

consummation by December 21, 2002, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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Decided: December 14, 2001.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-31505 Filed 12-20-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 220X)]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Wise County, VA

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 3.03-mile line of railroad between milepost A-0.0, at Arno Jct., and milepost A-3.03, at Derby, in Wise County, VA (line). The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 24293.

Applicant has certified that: (1) No local or overhead traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic, if there is any, can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government agency acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been

received, this exemption will be effective on January 22, 2002, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by December 31, 2001. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 10, 2002, with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: James R. Paschall, Esq., Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510. If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

Applicant has filed a separate environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by December 28, 2001. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1552. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), NSR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by NSR's filing of a notice of consummation by December 21, 2002, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Decided: December 14, 2001.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of D.C. Pensions; Proposed Collection: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Office of D. C. Pensions within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the D. C. Pension Plans Customer Satisfaction Survey.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before February 19, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESS: Direct all written comments to the Department of the Treasury, Office of D. C. Pensions, Kristi H. Greenslade, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 6131 Metropolitan Square, Washington, DC 20220, (202) 622-0800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Office of D. C. Pensions, Kristi H. Greenslade, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 6131 Metropolitan Square, Washington, DC 20220, (202) 622-0800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: D. C. Pension Plans Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Abstract: Under the *National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, Title XI of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 [Pub. L. 105-33], as amended*, (the Act), the U.S. Department of the Treasury assumed certain responsibilities for some of the District of Columbia's pension plans, including administration of fund assets and distribution of pension benefits. Treasury is responsible for paying the benefits earned through June 30, 1997, under the Police Officers and Firefighters' Retirement Plan and the Teachers' Retirement Plan. The District of Columbia is responsible for paying