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**W. Bruce Wingo**  
Resident Vice President  
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The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar  
Clerk of the Senate of Virginia  
Post Office Box 396  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Susan:

Enclosed is Norfolk Southern Corporation's 2008 Annual Coal Dust Report. The report highlights Norfolk Southern's continuing efforts to identify and mitigate coal dust emissions from our rail corridors and facilities throughout the Commonwealth.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Richard P. Russell, System Director for Environmental Protection, at (540) 981-4456.

Sincerely,

W. Bruce Wingo

Enclosure

cc: ✓ The Honorable Bruce F. Jamerson, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates w/e  
Mr. Richard P. Russell

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE  
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE STUDYING MEASURES TO REDUCE  
EMISSIONS FROM COAL-CARRYING RAILROAD CARS  
PER SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 257**

Submitted by

Norfolk Southern Corporation  
Environmental Protection Department  
Roanoke, VA

February 2009

## *Summary of Key Accomplishments in 2008*

- Norfolk Southern Corporation's (Norfolk Southern's) Performance Monitoring Plan remains fully implemented.
- The Trackside Monitor in Altavista, VA continues to monitor trains headed for the Tidewater area, providing timely and valuable feedback to the mines participating in Norfolk Southern's coal dust reduction program.
- The 1-800 dusting report line continues to be available to record any complaints from persons and businesses located in the rail corridors through which Norfolk Southern transports coal. In 2008 there were no complaints logged from Virginia.
- Monitoring of Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) and very fine particulate matter (PM-10) near Lamberts Point in Norfolk, VA continues to demonstrate compliance with DEQ ambient air quality standards.
- Norfolk Southern provides feedback to the coal mines served including the relative success or failure of their preventive measures to reduce fugitive emissions.
- Norfolk Southern continues to work with those mines that continue to be identified as not meeting the Performance Monitoring Plan's dust control standards by conducting periodic audits of the mines to ensure optimal performance.
- Norfolk Southern and Consolidated Energy Inc. have been cooperatively evaluating surfactant application to higher volumes of coal and the implementation of surfactant application to other mines served by Norfolk Southern.

In accordance with the 1997 Virginia Senate Joint Resolution No. 257, Norfolk Southern summarizes the efforts to identify and mitigate fugitive coal dust emissions from its rail corridors and facilities in the Commonwealth during the calendar year 2008. This report illustrates Norfolk Southern's compliance with the resolution and our commitment to protect the environment.

## **2008 Review**

### **Performance Monitoring Plan**

The Performance Monitoring Plan is Norfolk Southern's strategy for monitoring the effectiveness of coal treatments by participating mines and for identifying additional mines that may be encouraged to participate in the dust control program. The major components of the Performance Monitoring Plan currently implemented are:

- Trackage Monitor – Altavista, VA
- 1-800 Dusting Report Line
- Community Air Quality Monitoring at Lamberts Point in Norfolk, VA

The multi-component approach established by Norfolk Southern is designed to provide continuous and unbiased feedback on the performance of its dust control program with the Trackage Monitors and 1-800 line.

Norfolk Southern will continue the Performance Monitoring Plan in 2009. Norfolk Southern will, as it has done in the past, work to expand mine participation should the Trackage Monitors or the 1-800 Dusting Report Line identify significant new sources. Norfolk Southern will also continue to participate, as needed, in the evaluation of advanced dust control agents for use in the coal dust treatment program.

### **Trackage Monitor – Altavista, VA**

The Trackage Monitor at Altavista monitors both trains bound for export through Lamberts Point as well as those destined for regional domestic coal consumers. A continuing goal is to reduce the time taken to alert the mines of any evidence of treatment failure and thus to enable prompt corrective measures, if necessary. To this end, Norfolk Southern is investing in an improved evaluation technique developed for use with existing Norfolk Southern trackage dust monitors.

Norfolk Southern develops a report for each dusting train that passes the Trackage Monitor. Each mine's shipment is graded (A to E) and a summary table identifies the originating mine believed responsible for the

dust signal as well as those shipments that appear to have no coal dust emissions.

In 2008, the Altavista Trackside Monitor reported that 72% of the trains produced little measurable dust (<25 micrograms per cubic meter). The average of the dust signals produced by the remaining 28% of the trains remained below 100 micrograms per cubic meter. While this demonstrates a slight decrease from the 2007 value of 78%, it constitutes continued improvement from the 2003 to 2006 values, which ranged between 55% and 67%. Maintaining an average intensity of dusting events less than 100 micrograms per cubic meter is the most likely reason for the continued low number of 1-800 reports.

### **1-800 Dusting Report Line**

As in 2007, no calls to the Virginia 1-800 Dusting Report Line were received in 2008, compared with 2 in 2001, 1 in 2002, 1 in 2003, none in 2004, one in 2005, and one in 2006. The data from the Trackside Monitor sites suggest little change from 2007 to 2008 in the number of dusting trains and/or the magnitudes of the detected dust signals.

The combination of 1-800 reports, the details provided through the Trackside Monitor, and subsequent train tracking efforts provides a basis to encourage the mines to participate in the dust mitigation program and improve existing efforts.

### **Lamberts Point Community Air Quality Monitoring**

The Lamberts Point Community Monitoring Program monitors airborne particulate in the area surrounding the Lamberts Point coal pier in Norfolk. One TSP monitor and one PM-10 monitor are operated at the Virginia Initiative Project's waste water treatment facility adjacent to the pier. The DEQ ambient air quality standards were not exceeded at any time in 2008.

### **Anticipated 2009 Program Improvements**

Norfolk Southern continues to fund improvements in the tools needed to execute its Performance Monitoring Plan. Sensor upgrades to the Altavista Trackside Monitor and implementation of a new grading system

have been approved and will be implemented in 2009. To further improve the Performance Monitoring Plan, a Trackside Monitor will be added to the program in Isle of Wight County for 2009. Additionally, a real-time dust collector system will be installed at Norfolk Southern's rotary dumper facility at Lamberts Point to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of dust suppression techniques employed at the mine. Continued evaluation of the Trackside Monitoring is critical to maintaining confidence in the Performance Monitoring Plan by Norfolk Southern, its customers and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Utilizing the results of the coal dust suppression treatment experiments conducted in conjunction with Consolidated Energy Inc. in 2008 and continued monitoring of the performance of implemented treatment programs, Norfolk Southern will continue to explore ways to improve the efficacy of the treatments and expand their applications to additional mines.