



TAYLOR
COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

E1-17863

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Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Room 504
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

RE: Perry Rail Extension-Construction and Operation Exemption- Rail Line Extension and Upgrade to Existing Line- Perry Florida-Greenville Florida

Dear Section Chief Rutson:

As discussed in our pre-Application meeting August 18, 2009, the Taylor County Development Authority (TCDA) is requesting a waiver of the six (6) month pre-filing notice generally required by 49 CFR 1105.10(a) for a proposed line construction project. The Perry Rail Extension is a 24-mile extension route to be constructed running generally east from the Taylor county mining area to the Georgia Florida Railroad (GFR) owned by OmniTRAX. From this intersection, approximately 16 miles of existing GFR railroad would need to be upgraded to interchange with the CSX in Greenville, Florida.

As demonstrated in the environmental report and package that was submitted at the pre application meeting; the route chosen was carefully selected so as to minimize any potential environmental impacts. In addition, meetings were conducted with the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, Suwannee River Water Management District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the agencies have responded in writing that they have reviewed the environmental report. In addition; the Perry Rail Extension will be retaining a third party consultant pursuant to 49 CFR 1105.10(d) and from the STB's list of approved third party contractors for environmental studies.

The commodities that are expected to be transported over this line include limerock/construction aggregate materials used to build Florida's roads, timber and renewable energy.

The project has a significant impact on desirable long-term outcomes for the Nation, the metropolitan area, and the region. Florida Governor, Charlie Crist, has designated Taylor County as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern. The per capita income is approximately 60% that of the United States average. The rail extension would improve the livability of Taylor County residents by creating local wealth and a significant amount of jobs.

If you have questions regarding the above information and our request for a waiver of the 6-month notice, please do not hesitate to call me at (850) 584-5627

Sincerely,

Rick Breer, Director
Taylor County Development Authority