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SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 25, 1999

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 207X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN HAMILTON COUNTY, OH

Decided: October 20, 1999

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 0.3-mile line of railroad between milepost LM-120.8 and milepost LM-121.1 at Cincinnati, in Hamilton County, OH. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on September 27, 1999 (64 FR 52119). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on October 27, 1999.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on October 1, 1999. In the EA, SEA states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified one geodetic station marker that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. NGS requests that it be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that may disturb or destroy this marker to plan for its relocation. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring NS to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic marker. The condition will be imposed.

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 NS consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic marker.

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3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary