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Office of Proceedings

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April 5, 2004

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-859 (Sub-No. 1X), Pennsylvania Lines LLC – 210556
Abandonment Exemption – In Northampton County, PA;
STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 245X), Norfolk Southern Railway 210557
Company - Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In Northampton County, PA

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed is a copy of the March 22, 2004 response of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer to Norfolk Southern Railway Company's (NSR) historic report (as supplemented) and request for comments on the historic impacts of the abandonment action contemplated pursuant to the notice of exemption in this proceeding. The response states the SHPO's concurrence that PRR's abandonment of, and NSR's discontinuance of service over, a 3.7-mile line of railroad between milepost EK-53.0 at Hellertown and milepost EK-56.7 at Bethlehem, in Northampton County, PA will not affect property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and that no archaeological investigations are necessary in the project area.

In a decision served March 10, 2004, the Board ordered NSR to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA. Inasmuch as the enclosed response completes the section 106 process in this proceeding, NSR requests that the Board remove the section 106 condition from the exemption.

Very truly yours,

James R. Paschall

cc: Ms. J. M. Lipps
Mr. R. L. Crawford



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

March 22, 2004

James R. Paschall
Norfolk Southern Corporation, Law Dept.
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, VA 23510-9241

TO EXPEDITE REVIEW USE
BHP REFERENCE NUMBER

Re: ER 04-0735-095-C
STB Docket No. AB-859 (Sub-No. 1X), Pennsylvania Lines LLC-
Abandonment Exemption-in Northampton County, PA; STB Docket
No. AB-290 (Sub No. 245X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company-
Discontinuance of Service Exemption-in Northampton County, PA
(between Hellertown and Bethlehem, PA)

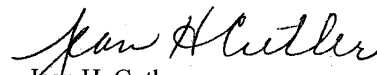
Dear Mr. Paschall:

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (the State Historic Preservation Office) has reviewed the above named project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as revised in 1999. These requirements include consideration of the project's potential effect upon both historic and archaeological resources.

Thank you for supplying the additional historical documentation we requested. We concur with finding of the agency that the following property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places: North Pennsylvania Railroad, Hellertown to Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. We concur that no archaeological investigations are necessary in this project area.

If you need further information in this matter please consult Susan Zacher at (717) 783-9920.

Sincerely,


Jean H. Cutler
Bureau Director

JHC/snz

