

E1-20547



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

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September 26, 2014

Mr. Diana F. Wood
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street EW, Room 1110
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Railroad Abandonment between Mileposts CP 9.40 and CP 9.86
City of Hopewell
DHR File No. 2014-0799/Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 364X)

Dear Ms. Wood,

On August 29th and September 15th, 2014, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) received additional information on the above referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. We understand that the project will be receiving federal approval from the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

DHR understands that the Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) is proposing to abandon service for 0.46-miles of rail between milepost CP 9.40 and CP 9.86 in the City of Hopewell. Following abandonment, the right-of-way will be conveyed to Regional Enterprises who wishes to expand its transload facility at the end of the line.

We have reviewed the Environmental and Historic Report and STB's Environmental Assessment (Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 364X) for Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) Company LLC – Abandonment Exemption – in the City of Hopewell, Virginia. Unfortunately, we cannot concur with the STB's or NSR's opinion regarding historic resources. Our Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) shows that there are five (5) resources that cross the proposed abandonment: the Petersburg Battlefield I (DHR ID#123-5024) and Petersburg Battlefield II (VLR/NRHP-eligible; 123-5025), Appomattox Manor (VLR/NRHP-listed; 116-0001), City Point Historic District (VLR/NRHP-listed; 116-0006), and archaeological site 44PG0431. As such, these

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buildings, districts, landscapes, and sites must be considered 'historic properties' for the purposes of Section 106.

We have concerns that the rail line, proposed for abandonment, may be contributing to one of these historic properties. As such, since the rail line is also located within Petersburg National Battlefield, the National Park Service (Petersburg National Battlefield division) should be consulted regarding this undertaking and asked to comment on the National Register eligibility of the rail line and potential effects of the abandonment and possible future redevelopment on archaeological resources. Please contact Julie Steele, at (804) 732-0171 x304, Julia.steele@nps.gov. We also request photos of the proposed abandonment area to better assess its environs.

Although it is proposed that the rail line would continue to be used by a private entity, there does not appear to be any long-term requirement for such use and the STB should consider the effects of eventual redevelopment of the right-of-way as part of this undertaking. Should you have any additional questions, I can be reached at (804) 482-6084 or via email, andrea.kampinen@dhr.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrea Kampinen
Architectural Historian, Office of Review and Compliance

Cc: Julie Steele, NPS

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