



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EQ-1795

Office of Environmental Analysis

November 10, 2011

David Coburn, Esq.
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1795

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35554, Eagle Pass Railroad – Proposed Rail Line
Construction and Operation – Maverick County, Tex.; Granting Waiver of Six-
Month Prefiling Notice Requirement

Dear Mr. Coburn:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(c), we are granting your request of September 23, 2011 for a waiver of the six-month prefiling notice generally required for construction projects under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(a)(1).

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) met with Eagle Pass Railroad's (EPRR) environmental consultants, Poznecki Camarillo, Inc. (PCI), as well as interested Federal agencies on September 8, 2010. The PCI representatives included Fernando Camarillo, Executive Vice President; Lena Camarillo, Senior Environmental Project Manager; and Crystal Benavides, Senior Project Engineer. The other Federal agencies present included the Department of State and Federal Railroad Administration. At the meeting, PCI explained that EPRR would seek authority from the Board to construct and operate a new rail line in Maverick County, Texas. The proposed line would extend from an existing Union Pacific Railroad line near Eagle Pass, Texas to a point near Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico.

The portion of the proposed rail line within the United States would be approximately 4 to 8 miles long, depending on the routing alternative. The proposed rail line would be used to move coal from a mine being developed near Eagle Pass to a coal burning power plant in Mexico. The line could also be used to move raw materials for Mexico's metallurgical industry from the United States to Mexico, and beer and beer-related products from a new brewery in Mexico to the United States.

At the September 8, 2010 meeting, OEA provided a general overview of the Board's environmental review process, OEA's role in the process, and the use of third-party consultants.

Based on this initial meeting and your letter request, OEA believes it has adequate information to grant this request and that EPRR is sufficiently aware of OEA's environmental process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-245-0295 or Dave Navecky of my staff at 202-245-0294.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis