

29056

SERVICE DATE - MARCH 20, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Finance Docket No. 33388

CSX CORPORATION AND CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.
NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION AND
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
- - CONTROL AND OPERATING LEASES/AGREEMENTS - -
CONRAIL, INC. AND CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION

Decision No. 72

Dated: March 19, 1998

NOTICE TO THE PARTIES:

On December 12, 1997, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the proposed acquisition of Conrail by Norfolk Southern (NS) and CSX. Comments on the Draft EIS were due February 2, 1998. On February 27, 1998 in Decision No. 69, SEA provided additional environmental information based on refined analysis for hazardous materials transport and noise developed after the Draft EIS was issued. In its continuing process of evaluation, SEA has further identified rail line segment N-040 from Alexandria to Muncie, Indiana as a new hazardous materials transport "key route." This information was not included in the Draft EIS or Decision No. 69. This new information does not change or alter SEA's prior analysis, results, or preliminary mitigation recommendations in other impact areas, nor does it affect the integrity of the information contained in the Draft EIS.

To ensure that anyone affected by the new information described above has the opportunity to review and comment on it, through this notice SEA is providing an additional comment period. During this period, affected parties may submit written comments to SEA on the potential environmental effects noted above on their community. Written comments must be submitted to SEA no later than April 15, 1998. SEA will consider any timely comments received in the Final EIS, which is scheduled to be issued in late May 1998. The Board will then consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the Draft EIS, and the Final EIS in making its final decision on the proposed Conrail Acquisition. The Board will hold an open voting conference on June 8, 1998 and intends to issue its final written decision on July 23, 1998.

Information about the proposed Conrail Acquisition and Draft EIS can be found at the Internet web site <<http://www.conrailmerger.com>> and SEA's toll-free Environmental Hotline at (888) 869-1997.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary

**Proposed Conrail Acquisition
New Hazardous Materials Transport Safety Segments**

State	Site ID	Proposed Owner	Segment	Counties	Est. Annual Haz. Mat. Rail Carloads	
					Pre-Acq.	Post-Acq.
IN	N-040	NS	Alexandria, IN to Muncie, IN	Delaware, Madison	0	16,000

**Proposed Conrail Acquisition
New Segments With Potential Impacts on Minority and Low-Income Populations**

State	Site ID	Proposed Owner	Segment	Counties	Potential Impact
IN	N-040	NS	Alexandria, IN to Muncie, IN	Delaware, Madison	Hazardous Materials Transport; Noise