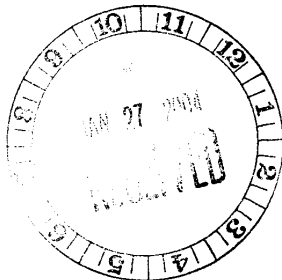




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James R. Paschall
General Attorney

209969

January 23, 2004

via fax 202-565-9002/9004 - 2 pages; and mail
Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423

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Re: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 249X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company
– Notice of Exemption -- Discontinuance of Service – Between Mansfield
and Bloomington, In McLean, Dewitt and Piatt Counties, Illinois - Corrections

Dear Mr. Williams:

On January 22, 2004, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed with the Board a notice of exemption for discontinuance of service over its line of railroad lying between Milepost UM-47.9 at Mansfield and Milepost UM-78.3 at Bloomington, Illinois, a distance of 30.4 miles of track in McLean, Dewitt and Piatt Counties, Illinois. NSR requests that the Board accept this letter as an amendment to the notice or as a request that the Board make certain technical corrections or clarifications in the notice. This approach should be the most efficient way to correct inadvertent errors which do not affect the substance of the notice.

The notice asks for an exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903-10905. NSR intended only to request the standard exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903 under the notice of exemption procedures and we request that this be noted and changed.

The paragraph pertaining to labor protection on page 4 of the notice refers to exercise of the "abandonment" authority. The reference should be to the formal discontinuance of service over the line. Since the level of labor protection as to either abandonment or discontinuance is that set forth in Oregon Short Line R. Co., and the notice otherwise makes clear that an exemption only for formal discontinuance of service is being sought, this is not a substantive change but merely a technical correction. Thus, the paragraph should read as follows:

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
January 23, 2003
AB-290 (Sub-No. 249X)
Page 2 of 2

Labor Protection - § 1152.50(d)(2)

Since the line to be abandoned has been out of service for over two years, NSR believes no employees will be adversely affected by the exemption permitting formal discontinuance of service over this line. However, as a condition to the grant and formal exercise of the exemption authority permitted in this matter, NSR will accept the imposition of standard labor protective conditions as set forth in Oregon Short Line R. Co. - Abandonment - Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

We regret any inconvenience to the Board caused by these technical errors and trust that they can be corrected by this letter. An original and ten copies of the letter will follow by mail.

Very truly yours,


James R. Paschall