



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

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DEC 17 2013

ATHENS, GA
USFWS

December 13, 2013



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
105 West Park Drive, Suite D,
Athens, GA 30605
706-613-9493 Fax 706-613-6059

FWS Log No.

NG-14-78-FLB

Robin Goodloe
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Georgia Ecological Services Fi
105 Westpark Drive
Westpark Center, Suite D
Athens, GA 30606-3175

Species protected under the Endangered Species Act are not likely to occur on the project site. This tower is either (1) collocated or (2) is a monopole or lattice structure less than 200' tall that requires no guys wires and will be lit according to FCC regulations; therefore we anticipate impacts to migratory birds will be minimal. No National Wildlife Refuges are located in the vicinity of the proposed tower.

Sandra S. Tucker, Field Supervisor

2/1/14
Date

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35756, Hartwell Railroad on and
Operation Exemption - In Elbert County, Georgia; Preliminary Consultation

Dear Ms. Goodloe:

I am writing to request your review and preliminary comments (explained in more detail below) on a proposed rail line construction that will soon be filed with my agency, the Surface Transportation Board (Board). The Hartwell Railroad Company intends to file a petition with the Board requesting authority to construct and operate approximately 1,400 feet of connecting track between its existing rail line and the adjacent CSX Abbeville Subdivision (see the attached Project Location Map). The purpose of this project is to provide a workable connection between the Hartwell Railroad and CSX to increase mobility and provide economic shipping competitiveness for its existing and future customers. The need for the proposed project is based on the current lack of connectivity between these two active railroads.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) 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 OEA will assess the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the proposed rail line construction. 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 January 17, 2014, 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 study, as appropriate.

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NG-14-78-ELB