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SERVICE DATE - JUNE 5, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 193X)

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY--  
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--IN WAYNESBORO, VA

Decided: June 1, 1998

Norfolk and Western Railway Company (NW) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights to abandon a 0.14-mile line of its railroad between Station 60+00 and Station 67+56 and for discontinuance of trackage rights over a 1.12-mile line of CSX Transportation, Inc., between Station 0+64 and Station 60+00 in Waynesboro, VA. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on May 6, 1998 (63 FR 25133-34). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on June 6, 1998.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on May 20, 1998. In the EA, SEA states that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has expressed concern about air quality, waste issues, and erosion and sediment control during salvage operations. DEQ states that, during salvage operations, NW is required to control fugitive air emissions and any land clearing debris must be disposed of in an approved manner. DEQ also states that NW should comply with Virginia open burning and fugitive air emission regulations. DEQ further states that NW should employ appropriate erosion and sediment control measures for track removal. To ensure compliance with the Virginia regulations protecting water and air quality during salvage operations, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring NW to consult with the DEQ prior to conducting salvage operations.

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 rail line described above is subject to the condition that NW shall consult with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Valley Regional Office, prior to conducting any salvage operations, to ensure compliance with Virginia's regulations regarding soil erosion and air quality.

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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