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EO-850

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

April 14, 2008

David Densmore
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801

Re: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Gorman Railroad Co., Beech Creek Branch Line -
Construction and Operation - between Wallacetown and Gorton, Pennsylvania;
Preliminary Consultation

Dear Mr. Densmore:

I am writing to request your review and preliminary comments (explained in more detail below) on a proposed rail line construction and operation that will soon be filed with my agency, the Surface Transportation Board (Board). RJ Gorman Railroad Company intends to file a petition with the Board requesting authority to construct and operate an approximate 20-mile segment of the former Beech Creek Rail Line from Wallacetown to Gorton, PA (see Figure I, attached). The proposed rail line construction would re-activate service over the 20-mile segment and connect an active RJ Cormark line in Wallacetown with a proposed industrial development including a landfill, biofuels plant, and a quarry located near Gorton in Rush Township, Centre County.

Should this rail line construction and operation proposal be approved by the Board, RJ Cormark would be able to provide rail transportation service to and from the proposed industrial development and landfill, biofuels plant, and quarry. RJ Cormark Railroad Company anticipates that the line would handle approximately 17,000 carloads annually, or one round trip per day at approximately 55 carloads per trip, six days per week.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will prepare an environmental document that evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding potential resources within the project area that may be of concern to your agency, as well as any permits and approvals that may be required.

This letter begins the process by which SEA will assess the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the proposed rail line re-activation. We appreciate your assistance in identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed project and welcome information on any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. We request your response by May 16, 2008, so that we may be able to schedule any meetings, site visits, or surveys, conduct necessary follow-up activities, and incorporate your response into the scope of the study, as appropriate.

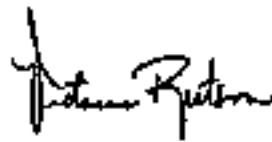
Skelly and Loy, Inc. is serving as SEA's independent third-party consultant in this proceeding and will assist SEA in the preparation of the environmental document. Please send your comments to;

Ms. Sandy Basehore
Skelly and Loy, Inc.
2601 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

The environmental document will be either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS). SEA's decision on whether to prepare an EA or an EIS will be based in part on comments received in response to this agency consultation letter. SEA will make the environmental document available for review by agencies and the public as required by NEPA and the Board's environmental rules (49 CFR 1105). In reaching its decision, the Board will take into account the environmental document and all environmental comments that are received.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Basehore, Project Manager for Skelly and Loy, Inc., at 717-232-0593, or Danielle Gosselin, SBA Project Manager, at 202-245-0300. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc; Ronald A. Lane, Esq.

FEDERAL AGENCIES:

Mr, David Densmore
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
315 South Alien Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801

Mr. Craig Derickson
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1 Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17339-2993

Mr. Donald Welsh
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Mr. Dennis Reidenbach
National Park Service - Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Colonel Peter Mueller
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Baltimore District
Post Office Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Region III
339 Sixth Avenue, 6th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2515

Federal Railroad Administration
Region 2
Baldwin Tower, Suite 660
1510 Chester Pike
CrumLynne, PA 19022

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region HI
615 Chestnut Street
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

Department of Health and Human Services
Region III
Suite 436, Public Ledger Building
150 S, Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3499

STATE AGENCIES!

Mr. Jeff Schmid
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Division of Environmental Services
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823-9620

Mr. Kevin Mixon
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9797

Ms. Rebecca Bowen
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market Street
Post Office Box 8552
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Mr. Robert Yowell
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection - Northcentral Region
208 West Third Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-6448

Mr. Robert Merrill, Jr.
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Moshannon District
3372 State Park Road
Penfield, Pennsylvania 15849-1722

Mr. Dennis Wolff
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

Mr. Dennis Yablonsky
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0225

Ms. Denise Pyers
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. Kevin Kline, PE
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation - Engineering District 2-0
1924 Daisy Street Extension
Post Office Box 342
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

Ms. Jean Cutler
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

LOCAL AGENCIES:

Ms. Jodi Brerman
Clearfield County Department of Planning
650 Leonard Street

Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

Mr. Robert Jacobs
Centre County Planning and Community Development Office
WiHowbank County Office Building
420 Holmes Street
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823-1488

Bradford Township Board of Supervisors
2289 Barrett Road, Suite B
Woodland, Pennsylvania 16881

Boggs Township Board of Supervisors
Post Office Box 69
West Decatur, PA 16858

Cooper Township Board of Supervisors
Post Office Box 208
Kylertown, Pennsylvania 16847
Morris Township Board of Supervisors
1189 Oak Grove Road
Morrisdale, Pennsylvania 16858

Rush Township Board of Supervisors
150 North Richard Street
Post Office Box 152
Philipsburg, Pennsylvania 16866

Snow Shoe Township Board of Supervisors
268 Oldside Road
P.O. Box 65
Clarence, PA 16829

Wallaceton Borough Commissioners
P.O. Box 121
Wallaceton, PA 16876