



#E1-25379

September 14, 2016

Crystal Zorbaugh
Counsel for Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Baker & Miller PLLC
2401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 300
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company (NSR) proposed abandonment of 1.97 miles of rail line Charleston, South Carolina.

Dear Ms. Zorbaugh:

This is in response to your email request dated August 25, 2016 to Mr. Dan Burger of our office. As required by conditions of the Surface and Transportation Board's Environmental Assessment, you requested comments from the Coastal Zone Management Program regarding Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company (NSR) proposed abandonment of 1.97 miles of rail line extending from milepost SC 0.33 to milepost SC 2.3 in Charleston, South Carolina. NSR plans to sell the underlying right of way to another entity for the development of an urban park.

The plans to abandon the line will result in salvaging the rail and related track material by removing the rail and track material from the existing roadbed. The contour of the existing roadbed will remain as is, and existing drainage systems will remain intact. When the rail and track material are removed, the contractor will smooth the roadbed to a level surface. No ballast will be removed, and no soil disturbance will occur in that no digging or burying of any kind is proposed.

Given the scope of work, CZC Staff has determined there will be no effects coastal resources by the proposed work. Accordingly a Coastal Zone Consistency determination is not required. However, any future construction activities related to the development of a park that result in soil exposure require coverage under South Carolina's NPDES Construction General Permit when within the typical thresholds for area of construction activity and distance to a coastal receiving water. This permit would then trigger a state Coastal Zone Consistency review at that time.

Please contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


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Cc: Rheta DiNovo