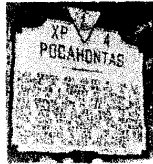


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Historic Pocahontas, Inc.
Pocahontas, Virginia 24635

August 3, 2004



Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building
1925 K Street, K.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

SEP 01 2004

Subject: Docket No. AB-290 (Subpart - 222X)

Part of
Public Record

Dear Mr. Williams,

By decision dated February 18, 2004, in the above captioned matter, the Board granted a notice of interim trail use allowing the parties until August 17, 2004 to reach an agreement. Historic Pocahontas, Inc. is working with Norfolk Southern Railroad to secure a prompt closing date on this property. However, I am writing on behalf of Historic Pocahontas, Inc. to request an additional 180-day extension in order to conclude the acquisition of the proposed abandoned rail line from Bluestone Junction in Mercer County, WV to Pocahontas in Tazewell County, VA.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you need further information or additional assistance, please do not hesitate to inquire.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Brewster, Ed. D.
President





Norfolk Southern Corporation
Law Department
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-9241

James R. Paschall
General Attorney

Writer's Direct Dial Number
(757) 629-2759
fax (757) 533-4872

August 2, 2004

via fax: 202-565-9002
Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 222X) - Norfolk
Southern Railway Company -- Abandonment Exemption -- Between
Bluestone, Mercer County, West Virginia and Pocahontas, Tazewell County,
Virginia

Dear Mr. Williams:

We understand that Historic Pocahontas, Inc. soon will be asking for a 180-day extension of the negotiating period under the Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment, served February 19, 2004, if they have not done so already. NSR consents to the extension of time. Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) has not consummated the abandonment of the line. NSR and Historic Pocahontas, Inc. continue to negotiate and hope to complete an interim trail use agreement under the National Trails System Act with respect to the right-of-way of the subject 1.9-mile rail line between Mileposts PO-0.0 at Bluestone in Mercer County, West Virginia and PO-1.90 at Pocahontas, in Tazewell County, Virginia during the next six months.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J R Paschall".

James R. Paschall

Via fax 304-384-5398
Dr. Thomas M. Brewster
Historic Pocahontas, Inc.
Pocahontas, VA 24635

cc: Mr. J. T. Moon