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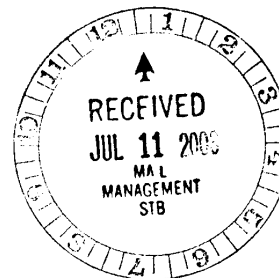
JUL 11 2003

EXPEDITED ACTION REQUESTED

Part of
Public Record

July 11, 2003

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 711
Washington, D.C. 20423



Re: Finance Docket No. 34375, *James Riffin, dba NCRR L.L.C. - Construction, Operation and Trackage Rights Exemption - Between Cockeysville Industrial Track Line at Sta. No. 750+00 (MP 14.2) and the Maryland/Pennsylvania Line (MP 35.1)*

Dear Secretary Williams:

It has come to the attention of Norfolk Southern Corporation ("NSC") and Norfolk Southern Railroad Company ("NSR" and, collectively with NSC, "Norfolk Southern") that Mr. James Riffin, doing business as "NCRR L.L.C.", has filed with the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") a notice of exemption ("Notice") in the above-referenced proceeding. That Notice -- which was not served on Norfolk Southern but only came to our attention due to the Board's prompt posting on its website -- invokes the Board's regulatory processes to seek trackage rights authority over a section of track operated by NSR.

It is not clear what authority Mr. Riffin purports to invoke to acquire the right to operate over tracks operated by NSR. Absent action by the Board (and disregarding the Notice's infirmities not discussed herein), however, this Notice would be effective seven (7) days following its filing, and conceivably Mr. Riffin may then claim a right to use Norfolk Southern's tracks. Norfolk Southern believes that there are a sufficient number of infirmities to prevent that from happening. Notwithstanding that fact, however, Norfolk Southern notes that there are no current or planned discussions between it and Mr. Riffin that would lead to either the grant of trackage rights over tracks operated by Norfolk Southern or to the right to construct any tracks that would tie into tracks operated by Norfolk Southern. In such circumstances, we strongly urge the Board to stay the effectiveness of the Notice. The Board's regulatory processes should be used only with regard to transactions that the parties can represent are reasonably likely to occur -- a circumstance not present here.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Please direct all communications regarding this matter to John V. Edwards,
General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, Virginia
23510 (757-629-2838), or to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Paul Moates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "G." and last name "Moates" clearly distinguishable.

G. Paul Moates

cc: James Riffin dba NCRR L.L.C.
1941 Greenspring Drive
Timonium, MD 21093