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SERVICE DATE - JANUARY 30, 2002

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 232X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN
FAYETTE COUNTY, WV

Decided: January 25, 2002

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 2.8-mile line of railroad between milepost OH-0.0 at Oak Hill and milepost OH-2.8 at Carlisle, in Fayette County, WV. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on December 31, 2001 (66 FR 67628-29). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on January 31, 2002.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on January 4, 2002. In the EA, SEA stated that the West Virginia Division of Culture and History has requested additional information and advised that it could not review the project without the relevant facts. Under the circumstances, SEA recommended imposition of the condition that NSR maintain the rail line and keep railroad-related structures intact and unaltered until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA).

The recommended condition 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 exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that NSR maintain the rail line and keep railroad-related structures intact and unaltered until completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary