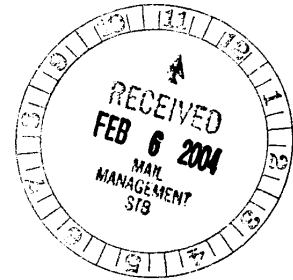


D: A #010 4020600302, 10026

**Historic Pocahontas, Inc.
Pocahontas, Virginia 24635**

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re: Abandonment in Tazewell County, Virginia Document # AB-290/Sub-Part- 222X

Dear Secretary:

This request is filed on behalf of Historic Pocahontas, INC., which is a public interest organization interested in the preservation and restoration of historical resources and/or recreation, etc., hereinafter referred to as "proponent."

The Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Bluestone Junction in Mercer County, WV and Pocahontas in Tazewell County, VA.

A. Request for Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is that the rail corridor in question is tied to the historic preservation of the Town of Pocahontas and will connect the historic Town of Pocahontas to a track of rail line leading to the historic Town of Bramwell. The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to begin negotiations with the carrier.

**ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
FEB - 6 2004
Part of
Public Record**

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Request for Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for rail banking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent also makes the following request:

**STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

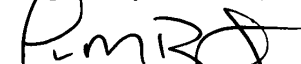
In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, Historic Pocahontas, INC. is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of said rail line. **Therefore, Historic Pocahontas, INC. accepts any financial responsibility for the rail line.**

The property, known as the Pocahontas Branch, extends from railroad milepost PO-0.0 near Bluestone, Mercer County, WV, and milepost PO-1.90 near Pocahontas, Tazewell County, VA, a distance of 1.9 miles in Tazewell County, Virginia. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. - 222X). A map depicting the right-of-way is attached. Also enclosed is the \$150.00 filing fee.

Historic Pocahontas, INC. acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Norfolk Southern Corporation, Norfolk, VA 23510 by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 2nd day of February, 2004. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to call me at 276-326-2883. Additional contact information is attached. Thanks you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



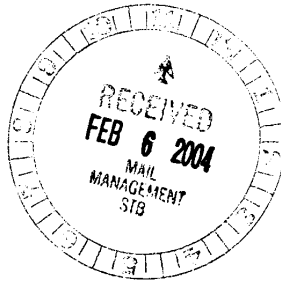
Thomas M. Brewster, Ed. D. on
behalf of: Historic Pocahontas, INC



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

Writer's Direct Dial Number

(757) 629-2759
fax (757) 533-4872



James R. Paschall
General Attorney

February 2, 2004

Via fax 304-384-5398

Dr. Thomas M. Brewster
Historic Pocahontas, Inc.
Pocahontas, VA 24635

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 Dr. Brewster:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) has not consummated the abandonment of the 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.

NSR consents to the Surface Transportation Board's issuance of a Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment so that NSR and Historic Pocahontas, Inc. can negotiate and finalize an interim trail use agreement under the National Trails System Act with respect to the right-of-way that is the subject of this proceeding.

