



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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EI-26238

November 6, 2017

Gene Payne
CSX Transportation Inc.
500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Subject: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 776X), CSX Transportation, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption in Greenbrier County, WV

Mr. Payne,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the request from CSX Transportation, Inc, for a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating to be completed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This request is necessary for you to assess the environmental impacts of projects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA-Public Law 97-98, 7 U.S.C. 4201) established the farmland conversion rating system to evaluate the impacts Federal Programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use **and** are implemented by or with assistance from a Federal agency. Assistance from a Federal agency includes loans, financial and technical assistance. Information and forms are at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/fppa/>.

In accordance with the FPPA rules (FPPA Rule, 7 CFR 658) and NRCS policy (General Manual: Title 310 – Land Use), **the farmland conversion impact rating request must be submitted to the NRCS by the Federal agency implementing or providing assistance for the implementation of the subject activity.** The Federal agency is to submit the request to the NRCS State Office in Morgantown West Virginia with a copy of the form AD-1006, maps and supporting information. FPPA requests received from non-Federal entities are returned so those entities can submit the request through the projects federal funding agency. Therefore, this request is being returned to you.

Please share this with all branches of your company that operate within West Virginia so that we can provide consistent and efficient evaluations of all of your project requests. Questions can be directed to Jared Beard, State Soil Scientist at 304-284-7597.

Sincerely,

Aron Sattler
Resource Soil Scientist

