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Norfolk Southern Corporation
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James R. Paschall
Senior General Attorney

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October 24, 2007

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423

via facsimile (202)245-0454
and mail (original and 10 copies)

Re: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub. No 287X), Norfolk Southern Railway
Company – Abandonment - Brunswick County, VA – Notice of Exemption

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed is a copy of the October 22, 2007 response from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Historic Resources, Office of Review and Compliance to our further submission of information with respect to the Section 106 process concerning the railroad line that is the subject of the notice of exemption in this docket. The response states the SHPO's opinion that this project will have no adverse effect upon the Lawrenceville Historic District, provided that the rail line between milepost FD 90.20 and FD 92.40 be reclassified as an industrial lead track and left in place, with no salvage of tracks or materials; and, the 2.8 mile segment between FD 92.4 and FC(sic) 95.2 be left intact for potential interim trail use to preserve the historic character of the Lawrenceville Historic District.

In further consultation and clarification with the SHPO via email (copy enclosed), Tonia Horton, Ph.D. stated that the SHPO requests that the "bridges, culverts, and appurtenant railroad structures such as round houses, lights, signs, etc.," remain in place while the non-historic rails and ties may be removed.

In a decision served May 31, 2007, the Board ordered NSR to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or are listed in the National Register until completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA. Inasmuch as the enclosed responses complete the section 106 process in this proceeding, NSR requests that the Board remove the section 106 condition as a condition to the exercise of the exemption.

Yours very truly,


James R. Paschall

JRP/kch
Enclosures

**cc: Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Krpatrick
Director

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October 22, 2007

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Surface Transportation Board
Environmental Analysis Section
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Abandonment of Five Miles of Norfolk Southern Railway
DHR File No. 2007-0132

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for submitting additional information on the above-referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It is our understanding that Norfolk Southern Railway proposes to abandon five miles of rail line with a 100 foot right of way between FD 90.20 and FD 95.20. It is our opinion that this project will have no adverse effect upon the Lawrenceville Historic District (DHR #251-5001), provided that the following conditions are met:

First, according to new information submitted, the rail line between milepost FD 90.20 and FD 92.40 would be reclassified as an industrial lead track and left in place, with no salvage of tracks or materials.

Second, the 2.8 mile segment between FD 92.4 and FC 95.2, runs through the Lawrenceville Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and contains contributing resources such as archeological remains of the 19th-century roundhouse and other associated rail yard buildings. As such, we recommend that this segment be left intact for the Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails interest in acquisition for public use and to preserve the historic character of the Lawrenceville Historic District. We understand that the Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails has requested interim trail use, and will receive partial funding for the acquisition through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. We fully support this use of the abandoned rail line.

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10 Courthouse Avenue
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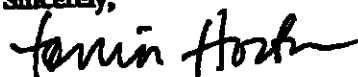
Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor
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Roanoke Region Office
1030 Penmar Ave., SE
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Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel (540) 868-7031
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our comments. I may be reached at tonia.horton@dhr.virginia.gov, or by phone at (804) 367-2323, extension 137.

Sincerely,



Tonia W. Horton, PhD
Office of Review and Compliance

CC: Ms. Kathy Headrick, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Mr. Bill Munson, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Headrick, Kathy, C

From: Horton, Tonia (DHR) [Tonia.Horton@dhr.virginia.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2007 1:58 PM
To: Headrick, Kathy, C
Subject: FW: DHR 2007-0132 Abandonment of Five Miles of NorfolkSouthern Railway, Lawrenceville

Attachments: Robert Munson.vcf



Robert Munson.vcf

Kathy -- Based on Mr. Munson's information, we would request that the "bridges, culverts, and appurtenant railroad structures such as round houses, lights, signs, etc" remain in place while the non-historic rails and ties may be removed. Let me know if you have further questions, and thanks for asking for this clarification!

Sincerely,

Toni

Tonia Woods Horton, PhD
Office of Review and Compliance
Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221

Office: 804.367.2323, ext. 137
Fax: 804.367.2391

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Munson [mailto:Robert.Munson@dcv.virginia.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2007 11:29 AM
To: Horton, Tonia (DHR); kathy.headrick@nscorp.com
Subject: RE: DHR 2007-0132 Abandonment of Five Miles of NorfolkSouthern Railway, Lawrenceville

For the corridor to be used as a trail, the rails and ties need to be removed. However, bridges, culverts, and appurtenant railroad structures such as round houses, lights, signs, etc that help tell the story of how the railroad facilities were used should be left. Thanks for coordinating so closely in this important matter. Bob

>>> "Horton, Tonia (DHR)" <Tonia.Horton@dhr.virginia.gov> 10/23/07 8:36

>>> AM >>>

I believe our intention was that everything would remain in place for the Rails to Trails folks. I am going to forward to Bob Munson at DCR to see if he has a comment on this element as he is the expert on this subject.

Thanks,

Toni

Tonia Woods Horton, PhD
Office of Review and Compliance
Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221

Office: 804.367.2323, ext. 137

Fax: 804.367.2391

From: Headrick, Kathy, C [mailto:kathy.headrick@nscorp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2007 8:15 AM
To: Horton, Tonia (DHR)
Subject: RE: DHR 2007-0132 Abandonment of Five Miles of Norfolk Southern Railway, Lawrenceville

Toni,

I have one question. You state that the 2.8 mile segment between FD 92.4 and FD 95.2 be left intact for the RRRTT interest. Does this mean that no salvage of track and materials can take place or does this apply to the roundhouse and other rail yard buildings?

Kathy

From: Horton, Tonia (DHR) [mailto:Tonia.Horton@dhr.virginia.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2007 3:12 PM
To: Headrick, Kathy, C
Cc: Munson, Robert (DCR)
Subject: DHR 2007-0132 Abandonment of Five Miles of Norfolk Southern Railway, Lawrenceville

Ms. Headrick:

Attached is our response. I will be sending a snail mail version to Ms. Rutson.

I apologize for the delay in getting this to you.

Toni

Tonia Woods Horton, PhD
Office of Review and Compliance
Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia

2801 Kensington Ave.

Richmond, VA 23221

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