

but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: January 21, 1997.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 97-1839 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

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Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 188X)]

Norfolk and Western Railway Company; Abandonment Exemption; Between Edgefield and Escambia Junction, SC

Norfolk and Western Railway Company (NW) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon its 1.5-mile line of railroad between milepost AB-0.0 at Edgefield and milepost AB-1.5 at Escambia Junction, SC.

NW has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with 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 February 26, 1997, 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), and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29² must be filed by February 6, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by February 18, 1997, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: James R. Paschall, General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510.

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

NW has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 31, 1997. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 3219, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser, Chief of SEA, at (202) 927-6248. 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.

Decided: January 21, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-1871 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

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¹The 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 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.

²The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests as long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Non-ABI Processing of Refunds Under the Generalized System of Preferences

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This document gives notice that Customs has completed the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) processing of certain retroactively-eligible Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) duty refund claims—for the period July 31, 1995, through September 30, 1996—and advises those ABI filers that did not receive a duty refund to contact in writing the port director of the port where the GSP-eligible goods were entered or withdrawn.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 27, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *For general operational aspects:* John Pierce, Office of Trade Agreements, (202-927-1249).

For information on specific refunds: The Customs port office where the subject merchandise was entered or withdrawn.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a renewable, preferential trade program that allows the products of many developing countries to enter the United States free of duty. On July 31, 1995, continued authority for the GSP program lapsed, and it was not until August 20, 1996, that the entry of eligible merchandise under provisions of the GSP was again authorized until May 31, 1997, pursuant to provisions contained in the GSP Renewal Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act, Pub.L. 104-188, 110 Stat. 1755, at 110 Stat. 1917). The 1996 Act contained certain retroactive applications for the processing of articles entered after July 31, 1995, and before October 1, 1996; such entries were to be liquidated or reliquidated and the deposit of estimated duties refunded with interest, provided that a request for liquidation or reliquidation was filed with Customs by February 16, 1997, *i.e.*, within 180 days after the date of the 1996 Act's enactment, that contained sufficient information to enable Customs to locate the entry or to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located. See, Federal Register notice of Friday, September 20, 1996 (61 FR 49528).

In anticipation of the 1995 lapse of authority for continued GSP processing of eligible merchandise, Customs