



EI-20908

January 27, 2015

Mr. Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attention STB Finance Docket No. 35874

RE: STB Docket No. FD35874, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company – Proposed Construction and Operation – Howard County, Texas; Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

In response to your January 9, 2015 letter I offer the following general information. The proposed project is located approximately 0.55 miles north of IH 20 and directly to the West of County Road 37 (North Moss Lake Road). Cr 37 is a county arterial road providing connecting access to other roads to the North. It is also residential for the affected 0.55 from the Interstate. The proposed project area is a combination of cultivated cotton field and scrub brush. The only planned development in this area is proposed 2.38 Acre "Family Dollar" General store on the Northwest corner of the intersection of the North Interstate Frontage road and CR 37.

It is difficult for a small agency such as mine to determine impact of most of the areas of concern listed, therefore I will limit my comments to the two areas I am most knowledgeable about. First, given the proximity of the residences to both the Interstate and existing railroad track I do not see a significant noise impact from the proposed railyard/ industrial park. Second we are concerned that all of our roads including CR 37 were not constructed to handle the large number of heavy loads that may be generated by this development. If the traffic is limited to the 0.55 miles from the interstate to the railyard it will be manageable, however if a significant portion of the traffic comes in from SH 350 to the Northwest then a 7.17 mile portion of CR 26 and CR 37 will need additional work.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Klinksiek P.E.