



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/TCESFO

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office

17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211

Houston, Texas 77058

281/286-8282 / (FAX) 281/488-5882



February 1, 2016

Thank you for your request for threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife, environmental, and/or aquatic resources information, comments, and/or recommendations within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Texas Coastal Ecological Service's area (Houston Office) of responsibility.

In order to obtain information regarding fish and wildlife resources concerning a specific project or project area, we recommend that you first utilize the Service developed Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System. The IPaC system is designed for easy, public access to information about the natural resources for which the Service has trust or regulatory responsibility. Examples include threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, National Refuge lands, and National Wetlands Inventory wetlands. One of the primary goals of the IPaC system is to provide this information in a manner that assists people in planning their activities within the context of natural resource conservation. The IPaC system also assists people through the various regulatory consultation, permitting and approval processes administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, helping achieve more effective and efficient results for both the project proponents and natural resources.

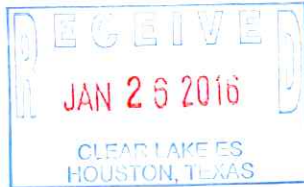
The IPaC system can be found at the following website address: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Please note, by requesting an Official Species List you will receive an official consultation response letter and tracking number. If you still have questions concerning your project as it relates to fish and wildlife resources after visiting the IPaC system, please feel free to contact our office at the letterhead address above. We will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Charles Ardizzone
Field Supervisor

To Clear Lake

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
1400 Douglas Street Omaha, Nebraska 68179



January 6, 2016

State Clearinghouse (or Alternate):

Denise S. Francis
Director, State Grants Team
Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Rd.
Galveston, Texas 77550

State Environmental Protection Agency:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
5425 Polk St., Suite H
Houston, Texas 77023

National Park Service (Regional Office):

National Park Service - Intermountain Region
12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, Colorado 80225

Environmental Protection Agency (Regional Office):

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service:

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bryan Service Center
1716 Briarcrest Drive, Suite 510
Bryan, Texas 77802

State of Texas Historic Preservation Office:

Texas Historical Commission Main Office
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

National Geodetic Survey:

Geodetic Services Division
SMCC-3 #9209
NOAA N/NGS2
1315 E-W Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region (2) Office
500 East McCarty Lane
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Head of Harris County, Texas:

Stan Stanart
Harris County Clerk
201 Caroline
Houston, Texas 77002

Head of Chambers County, Texas:

Heather Hawthorne
Chambers County Clerk
P.O. Box 728
Anahuac, Texas 77514

Re: Proposed Abandonment of the US Steel Industrial Lead from Milepost 2.4 near Baytown to Milepost 4.63 near Cedar Bayou, a total distance of 2.23 miles located in Harris County and Chambers County, Texas, STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 324X)

To Whom It May Concern:

Union Pacific Railroad Company plans to request authority from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to abandon and discontinue service on the US Steel Industrial Lead from Milepost 2.4 near Baytown, Texas to Milepost 4.63 near Cedar Bayou, Texas, a total distance of 2.23 miles located in Harris County and Chambers County, Texas. A map of the proposed abandonment and discontinuance shown in red is attached.



Pursuant to the STB's regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, and the environmental regulations at 40 C.F. R. Part 1105.7, this is to request your assistance in identifying any potential effects of this action as indicated in the paragraphs below. We do not anticipate any adverse environmental impacts. However, if you identify any adverse environmental impacts, describe any actions that are proposed in order to mitigate the environmental impacts. Please provide us with a written response that can be included in an Environmental Report, which will be sent to the STB.

LOCAL AND/OR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES. State whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Please describe any inconsistencies.

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. State the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (And State Game and Parks Commission, If Addressed). State (1) whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects, and (2) whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

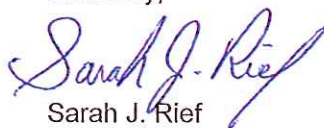
STATE WATER QUALITY OFFICIALS. State whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or Local water quality standards. Please describe any inconsistencies.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. State (1) whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and (2) whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Please describe the effects.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (OR EQUIVALENT AGENCY). (1) Identify any potential effects on the surrounding area, (2) identify the location of hazardous waste sites and known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way and list the types of hazardous materials involved, and (3) state whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action.

Thank you for your assistance. Please send your reply to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Rief
Legal Assistant - Law Department
Union Pacific Railroad Company
1400 Douglas Street, MS 1580
Omaha, Nebraska 68179
Phone: (402) 544-0438
Email: sjrief@up.com

Attachment