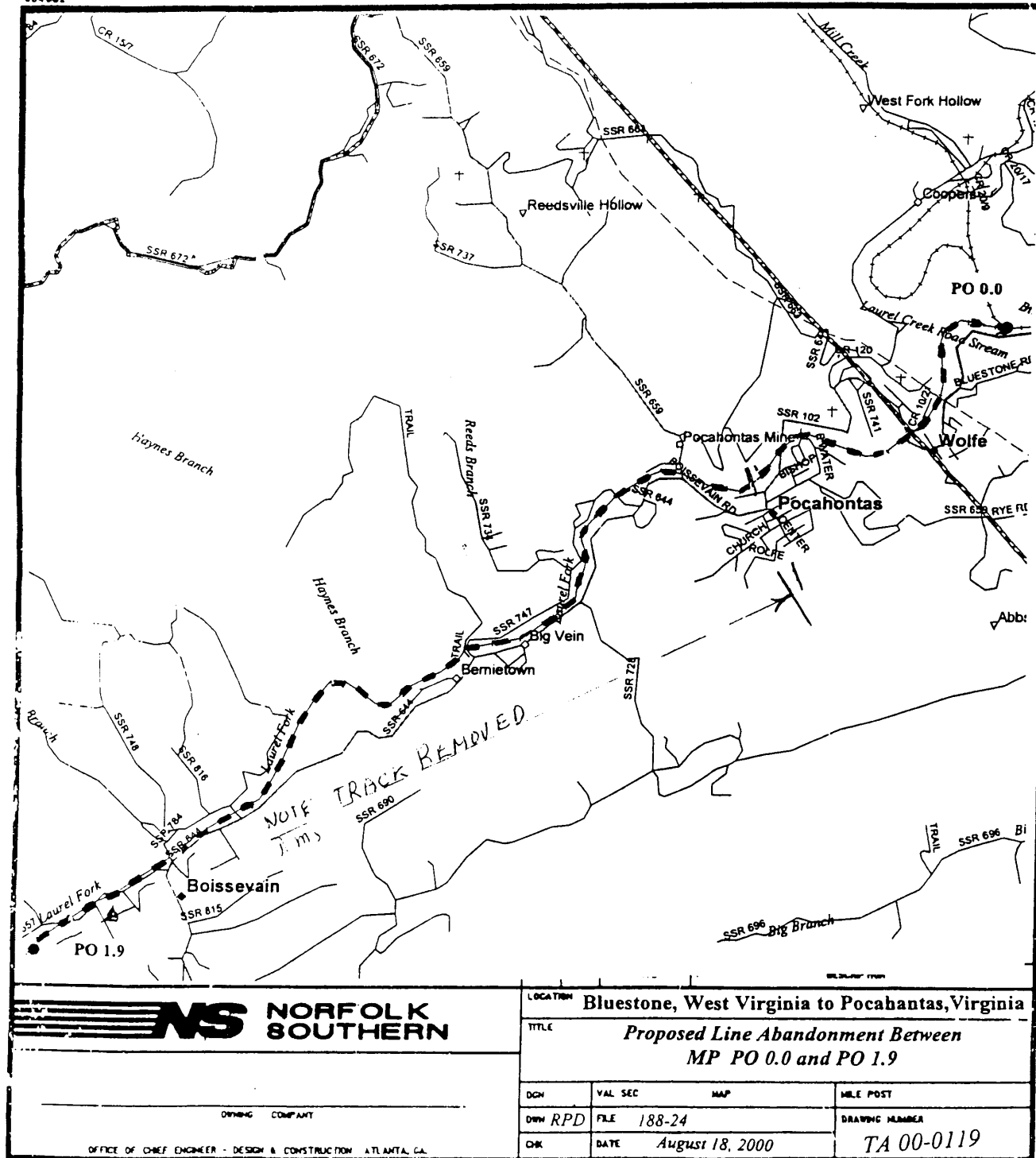
You may submit this letter to the STB together with your trail use negotiation condition request as evidence of our consent to the STB's issuance of a NITU. We will be glad to send a letter to the Board directly if that is also required.

Very truly yours,

James R. Paschall

cc: Mr. J. T. Moon

504802



NORFOLK SOUTHERN

DESIGNING COMPANY

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER - DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION ATLANTA, GA.

LOCATION Bluestone, West Virginia to Pocahantas, Virginia			
TITLE Proposed Line Abandonment Between MP PO 0.0 and PO 1.9			
DGN	VAL SEC	MAP	MILE POST
OWN RPD	FILE 188-24		DRAWING NUMBER
CHK	DATE August 18, 2000		TA 00-0119

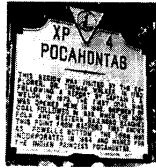
CADD FILE
FIELD BOOK

SHEET OF

Contact Information

Thomas M. Brewster
172 Angel Lane
Falls Mills, VA 24613

276-326-2883 (Home)
304-384-5381 (Work)
tbrewste@concord.edu (E-mail)



Historic Pocahontas, Inc.
Pocahontas, Virginia 24635

September 12, 2003

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary, Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street
NW Washington, D.C. 20423
Document# AB-290
(Subpart - 222X)

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing on behalf of Historic Pocahontas, Inc. to request interim trail use of the proposed abandoned rail line from Bluestone Junction in Mercer County, WV to Pocahontas in Tazewell County, VA. The proposed abandoned rail line will include all Norfolk Southern property, rail yard and depot in the Town of Pocahontas.

It was decided on unanimously by the membership present at the July 2003 meeting of Historic Pocahontas, Inc. to accept all legal responsibilities and potential liability for the rail line and property. In addition, we are willing to accept financial responsibility for the rail line.

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

Original Letter
MAILED on 9-14-03