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December 15, 2016

**VIA E-FILING**

Cynthia T. Brown, Chief  
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – In Crawford County, GA, AB-290 (Sub-No. 318X)

Dear Ms. Brown:

On November 3, 2010, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NSR”) and Georgia Midland Railroad, Inc. (“GMR”) jointly filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances for NSR to abandon and GMR to discontinue service and operating rights (acquired by a lease) over a 5.06-mile line of railroad lying between Milepost FV 90.44 and Milepost FV 95.50 in Crawford County, Georgia (the “Line”). Notice of the exemptions was served and published in the Federal Register on November 23, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 71,487). The abandonment exemption was originally scheduled to become effective on December 23, 2010. However, in a decision served on December 22, 2010, the Board imposed a historic preservation condition requiring NSR to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470(f). The Section 106 condition also required NSR to report on its consultation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division (“GA SHPO”), and it prohibited NSR from filing its consummation notice or initiating any salvage activities related to the abandonment.

It took several years for NSR and the GA SHPO to complete the Section 106 process. In a decision served on March 31, 2015, the Board issued a Director’s Order removing the Section 106 Condition. Because of the extensive delays in the environmental review process and delays associated with salvaging the Line, NSR requested two consummation deadline extensions.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The most recent consummation deadline extension, served on May 27, 2016, gave NSR until May 30, 2017 to consummate its abandonment authority.

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In accordance with the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(e)(2) and the Board's November 23, 2010 decision as modified by the Board's December 22, 2010 decision, NSR hereby advises the Board that it has fully exercised the authority granted and consummated abandonment of the Line. Should you have any questions concerning this notice of consummation, please contact the undersigned counsel for NSR.

Sincerely,



Crystal M. Zorbaugh  
Counsel for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

cc: All parties of record  
Laura Hoag  
Greg Summy  
LaWada Poarch  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
Georgia Department of Transportation