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BAKER & MILLER PLLC

ATTORNEYS and COUNSELLORS
2401 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

TELEPHONE: (202) 663-7820
FACSIMILE: (202) 663-7849

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 9, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Crystal M. Zorbaugh

(202) 663-7831 (Direct Dial)
E-Mail: czorbaugh@bakerandmiller.com

March 9, 2017

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 Henry and Spalding Counties, GA, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 331X)

Notice of Consummation

Dear Ms. Brown:

On December 19, 2011, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NSR”) filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances for NSR to abandon approximately 4.92 miles of rail line between milepost 4.80 M (south of Meredith Park Drive near the line's crossing of Indian Creek in McDonough, GA) and milepost 9.72 M (just to the east of Trestle Road in Locust Grove, GA) in Henry and Spalding Counties, Georgia (the “Line”). Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 6, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 836).

The abandonment exemption was originally scheduled to become effective on February 7, 2012. However, in a decision served on February 1, 2012, the Board imposed a historic preservation condition requiring NSR to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the trestle bridge located at milepost 4.90M 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”) or any other Section 106 consulting parties, and it prohibited NSR from filing its consummation notice or initiating any salvage activities related to the bridge (including removal of tracks and ties from the bridge) until the Section 106 process was completed and the Board removed the condition.

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It took several years for NSR and the GA SHPO to complete the Section 106 process. In a decision served on March 30, 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 and received two consummation deadline extensions.¹

In accordance with the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(e)(2) and the Board's January 6, 2012 decision as modified by the Board's decision served February 1, 2012, 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

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