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SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 1, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 240X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN GASTON COUNTY, NC

Decided: November 30, 2004

By decision served on December 9, 2003, the Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempted from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 the abandonment by Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) of a 5-mile line of railroad, extending between milepost HG-47.0 at Gastonia and milepost HG-52.0 at Dallas (Gebo), in Gaston County, NC, subject to public use, environmental, and standard employee protective conditions.¹ The decision stated that, if consummation has not been effected by the filing of a notice of consummation by December 9, 2004, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation at that time, the authority to abandon would automatically expire.

Under 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), a railroad may, for good cause shown, file a request for an extension of time to file a notice of consummation in abandonment proceedings. On November 22, 2004, NSR filed a request for an extension of time to file its notice of consummation until April 11, 2005. NSR states that it is considering conveying the line to the North Carolina Railroad Company, and that additional time is needed to continue negotiations. NSR has shown good cause to extend the time to consummate the abandonment and for filing a notice of consummation in this proceeding. The extension request will therefore be granted.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. NSR's request for an extension of time to file a notice of consummation is granted.
2. The authority to abandon must be exercised, and the notice of consummation of the abandonment must be filed, on or before April 11, 2005.

¹ The public use negotiating period expired on June 6, 2004.

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

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary