FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

FALSE PROCEED SIGNAL REPORT

Aug-03

DATE

12-Aug-03

REPORTING CARRIER

Norfolk Southern Corporation

Division: Georgia Division

MAIL TO

Mr. Michael Woods
Federal Railroad Administration
16th Floor - Suite 16T20
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

REPORTING OFFICER

Chief Engineer - Eastern Region
Communications & Signal Department

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATE	LOCOMOTIVE NUMBER	DEVICE THAT FAILED	LOCATION (city and state)
1 BLOCK SYSTEMS [ ] AB [ ] APB [X] TC	8/9/2003	9626	B1 Biased Relay	Flovilla, GA
2 INTERLOCKING [ ] AUTOMATIC [ ] REMOTE [ ] MANUAL				
3 AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS [ ] ATS [ ] ATC [ ] ACS				
4 OTHER (specify)				

NATURE AND CAUSE OF FAILURE / CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN

At approximately 12:56 p.m. on August 9, 2003, northbound train 264 with Engineer and Conductor ran through a power switch lined against them at Flovilla, Georgia, MP 203 H under a clear aspect. The GRS 5H dual control machine was in the reverse position in hand throw operation. The machine indicated normal correspondence allowing the dispatcher to request and clear the northbound signal for the main track. Train 264 accepted the signal and ran through the switch stopping clear of the OS track. Signals at this location are color light signals, no exceptions were found with the signals, cable or switch machine.

Investigation revealed that the NWP switch correspondence relay had remained in the falsely energized position, after voltage had been removed from the relay coils. This allowed the switch to falsely indicate it was in the normal position.

The control point data logger showed the relay remained in the energized position with the switch machine in hand throw operation and laying in the reverse position. This allowed northbound signal to display green over red or clear, and allowed the approach signal at CP Sandy to display a clear aspect for Train 264.

The fault and signal display was reproduced and verified during testing. The faulty relay is a 500 OHM biased relay and was removed from service on 8/9/2003.