



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
477 MICHIGAN AVE.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550

EI-26372

OCT 29 2018

Mr. Joshua Wayland  
Case Control Unit  
Surface Transportation Board  
Washington DC 20423

RE: Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 402X)—Norfolk Southern Railroad Company,  
Abandonment Exemption in the City of Detroit, MI

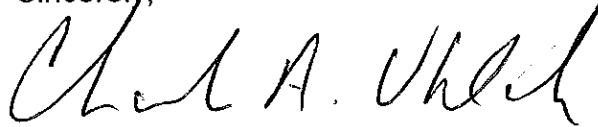
This is in response to your Environmental Assessment (EA) of October 15, 2018, regarding the abandonment of two segments of railroad line totaling 1.12 miles. The proposed abandonments are along the shore of the Detroit River in the vicinity of the Ambassador Bridge. We note that the EA addresses the comments previously provided by our Regulatory Office (Enclosure 1). The following comments are provided in accordance with our responsibilities under our Civil Works Program.

Our civil works program does not include any existing or currently planned projects for water resources in the vicinity of the proposal described in your letter; nor do we have any proposed studies for this area. We note that Segment A appears to pass through areas delineated as 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain under the National Flood Insurance Program (Enclosure 2). As the proposed abandonment only involves removal of track and smoothing of the remaining roadbed to a level surface, and does not involve placement of additional fill in the floodplain, we would expect negligible effects on the floodplain.

We recommend that you coordinate with local officials and with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding the applicability of a floodplain permit prior to construction. This coordination would help ensure compliance with local and state floodplain management regulations and acts. If you obtain information that any part of your project would impact the floodplain, you should consider other alternatives that, to the extent possible, avoid or minimize adverse impacts associated with use of the floodplain.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed railroad line abandonment exemption for abandonment of select rail line segments in Detroit, Michigan, Norfolk Southern Railroad Company, Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 402X). Any questions may be directed to Mr. Paul Allarding at 313-226-7590 or me at 313-226-2476.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Uhlarik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being the most prominent.

Charles A. Uhlarik, Chief  
Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures (2)

Copies furnished:

Don Reinke, Corps, Regulatory Office, Detroit

Greg Mausolf, Corps, Floodplain Management Services, Detroit



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE, ROOM 603  
DETROIT MI 48226-2550

August 16, 2018

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Engineering & Technical Services  
Regulatory Office  
File No. LRE-2018-00838-7-A18

Jackie Birge  
Norfolk Southern Corporation  
3 Commercial Place  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Dear Ms. Birge:

This is in response to the July 31, 2018 letter we received from Laura Hoag regarding the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company's proposed abandonment of its Detroit Boat Yard rail yard on the Detroit River in Detroit, Michigan.

The Corps of Engineers' authority to regulate certain activities on and adjacent to the property in question is found in Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 10), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404).

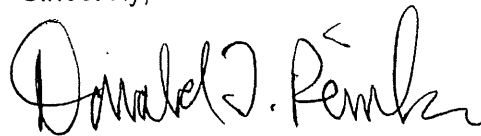
Under Section 10, a Corps permit is required for any structures or work in navigable waters of the United States, such as the Detroit River, to what is called the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM). In the Detroit River in the vicinity of the rail yard, the OHWM of the Detroit River extends to the elevation contour of 574.4 feet (International Great Lakes Datum, 1985). Additionally, a Section 10 permit is required for structures or work outside this limit if they affect the course, location, or condition of the waterbody as to its navigable capacity. Some typical examples of structures or work requiring Section 10 permits within this jurisdictional area include beach nourishment, boat ramps, breakwaters, bulkheads, dredging, filling or discharging material such as sand, gravel or stones, groins and jetties, mooring buoys, piers (seasonal or permanent), placement of riprap for wave protection or streambank stabilization, boat hoists, pilings and construction of marina facilities.

Section 404 requires a Corps permit for the discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters of the United States and in wetlands adjacent to those waters. The area of Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 extends to the OHWM, and to the upland boundary of any adjacent wetlands. Projects involving discharges typically include placement of fill material for homes and landscaping, impoundments, causeways, road fills, dams and dikes, riprap, groins, breakwaters, revetments, and beach nourishment. Section 404 also regulates discharges of dredged material incidental to certain activities such as grading, mechanized landclearing, ditching or other excavation activity, and the installation of certain pile-supported structures.

