

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

Rick Breer, Director
Taylor County Development Authority
P.O. Box 449
Perry, Florida 32348

September 10, 2009

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35295, Perry Rail Extension Project - Construction and Operation Exemption - in Taylor and Madison Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Breer:

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1105.10(c), we are granting the Taylor County Development Authority's request for a waiver of the six month prefiling notice generally required for construction projects under 49 CFR 1105.10(a)(1).

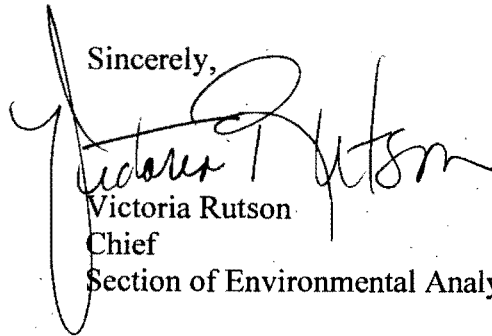
On August 18, 2009, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) met with you and representatives of Ascot Development regarding the proposed construction and operation of a rail line, known as the Perry Rail Extension Project, in Taylor and Madison Counties, Florida. At the meeting, SEA was provided with an overview of the project, as well as maps and photographs of the area surrounding the proposed rail line.

OmniTRAX, Inc. (OmniTRAX) plans to seek authority from the Board to construct and operate an approximately 24-mile rail line from Perry to Greenville, Florida. Specifically, OmniTRAX proposes to build a new rail line from the limestone mines of Taylor County to the existing Georgia and Florida Railroad line, in order to extend rail access to the mines. The purpose of this proposed rail project is to provide an efficient means for delivering limestone aggregate material throughout the State of Florida. We understand that Taylor County is planning to seek a TIGER grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to finance the proposal, should the Board approve the construction and operation of this rail line.

At the August 18, 2009 meeting, SEA also provided a general overview of the Board's environmental review process, SEA's role in the process and use of third-party consultants. Based on information from this initial meeting, SEA believes that it has adequate information and that the applicant is sufficiently aware of the environmental process to grant this request.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Christa Dean of my staff at (202) 245-0299.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson", written over the printed name and title.

Victoria Rutson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: Will Metcalf, OmniTRAX
Teri Gevinson, Ascot Development
Jonathan E. Shaw, Golder Associates