



EI-16147

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife Resources Section

Operations Center

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Joe Manchin III
Governor

Frank Jezioro
Director

September 15, 2008

Ms. Jo Carole Dawkins
Dawkins Environmental Consulting
P.O. Box 845
Springville, Alabama 35146

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35131 – Vaughan Railroad
Company, Construction and Operation of a Line of
Railroad to a new coal mine to be located in Monongalia
County, West Virginia.

Dear Ms. Dawkins:

I have reviewed the referenced project with our District Fisheries Biologist responsible for Monongalia County. Most streams in this part of the state have been impacted by people. Route A is totally within the State of West Virginia and roughly parallels the West Virginia Fork of Dunkard Creek. Dunkard Creek contains known mussel populations and is a high quality fishery meaning it is populated with catchable sized game fish. Construction caused turbidity problems on West Virginia Fork may negatively impact Dunkard Creek. West Virginia Fork of Dunkard Creek is an impacted stream; however, we have stocked muskies as far up its reach as Blacksville. This alignment has numerous small tributary crossings and will also have greater impacts to West Virginia uplands than Route B. Mitigation responsibilities will be greater on this alignment than on Route B.

From our mapping, Route B may impact Brushy Fork, the tributary to Pennsylvania Fork of Dunkard Creek. Your map identifies this stream as White Creek. Regardless, this is a relatively small stream and the impacts from the proposed railroad would appear to be minimal. Additionally, the portion of Route B in West Virginia is fairly small thus reducing impacts to the uplands along its alignment.

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Given the scope of this project and the potential impacts involved, an Environmental Impact Statement may be warranted for the Route A alignment in WV, while an Environmental Assessment could handle the Route B alignment here.

Thank you for your early coordination and I look forward to working with you on this project in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith D. Krantz', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Keith D. Krantz
Wildlife Biologist
Wildlife Resources Section

KDK/skj