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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 9, 2015
Part of
Public Record

William A. Mullins

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July 9, 2015

BY HAND DELIVERY

Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In Columbia County, Florida, Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed please find an original and eleven copies of a Notice of Exemption by Norfolk Southern Railway Company to discontinue rail service over an approximately 0.24-mile rail line extending from milepost 215.96 B (near SE Timberwolf Drive) to milepost 216.20 B (near Pounds Hammock Road and Black Bear Street) in Columbia County, FL. Please acknowledge receipt and filing of this notice of exemption by date-stamping the enclosed eleventh copy and returning it to the courier to return to me. This submission also includes an electronic copy of the entire filing and a separate electronic file of a draft Federal Register notice.

Finally, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(21)(ii), I have enclosed a filing fee check in the amount of \$3,800.00. If there are any questions about this matter, please contact me directly, either by telephone: 202-663-7823 or by e-mail: wmullins@bakerandmiller.com.

Sincerely,



William A. Mullins

Counsel for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Enclosures

cc: Marc Hoecker
Maquiling Parkerson
LaWada Poarch

FEE RECEIVED

July 9, 2015

SURFACE

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FILED

July 9, 2015

SURFACE

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
- DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION -
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**Maquiling B. Parkerson
General Attorney
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
Telephone: (757) 533-4939
Facsimile: (757) 533-4872**

**William A. Mullins
Crystal M. Zorbaugh
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2401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: (202) 663-7820
Fax: (202) 663-7849**

**Attorneys for Norfolk Southern Railway
Company**

July 9, 2015

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
- DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION -
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

INTRODUCTION

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NSR”) hereby submits a notice of exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. part 1152, subpart F (Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights) to discontinue service over an approximately 0.24-mile rail line in Columbia County, Florida (the “Line”), extending from milepost 215.96 B (near SE Timberwolf Drive) to milepost 216.20 B (near Pounds Hammock Road and Black Bear Street). In accordance with the Board’s regulations at 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(b) and (d), NSR provides the following information in support of its notice:

Certification: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)

The Line satisfies the criteria for a discontinuance of service exemption under the provisions located at 49 C.F.R. part 1152, subpart F. See Certification of T.L. Reynolds, General Manager Western Region for Norfolk Southern Railway Company, attached hereto and made part hereof as Exhibit A.

Proposed Consummation Date: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (d)(2)

The subject discontinuance will be effective on or after August 28, 2015 (50 days after filing the notice of exemption).

Additional Information Required: 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.22(a)(1)-(4), (7)-(8) and (e)(4)

Exact name of applicant (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1)):

Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Whether applicant is a common carrier by railroad (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(2)):

NSR is a Class I common carrier by railroad subject to the Board's jurisdiction under 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV.

Relief sought (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(3)):

NSR has invoked the Board's two-year-out-of-service class exemption procedures to discontinue rail service over an approximately 0.24-mile rail line extending from milepost 215.96 B (near SE Timberwolf Drive) to milepost 216.20 B (near Pounds Hammock Road and Black Bear Street) in Columbia County, FL

Map (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(4)):

A detailed map showing the location of the Line is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Applicant's representatives (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(7)):

NSR's representatives to whom correspondence regarding this discontinuance should be sent is as follows:

William A. Mullins
Crystal M. Zorbaugh
BAKER & MILLER PLLC
2401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: (202) 663-7820
Fax: (202) 663-7849

USPS ZIP codes (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(8)):

The Line lies within the following U.S. Postal Service ZIP Code territory: 32025.

Rural and Community Impact (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(e)(4)):

The Line has been dormant for over two years, so NSR anticipates no rural or community impact from the discontinuance of its common carrier obligation. Because the Line has not been used for local rail shipments for over twenty-four (24) months, there will be no effect on regional or local transportation systems and patterns, and no diversion of traffic to other transportation systems or modes would result from NSR's action.

The informational requirement of section 1152.22(e)(4) (alternative public uses of rail property) appears to be pertinent only in cases where the railroad proposes to abandon rail property.¹ In this proceeding, NSR is filing a notice of exemption to discontinue service over the Line, not abandon it, and for this reason NSR has no opinion on whether or not the subject rail property might be appropriate for use for other public purposes. Although the following is of questionable relevance here (because the proposed action does not entail abandonment of a rail line), based on the information in its possession, NSR is unaware of any condition that would affect the transfer of title to or the use of the railroad right-of-way for other than rail purposes.

¹ See, e.g., Columbus and Greenville Railway Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – in Greenwood, MS, STB Docket No. AB-297 (Sub-No. 103X), slip op. at 2 n.2 (STB served July 3, 2007) (“CAGY-Greenwood”) (“Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate”); Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Discontinuance Exemption—in Mahoning County, OH, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 292X), slip op. at 2 n.2 (“NS-Mahoning”) (STB served March 15, 2007) (same); Chillicothe-Brunswick Rail Maintenance Authority—Discontinuance Exemption—in Livingston, Linn, and Chariton Counties, MO, STB Docket No. AB-1001X, slip op at 2 n.3 (“CBRA-Livingston”) (STB served Feb 23, 2007) (same).

Labor Protection

The interests of affected railroad employees, if any, will be protected by the conditions discussed in Oregon Short Line Railroad —Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

Certifications

Attached hereto as Exhibit C are the Certificates of Service and Publication pursuant to the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.12 and 1152.50(d)(1). For reasons set forth in the “Environmental and Historic Report” section below, the certification of service requirement at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 (transmittal of Environmental and Historic Reports) is not applicable here.

