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September 8, 2005

via fax 202-565-9002 and U. S. Mail

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 257X),
Norfolk Southern Railway Company - Abandonment Exemption - In
Blackford County, Indiana

Dear Mr. Williams:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company consents to the extension of the interim trail use negotiation period condition with respect to the proposed abandonment of 8.60 miles of NSR railroad line between Milepost RK-130.0 at Converse, IN and Milepost RK-138.60 at Hartford City, IN that is the subject of request by Indiana Trails Fund, Inc. in a letter to the Board, dated today. NSR has not consummated abandonment of the line and has not discontinued negotiations with ITF. We understand that the brief delay in ITF's request for an extension of the previously imposed trail use negotiation condition was due to the untimely death of a principal's family member.

Very truly yours,


James R. Paschall

cc: via fax 317-636-5435 and U. S. Mail
Mr. Timothy E. Peterson
309 W. Washington Street, Suite 233
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2721

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

SEP 9 2005

Part of
Public Record

Operating Subsidiary: Norfolk Southern Railway Company

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