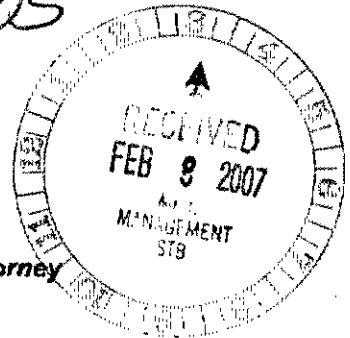


218605



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February 8, 2007

via fax 202-565-9004 and
Original and ten copies via DHL Express

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
FEB 8 2007
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB-859 (Sub-No. 1X), Pennsylvania Lines LLC –
Abandonment Exemption – in Northampton County, PA, embracing STB
Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 245X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company
– Discontinuance of Service Exemption – in Northampton County, PA,
– Request for Extension of Time to Consummate Abandonment

Dear Mr. Williams:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR), as successor by merger to Pennsylvania Lines, LLC, hereby requests a one-year extension of time from the currently extended date of February 12, 2007 (STB served February 9, 2006) to Tuesday, February 12, 2008 to consummate the abandonment of the line between milepost EK-53.0 at Hellertown and milepost EK-56.7 at Bethlehem, in Northampton County, PA that was the subject of these proceedings. NSR and the City of Bethlehem are close to an agreement concerning the long-term disposition of the line. This agreement is outside of the public use condition or trail use condition procedures. Consummation of the abandonment, which would be necessary because the conditions for consummation have been fulfilled, would unduly limit the parties' options and require them to rush through a hurriedly prepared final agreement in order to complete the transaction before the current consummation deadline.

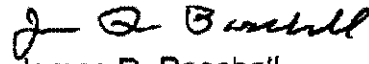
NSR requests this lengthy extension because although significant progress has been made in reaching an agreement and the parties believe an agreement will be finalized in the near future, some details remain to be worked out before a final agreement can be reached and committed to writing. The extension will give greater flexibility to NSR and the City of Bethlehem in making the most productive future use of this right-of-way without requiring NSR to request shorter extensions of time if the expected imminent agreement is delayed and without pressuring the parties to prepare an agreement hurriedly. If the circumstances change, especially if NSR determines that consummation of the abandonment should take place at an earlier date, NSR will then advise the Board and either consummate the abandonment or request any action by

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No. AB-859 (Sub-No. 1X)
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the Board that may be appropriate in the circumstances.

I apologize to the Board for the short period of time between the date of this letter and the current consummation deadline. I had the recent impression that an agreement between the parties concerning the disposition of the subject right-of-way was so close that no further extension would be required and I let the time run until it became clear that the agreement would not be reached before the current consummation deadline date arrived. Unfortunately, some details remain to be confirmed or worked out but we are confident that a final agreement will be reached in the next extension period and, indeed, in the reasonably near future.

Very truly yours,


James R. Paschall