



Re: Fw: FD 35522 Elsdon Subdivision Draft EA
Poole.Elizabeth

to:

Diana.Wood

11/29/2012 10:39 AM

Hide Details

From: Poole.Elizabeth@epamail.epa.gov

To: Diana.Wood@stb.dot.gov

E1-19111
FD 35522

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Hi Diana,

Thanks for taking the time to speak with me yesterday and I really appreciate being given the opportunity to review the document.

I just have two thoughts regarding impacts to communities living with environmental justice concerns. They are:

- page 3-134 states that informational materials will be provided to schools within 0.5 miles of the Elsdon Line's ROW *upon request*. I'm wondering if we can get this caveat (upon request) removed and just have the material sent to the schools with a brief summary of the proposed action. Such a pro-active approach helps the community (particularly kids, who are so apt to play near the tracks) be made aware of the increase in rail traffic and increases the chances that they are appropriately involved.

- page 3-134 states that CSXT would provide a liaison to support community concerns. It would be helpful if EPA's Environmental Justice Coordinator has this person's contact information. IEPA or City of Chicago (beyond the Alderman or other elected official's office) may also be interested in this information. We get lots of calls to the EJ program with questions or concerns, and being able to readily get callers this liaison's information would be a tremendous benefit to getting any concerns addressed. Once this information is available, please send it on so that we can provide it to the EJ program.

Thanks again for chatting. We look forward seeing the final EA or FONSI.

Thanks,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Poole
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
NEPA Implementation

Routing Path:

STBWeb/STB, Notes1/STB, Notes1/STB

Diana Wood

09:23 AM Today

To:

poole.eliizabeth@epa.gov

cc:

Subject:

FD 35522 Elsdon Subdivision Draft EA

Hi Elizabeth:

I got your voice mail regarding the above referenced docket. Yes, the comment period closed a few weeks ago, and we are in a very tight statutory time frame for preparing the final EA, which responds to all comments. I did have a conversation with Norm West yesterday and informed him of this, but he said that he was going to send a quick comment letter (emailed to me by tomorrow) on environmental justice issues, if any were deemed found. I also talked with him about the positive train control issue that he was concerned about, but believe that this was resolved because of the upcoming 2015 deadline for class I railroads to install such systems. Norm did not formally request an extension to the comment period and so we are under a tight deadline, but please review the EJ section, per Norm's request to me yesterday, and advise accordingly. Just an FYI, we did not find that the minority populations were disproportionately represented in the worst affected areas.

Please feel free to get in touch with me - email is best today as I'm telecommuting and my cell service is not always reliable (my calls are forwarded here).

Thanks!

Diana

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