



Norfolk Southern Corporation
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-2191

221831

James R. Paschall
Senior General Attorney

(757) 629-2759

March 17, 2008

Via fax -- (202) 245-0464

Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 266X), Norfolk Southern Railway
Company -- Abandonment Exemption -- in Marion, McDowell
County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) has not consummated the abandonment of the line that is the subject of this proceeding. The interim trail use negotiation condition in this matter is scheduled to expire on April 1, 2008. NSR continues to negotiate with the City of Marion for an interim trail use agreement with respect to the subject line. NSR consents to the Board's issuance of an extension (to October 1, 2008) of the trail use negotiation condition requested by the City of Marion in its letter to the Board dated March 7, 2008 (a copy of which is attached)

NSR requests that the consummation date deadline be extended to 60 days after the expiration date of the extended trail use negotiation period.

Sincerely,

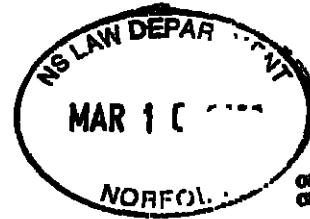
James R Paschall /KCH

James R. Paschall

cc: Bob Boyette, City Manager
City of Marion
P. O. Drawer 700
Marion, NC 28752



CITY OF MARION
P.O. Drawer 700
Marion, North Carolina 28752



March 7, 2008

Via fax 202-565-9004
Original via mail

Mr Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

**Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment in McDowell County,
North Carolina, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 266X) – Request for Extension of
Time**

Dear Secretary Williams

This request for an extension of time to negotiate an agreement is filed on behalf of the City of Marion, North Carolina, which is a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, hereinafter referred to as "Proponent "

Proponent has previously requested issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition on property which extends from railroad milepost SB 205.0 to railroad milepost SB 208 5, a distance of 3.5 miles, located in the City of Marion, McDowell County, North Carolina. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 266X) By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on July 7, 2006, the proceeding was reopened The Board granted a 180-day period for the Proponent to negotiate an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) for interim trail use /rail banking and for a public use condition, the expiration date being January 4, 2007.

On October 17, 2007, the Board granted a 180-day extension for the Proponent to negotiate an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) for interim trail use /rail banking and for a public use condition, the expiration date being April 1, 2008

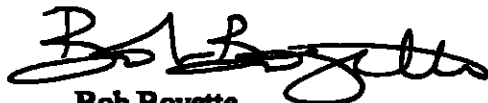
Proponent and its designated representatives have attempted with due diligence and in a timely manner to secure such an agreement with the NSR. The NSR has performed an appraisal for the property on which an agreement hinges is presently being secured and an initial meeting has been held. In light of the approaching deadline and the need for further negotiations, the Proponent respectfully requests a six (6) month extension of the negotiating period, which would set a new expiration date of October 1, 2008.

By my signature below, I certify service of this Request for an Extension of Time upon Norfolk Southern, James R. Paschall, Senior General Attorney, Norfolk Southern

Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, Virginia 23510 by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 7th day of March, 2008

Please contact me at (828) 652-3551 if you have any questions, or if you require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Boyette', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Boyette
City Manager
City of Marion

cc: Mayor/City Council
James R. Paschall, Senior General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Jac Whatley, Martin-McGill