Environmental and Historic Report

The Board does not normally require a carrier seeking to discontinue service over a particular rail line to prepare and submit for review a combined environmental and historic report.² Here, the discontinuance is exempt from environmental reporting requirements under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(c) and from historic reporting requirements under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(b) because NSR seeks only to discontinue service. NSR does not anticipate engaging in any salvage activities as a result of obtaining discontinuance authority and has no plans to remove any potentially historic structures (such as bridges). Further Board approval is required for NSR

² See, e.g., Everett Railroad Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In Blair County, PA, STB Docket No. AB-271X slip op. at 2 n.2 (STB served Nov. 16, 2007) (“Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, . . . no environmental or historical documentation is required here under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and 1105.8(b), respectively”); Columbus and Greenville Railway Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – in Greenwood, MS, STB Docket No. AB-297 (Sub-No. 103X), slip op. at 2 n.2 (STB served July 3, 2007) (same); Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Discontinuance Exemption—in Mahoning County, OH, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 292X), slip op. at 2 n.2 (STB served March 15, 2007) (same); Chillicothe-Brunswick Rail Maintenance Authority—Discontinuance Exemption—in Livingston, Linn, and Chariton Counties, MO, STB Docket No. AB-1001X, slip op at 2 n.3 (STB served Feb 23, 2007) (same).

to abandon service on the Line. Accordingly, no environmental or historic report was prepared, and the STB will not prepare an environmental assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

Maquiling B. Parkerson
General Attorney
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
Telephone: (757) 533-4939
Facsimile: (757) 533-4872



William A. Mullins
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Attorneys for Norfolk Southern Railway
Company

July 9, 2015

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

STB DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
- DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION -
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

EXHIBIT A

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)**

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF GEORGIA:

ss:

CITY OF ATLANTA:

T. L. Reynolds makes oath and says that he is General Manager Western Region for Norfolk Southern Railway Company; that the rail line between Mileposts 215.96 B and 216.20 B, over which service is to be discontinued, is subject to his supervision and direction; that no local traffic has moved over the line for at least two years, that no overhead traffic has moved over the line for at least two years and that overhead traffic, if there were any, could be rerouted over other lines; and that no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line or a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending before the Surface Transportation Board or any U. S. District Court or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the two-year period.



T. L. Reynolds

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 1st day of April, 2015.


Notary Public

My commission expires:
Sept. 16, 2018

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
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STB DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

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EXHIBIT B

MAP

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

STB DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
- DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION -
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

EXHIBIT C

**CERTIFICATIONS OF
SERVICE/PUBLICATION**

Certificate of Service

49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) – Notice

I certify that, on June 24, 2015, in keeping with 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1), I caused the following parties to be served with written notice of the intent of Norfolk Southern Railway Company to invoke the Board’s notice of exemption procedures to discontinue approximately 0.24-miles of rail line in Columbia County, FL.

Art Graham, Chairman
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Todd Gruenemeier, Manager
Rail and Motor Carrier Operations Office
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dave Dorfman
SDDC TEA
Attn: MTT-SA
709 Ward Drive
Scott Air force Base, IL 62225

Charlie Stockman
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
Program
National Park Service
RTCA Program
1201 Eye St., NW, 9th Floor (Org Code 2240)
Washington, DC 20005
Contact # 202-354-6907

Thomas Tidwell, Chief
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

July 9, 2015



William A. Mullins
Attorney for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Certificate of Publication

49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 – Newspaper Notice

I certify that a “Notice of Intent to Discontinue Rail Service” for Norfolk Southern Railway Company was published in the form and manner prescribed by the Surface Transportation Board regulations for a notice of exemption to discontinue rail service. The notice was published one time on July 6, 2015 in the Lake City Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation in Columbia County, FL, where the Line is located.

July 9, 2015



William A. Mullins
Attorney for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

STB DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
- DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION -
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**DRAFT FEDERAL REGISTER
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Columbia County, FL

On July 9, 2015, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NSR”) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights to discontinue service over an approximately 0.24-mile rail line extending from milepost 215.96 B (near SE Timberwolf Drive) to milepost 216.20 B (near Pounds Hammock Road and Black Bear Street). The entire Line is located in Columbia County, FL. The Line traverses through United States Postal Service Zip Code territory 32025.

NSR has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) that no overhead traffic has moved over the line for at least two years and that overhead traffic, if there were any, could be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the applicable requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To

address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on August ___, 2015, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA for continued rail service under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2) must be filed by _____.¹ Petitions to reopen must be filed by _____, 2015, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to NSR's representative: William A. Mullins, Baker & Miller PLLC, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, suite 300, Washington, DC 20037.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: _____, 2015.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

¹ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25). Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Likewise, no environmental or historical documentation is required here under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and 1105.8(b), respectively.

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
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DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 379X)

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
- DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION -
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

VERIFICATION

Verification

I, John Friedmann, Vice President for Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NSR"), hereby verify under penalty of perjury that to the best of my knowledge the foregoing discontinuance notice of exemption is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to make such verification on behalf of NSR in connection with this proceeding before the Surface Transportation Board.

Executed this twenty-third day of April, 2015.



John H. Friedmann
Vice President