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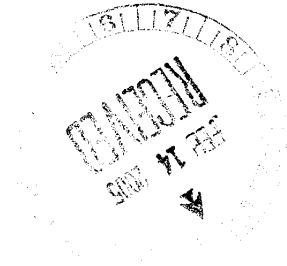
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February 8, 2005

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

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
FEB 10 2005
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Public Record



Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 257X), Norfolk
Southern Railway Company - Abandonment Exemption - In Blackford
County, IN - Reply to Request for Trail Use Condition

Dear Mr. Williams:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company consents to the Board's imposition of an 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 the notice of exemption in the above docket as requested by Indiana Trails Fund, Inc. in a February 3, 2005 letter to the Board. NSR knows of no need for the imposition of a public use condition.

NSR's consent to a negotiation condition does not guarantee that an interim trail use agreement with respect to the line's right-of-way necessarily will be reached.

Very truly yours,


James R. Paschall

cc: via fax 317-237-9425 and U. S. Mail
Mr. Richard Vonnegut, President
Indiana Trails Fund, Inc
PO Box 402
Indianapolis, IN 46206-0402