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SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE OCTOBER 18, 2013

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 341X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN
POLK COUNTY, IOWA

Decided: October 18, 2013

On August 30, 2013, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon approximately 0.6 miles of non-contiguous rail line segments in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa. The exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on September 19, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 57,681). The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) on September 27, 2013, stating that comments on the EA were due by October 11, 2013.

The exemption is scheduled to become effective on October 19, 2013. However, the abandonment authority in this proceeding will not become effective until completion of the environmental review process and further order of the Board. The environmental review process has been delayed by the recent shutdown of the Federal government due to a lapse in appropriations. Any comments on the EA that have not already been submitted to the Board are due no later than October 24, 2013. New Filing Deadlines for Material Due to be Submitted During the Federal Government Shutdown, EP 721 (STB served Oct. 18, 2013).

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The abandonment authority in this proceeding will not become effective until completion of the environmental review process and further order of the Board.
2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.