SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 426X)]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Madison County, Ohio

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 0.96 miles of rail line located between milepost XD 24.73 +/− and milepost XD 25.69 +/− in Madison County, Ohio (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 43140.

NSR has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) any overhead traffic on the Line 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 on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is pending with either the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period prior to the filing of the notice; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7(b) and 1105.8(c) (notice of environmental and historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to government agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho,* 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,[1] this exemption will be effective on December 2, 2026, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues[2] and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2) and interim trail use/railbanking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29[3] must be filed by November 12, 2026. Petitions to reopen and requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 23, 2026.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 426X), must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on NSR's representative, William A. Mullins, Mullins Law Group PLLC, 2001 L St. NW, Suite 720, Washington, DC 20036.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

NSR has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the potential effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) by November 6, 2026. The Draft EA will be available to interested persons on the Board's website, by writing to OEA, or by calling OEA at (202) 245–0294. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245–0245. Comments on environmental or historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the Draft EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/railbanking 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 November 2, 2027, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available at *www.stb.gov.*

Decided: October 28, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

Tammy Lowery,

Clearance Clerk.

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[1] Persons interested in submitting an OFA must first file a formal expression of intent to file an offer, indicating the type of financial assistance they wish to provide (*i.e.,* subsidy or purchase) and demonstrating that they are preliminarily financially responsible. *See* 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)(i).

[2] The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. *See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. 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.

[3] Filing fees for OFAs and trail use requests can be found at 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25) and (27), respectively.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Performance Review Board Membership

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) staff members selected to serve on the Senior Executive Service (SES) and Senior Level (SL) Performance Review Board (PRB). This notice supersedes all previous PRB membership notices.

DATES: The staff members in this notice will begin serving as PRB members on September 22, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cassie Ender, Human Capital Specialist, Office of Human Capital and Services, at (202) 881–7782 or *Cassie.L.Ender@ustr.eop.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: USTR is required (*see* 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)) to establish a PRB to review and make recommendations to the U.S. Trade Representative for final approval of the performance rating, performance-based pay adjustment, and performance award for each incumbent SES and SL. The following staff members have been selected to serve on USTR's PRB:

Member: Jospeh Barloon, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative for Geneva.

Chairperson: Jeffrey Goettman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

Member: Sarah Ellerman, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and Pacific.

Member: Kenneth Schagrin, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Services and Investments.

Member: Michael Starr, Deputy Chief of Staff.

Member: Arthur Tsao, Deputy General Counsel for Negotiations, Legislation & Administrative Law.

Fred Ames,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Administration, Office of the United States Trade Representative.

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