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SERVICE DATE – JANUARY 21, 2026

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 419X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

Decided: January 21, 2026

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon approximately 1.16-miles of rail line extending from milepost AI 0.29 +/- to milepost AI 1.45 +/- in Summit County, Ohio (the Line). Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on December 23, 2025 (90 Fed. Reg. 60,222). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on January 22, 2026.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) on December 29, 2025, recommending that one condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority. In the Draft EA, OEA stated that NSR submitted a combined environmental and historic report and served the report on the Ohio History Connection (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO), pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(c). OEA stated that it had not heard from the SHPO and therefore had not been able to consider the SHPO's opinion before determining if the Line may be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Accordingly, OEA recommended a condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority requiring NSR to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties, including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) eligible for listing or listed in the National Register until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. § 306108.

OEA issued its Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) on January 16, 2026. The Final EA notes that on January 5, 2026, NSR submitted a letter from the SHPO stating that the proposed abandonment would have no effect on historic properties. The Final EA states that OEA concurs with the SHPO's conclusion. As a result, OEA no longer recommends that the Section 106 condition recommended in the Draft EA be imposed. Therefore, OEA is not recommending that any conditions be imposed in this proceeding. Accordingly, a finding of no significant impact under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(g) will be made pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1011.7(a)(2)(ix).

It is ordered:

1. Abandonment of the Line will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment and conservation of energy resources or on historic resources.
2. If consummation has not been effected by NSR's filing of a notice of consummation by December 23, 2026, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.