



John R. Sherrill  
Manager Railroad Safety  
State Corporation Commission  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
804-382-3887

September 4, 2008



Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail concerning the railroad operations at Alexandria. There are two items of concern and we should address each one separately. Your concern as to the safety of the ethanol unloading facility at Alexandria is understandable. I want to assure you that Norfolk Southern has been under the watchful eye of Local, State and Federal Inspectors for the past two years. Norfolk Southern has met or exceeded all regulations for the safety of the employees at the facility and the safety of the public. The Utility and Railroad Safety Division of the State Corporation Commission monitors the operation of the ethanol facility on a periodic basis and will continue to do so.

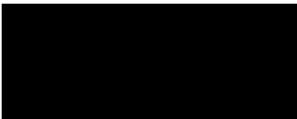
The second concern of noise during railroad operations is covered in CFR code 210 and is very specific as to the noise standards the railroad must meet. The railroad employee over the years has been able to operate in railroad yards that are not in close proximity to the public and this has led to train operations that are "very noisy". If the noise exceeds the limits we will have the railroad meet the standards.

I will travel to Alexandria the week of September 8, 2008 to investigate the noise levels during train operations and would enjoy meeting with you to discuss your concerns.

Thank you,  
John R. Sherrill

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September 12, 2008



Dear [REDACTED],

I traveled to Alexandria on September 9, 2008 to conduct an inspection of Norfolk Southern train operations at the Van Dorn ethanol yard. I was assisted by Jon Grubbs SCC railroad safety inspector and our findings are as follows:

September 9, 2008 11:30 pm I observed train number ninety-seven in switching operations in the siding track at Van Dorn yard. All the switching moves were according the rules and I noted no excess in the noise levels.

September 10, 2008 2:15 am I observed train number fifty-two in switching operations in the ethanol track at Van Dorn yard. The switching moves were not according to the rules and I did note an excess in the noise levels.

September 10, 2008 4:25 am Jon Grubbs observed train number fifty-two in switching operations in the ethanol track at Van Dorn yard. The switching moves were not according to the rules and Jon did note an excess in the noise levels.

September 10, 2008 11:35 pm I observed train number fifty-two in switching operations in the ethanol track at Van Dorn yard. The switching moves were not according to the rules and I did note an excess in the noise levels.

September 11, 2008 12:15 am I met with crew of train number fifty-two and discussed their switching operations. After the meeting there was a marked reduction in the noise levels.

September 11, 2008 10:15 am Jon Grubbs and I met with Norfolk Southern Assistant Train Master Hyman to discussed the switching operations at the ethanol track in Van Dorn yard.

Assistant Train Master Hyman stated the violation of rules would not be tolerated and he would monitor the noise levels to assure they are maintained at or below the levels required by CFR 210. We will continue to monitor the train operations at Van Dorn to assure compliance with the rules. If you have any questions or any problems in the future, please call Jon or I.

Thank you,  
John R. Sherrill