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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 7, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 215X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY — ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION —
BETWEEN WILLIAMSON AND CINDERELLA, IN MINGO COUNTY, WV

Decided: February 6, 2003

The Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F — Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 2.5-mile line of railroad between milepost FG-0.0 at Williamson and milepost FG-2.5 at Cinderella, in Mingo County, WV. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 9, 2003 (68 FR 1215). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on February 8, 2003.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on January 9, 2003. In the EA, SEA indicates that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified three geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommended that NSR provide NGS with at least 90 days' notice prior to initiation of any salvage operations that may disturb or destroy the three geodetic station markers so that plans can be made for their relocation. Comments to the EA were due by January 28, 2003. No comments were filed by the due date. Accordingly, the condition recommended by SEA in the EA will be imposed.

As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the notice served and published in the Federal Register on January 9, 2003, exempting the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that NSR provide NGS with at least 90 days' notice prior to initiation of any salvage operations that may disturb or destroy the three geodetic station markers so that plans can be made for their relocation.

3. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary