williams
STB No. AB-290, Sub-No. 243X
July 5, 2006
Page 2 of 2

consummation date within the 60-day time period.

Although the Board has extended the consummation deadline date in a few cases in which environmental consultation conditions and reports were outstanding, the Board also has clarified that extensions of time to consummate abandonments were not required when legal barriers to the consummation were outstanding in *Norfolk Southern Railway Company — Abandonment Exemption — In Chowan County, NC*, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 251X) (STB served October 20, 2005). See also *Fox Valley & Western Ltd. - Abandonment Exemption - In Brown and Outagamie Counties, WI*, STB Docket No. AB-402 (Sub-No. 8X) (STB served September 26, 2002) where the Board noted that it appeared to be unnecessary to issue a decision to extend the deadline for consummation of an abandonment because a condition was outstanding but did so in order to provide additional certainty that the deadline would not pass under the circumstances.

NSR intends to consummate the abandonment of the subject line, but will do so after completion of the consultation and reporting conditions and completion of certain preparatory work and agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Piedmont Triad Research Park, which will be after July 20, 2006. We currently believe that this is likely to be in October 2006, if not later in the year.

Very truly yours,



James R. Paschall

cc via e-mail:

Ms. S. B. Corey
Mr. G. A. Meade
Mr. W. K. McCain
and other NSR addressees