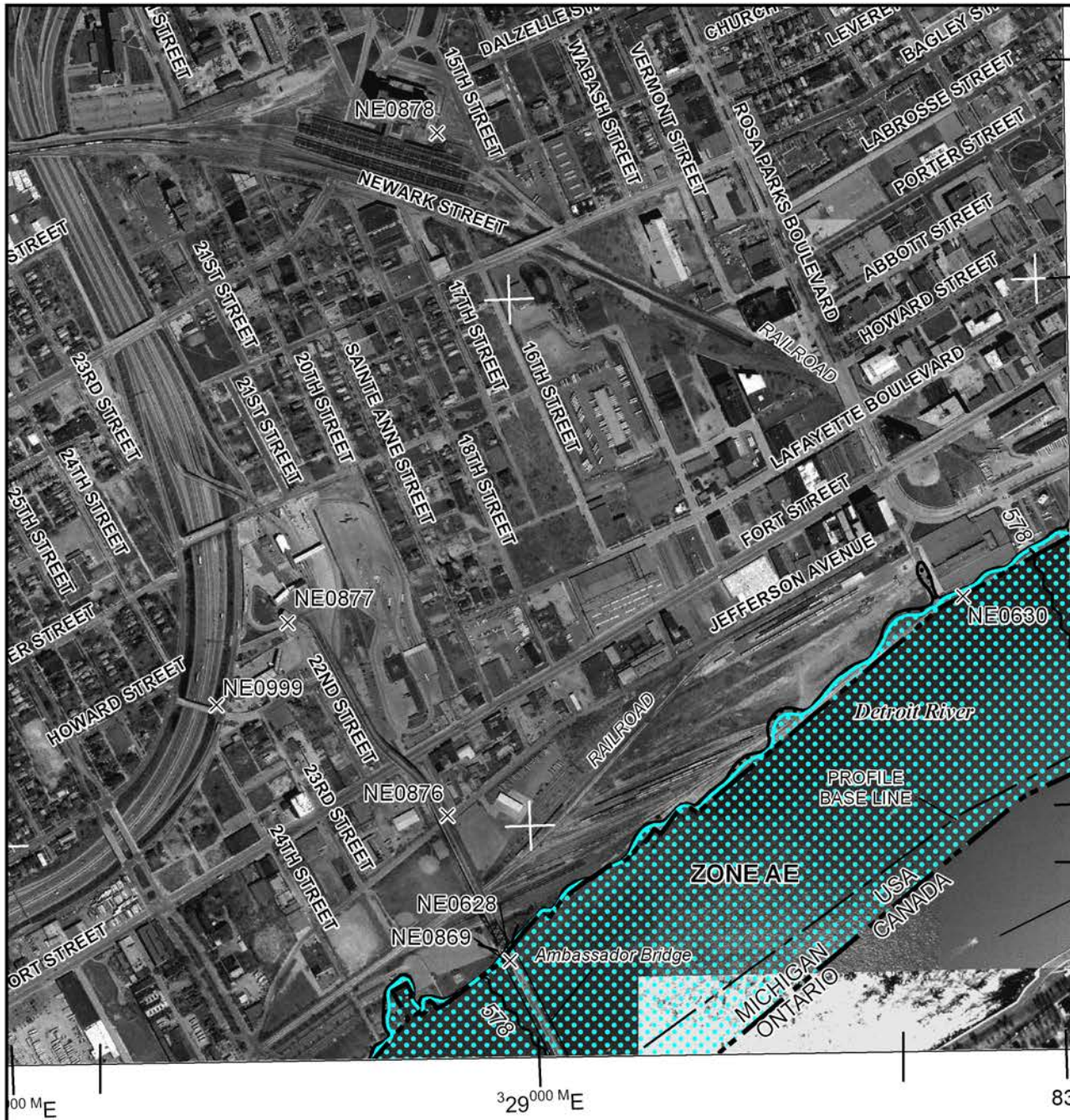
If Norfolk Southern anticipates conducting any work in the Detroit River, including discharges of dredged or fill material, in the course of abandoning the Boat Yard rail yard property, they will need to apply for and receive authorization from the Corps prior to starting such work. Likewise, Norfolk Southern would need Corps authorization for work landward of the Detroit River's OHWM if the work would affect the course, location, or condition of the waterbody with respect to its navigable capacity.

The necessary permit application can be found on our website at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgramandPermits.aspx> . Please complete and return the application following the procedures set forth in the application. Plan view and cross-sectional view drawings, in 8½" x 11" format, should accompany the application. Drawings and a narrative on the form should specifically identify and describe all of the structures, work, and discharges which we regulate as described above, including temporary or construction measures.

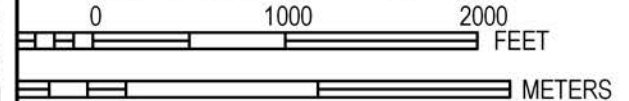
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald T. Reinke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "R".

Donald T. Reinke  
Chief, Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
Regulatory Office



MAP SCALE 1" = 1000'



NFIP

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0280E

**FIRM**

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

**WAYNE COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN**  
(ALL JURISDICTIONS)

**PANEL 280 OF 575**

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

| COMMUNITY        | NUMBER | PANEL | SUFFIX |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| DETROIT, CITY OF | 260222 | 0280  | E      |

Notice to User: The Map Number shown below should be used when placing map orders; the Community Number shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.



**MAP NUMBER**  
**26163C0280E**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2012**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov)