



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

September 30, 2022

Kathryn Floyd
 Counsel for LA23 Development Company, LLC
 Venable, LLC
 600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20001

Re: Docket No. FD 36633, Louisiana 23 Development Company, LLC. —
 Construction and Operation Exemption — in Plaquemines Parish, La.;
 Information Request #1

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(b), the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) requests the information listed below, which is necessary for OEA's environmental review of the above-referenced proceeding. Please provide the information below by October 14, 2022 to avoid delay in the environmental review process. If information is not currently available, OEA requests that Louisiana 23 Development Company, LLC (LA23) provide a best estimate for purposes of the environmental analysis.

Proposed Action:

- IR1-1.** In LA23's Information Paper provided to OEA on September 21, 2022 LA23 included figures depicting the alignments of Option A and Option B. Please provide shapefiles or .kmz files for these alignments. If shapefiles or .kmz files are not available, please provide CAD files that we may use for conversion.
- IR1-2.** Please provide OEA with any information from prior or ongoing site and field investigations or other relevant studies that LA23 has in its possession (i.e., waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) delineations, cultural resource evaluations, agency correspondence, etc.).
- IR1-3.** Please provide shapefiles or .kmz files associated with any technical reports requested above in IR1-2, including any field-delineated WOTUS.
- IR1-4.** Please provide information about LA23's approach to securing right-of-entry so that we may begin planning and scheduling an initial site visit and developing plans for field work that may be seasonally dependent in the project area.

- IR1-5.** Please provide a description of proposed construction activities, including anticipated timeframe and hours of construction per day, equipment and materials used, temporary construction footprint, permanent railbed widths, locations of any temporary access roads, and truck traffic (i.e. trucks per day for delivery of materials, etc.).
- IR1-6.** Please provide road crossing designs, including what types of safety equipment, barriers, and signaling would be utilized.
- IR1-7.** Please identify the number, location, and types of crossings of any other existing infrastructure or utilities (e.g., transmission lines) anticipated, if any.
- IR1-8.** Please identify the maximum and average train operating speeds anticipated on the proposed rail line.
- IR1-9.** Please provide any available information regarding the trains that LA23 anticipates would move on the proposed rail line, including average train length, train composition (number of cars and locomotives), types of locomotives, and commodities that would be transported.
- IR1-10.** Please provide the typical and maximum anticipated width of the proposed rail line's right-of-way.
- IR1-11.** Please describe any permanent facilities that would likely be constructed in connection with the proposed rail line, such as: (a) support facilities and maintenance facilities, including location; (b) track siding, including the location, number, and length, if any; (c) set-out tracks, including anticipated length, in feet, and quantity, if any; and (d) power distribution lines, noting whether any would be needed for signal systems, and detectors or other components of the proposed rail line.

Geology and Soils

- IR1-12.** Please confirm whether geotechnical investigations have been completed for the proposed project area. If so, please provide details on any potential hazards and how to manage them.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

- IR1-13.** Please provide an estimate of the number of jobs that would be supported by construction and operation of the proposed rail line.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to receiving this information from you at your earliest convenience, but no later than October 10, 2022. In addition to Adam Assenza of my staff, please provide a copy of your response to Nina Reins of

FNI, our independent third-party contractor at Nina.Reins@freese.com. Please feel free to contact Adam Assenza at Adam.Assenza@STB.gov or 202-245-0301 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis