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OEA  
EAXX-472-00-0-1730460733

SERVICE DATE — DECEMBER 16, 2024

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 417X)**

**The Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption –  
in Mingo County, W. Va**

**ABANDONMENT TYPE**

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:  
(X) Notice of Exemption ( ) Petition for Exemption ( ) Regulated Abandonment

(X) **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

( ) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in Mingo County, West Virginia. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 3.5 miles from milepost AL 0.0 at Sprigg, W. Va to milepost AL 3.5 at Vimy, near Matewan, W. Va (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on November 25, 2024 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

**Conclusions**

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:<sup>1</sup>

Norfolk Southern Railroad Company (NSR) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible

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<sup>1</sup> If an interim trail use agreement under 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 is reached for the Line (or a portion thereof), compliance with this condition is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.

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for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, has been completed. NSR shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, Tribes, and the public. NSR may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.