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SERVICE DATE – JANUARY 2, 2015

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 371X)]

The Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company—Discontinuance of Service
Exemption—in St. Tammany Parish, La.

The Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company (AGS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Norfolk Southern Railway Company, filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over approximately 3.60 miles of connecting rail lines extending from: (1) milepost 36.00 NA (near Holly Street) to milepost 38.25 NA (near South Street and Route 190 [Gause Blvd., West]), and (2) milepost NN 35.31 (near Route 11 [Front Street]) to milepost NN 36.66 (near Donya Drive), in St. Tammany Parish, La. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 70460.

AGS has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least two years; (2) no overhead traffic has moved over the line for at least two years, and if there were any overhead traffic, it could be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the

requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication) and 49 C.F.R.

§ 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance of service shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on February 3, 2015, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA for continued rail service under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2)¹ must be filed by January 12, 2015.² Petitions to reopen must be filed by January 22, 2015, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to AGS's representatives: William A. Mullins and Crystal M. Zorbaugh, Baker & Miller PLLC, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037.

¹ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

² Because AGS is seeking to discontinue service, not to abandon the line, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Likewise, no environmental or historic documentation is required here under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(c) and 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(b), respectively.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

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Decided: December 23, 2014.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.