



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

September 22, 2015

Kathryn Kusske Floyd
Venable LLP
575 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin LLC – Authority to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana - Approving ICF International as the Third-party Consultant

Dear Ms. Floyd:

The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is approving, under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(d), ICF International (ICF) as the independent third-party consultant for the above referenced proceeding. ICF will assist OEA in preparing the appropriate environmental documentation in connection with Great Lakes Basin's proposed construction and operation of approximately 275 miles of a new rail line that would connect several Class 1 railroads as a loop around the Chicago rail hub. The proposed line would extend from southern Wisconsin to northwestern Indiana.

We have attached a disclosure statement that we ask you to forward to ICF to complete and return to us. As we previously discussed, OEA will direct, supervise, review, and approve all environmental documents prepared by the independent third-party consultant in this proceeding.

After ICF has signed and returned the disclosure statement, I will forward to you a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which the applicant, the consultant, and OEA must sign. The purpose of the MOU is to establish an understanding between the applicant, the consultant, and OEA regarding the conditions and procedures each party must follow in preparing all environmental documentation during the environmental review process.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Phillis Johnson-

Ball of my staff at 202-245-0304. Ms. Johnson-Ball will be OEA's Project Manager for the development of the environmental documentation in this proceeding. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping underline.

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

cc: Jay Johnson

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

On behalf of ICF International (ICF) I certify that ICF has no financial or other interests in the outcome of the prospective petition in STB Docket No. FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date_____