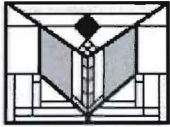


EO - 1373



David Navecky/STB
04/13/2009 03:39 PM

To "Robert Chlupach" <chloutsiberians@northlc.com>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Alaska Railroad

Bob -

Yes, I remember speaking with you at the meeting in Willow. I believe we also corresponded by email once last year on the status of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

In reply to your concerns below, I anticipate that we will issue the Final Scope of Study for the EIS in the next couple of months. That document will identify the alternatives (i.e., routes) that my agency and the cooperating agencies (i.e., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Railroad Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard) have chosen to carry forward in the EIS for detailed analysis. Because a decision on alternatives has not yet been made, I'm unable to say at this point whether the Willow alternative will or will not be carried forward.

I'm unaware of any interests of the railroad to expand its land requirements in the Willow area if that alternative were to move forward in the EIS process. The railroad has not filed any information of that nature with my agency. If the railroad does come forward with an interest in increasing land requirements, I will certainly query them on options that impact fewer or no homes.

Regarding any off-the-record statements by the railroad that the Willow alternative will be the alternative licensed by the Surface Transportation Board, any such statements are entirely speculative. I assure you that the decision on which alternative to license, if any, rests solely with the Surface Transportation Board. In its decision, the Board will consider the economic and legal merits of the proposed rail line, as well as the entire environmental record. Based on preliminary information, it does not appear that the Willow alternative provides an environmental advantage over the other routes under consideration by the Board.

You are currently on our project mailing list and will receive a copy of the Final Scope of Study when it is issued. I empathize with the difficult position you and your wife have been placed in, and hope that this update provides some useful information.

Regards,

Dave Navecky

"Robert Chlupach" <chloutsiberians@northlc.com>



"Robert Chlupach"
<chloutsiberians@northlc.com>
m>
04/06/2009 04:26 PM

To "David C. Navecky" <naveckyd@stb.dot.gov>
cc
Subject Alaska Railroad

Dear Mr. Navecky,

David,

You meet countless people and I figure near impossible to catalog every face with a name. I'll keep this short and succinct. We met last fall in Willow, Alaska at a scoping meeting regarding the Alaska Railroad Corridor options. My name is Bob Chlupach.

At that time, I expressed the route option at Willow went through my property and came extremely close to my wife and I home. Of course this is still disconcerting to us, even more now, since I just heard there was a meeting with the railroad in Willow and the plan now calls for "more" land than what was prior mentioned. What gives? And what gives since just down the road there is ample property and no homes involved?

For my wife and I, this became particularly troublesome as she took a job outside of Alaska in order for us to live, which is being able to make payments to our mortgages as we had to purchase another place for her to live. We've since borrowed money from parents and siblings. It becomes more of an issue as we've had the house on the real estate market since last fall and after just having talked to our realtor, it's become quite obvious that the major stumbling block in the place not selling is the issue with the railroad corridor.

This may just be salt over someone else's shoulder but this issue is dealing with and affecting our lives, in particular our ability to remain financially solvent. Ultimately, and this is not just shit on a shingle, if the wrong things happen this will most certainly have an impact on us as a married couple since in time will not be able to provide for financing of two places. You might say, well that was dumb, but we were/are doing whatever we can to be together in a relationship. AND ah, you might also say sign of the economic times. In this case, not so, I know of 3 places that sales are pending in the area of our house and 2 of those buyers who looked at our place said they couldn't pursue buying our place due to the potential of the railroad corridor and now with the railroad usurping even more of our property than was stated last fall, again I say, what gives?

For your information, the railroad folks, in candor have been stating the corridor is going through Willow and that specifically is our property. In public they are denying any such verbage.

So, from me to you, what is going on? I don't want any political couching, what are the facts straight up. In these economic climes, this is serious stuff, how do I make that clear?

Sincerely yours,
Bob Chlupach