

#E1-20266

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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FEB 13 2013

Jessica L. Johnson
Paralegal-Law Department
Union Pacific Railroad
Law Department
1400 Douglas St., Stop 1580
Omaha, NE 68179

RE: Proposed Abandonment of the Stoddard Industrial Lead in Nampa, from Milepost 0.90 to Milepost 1.75, a total distance of 0.85 miles in Canyon County, Idaho; STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 294X)

Dear Ms. Graham:

This is in reply to your letter of February 6, 2013 requesting NRCS to state the effects of the proposed action referenced above on prime agricultural land.

The project area lies mostly within the city limits of Nampa, ID and entirely within the Nampa Impact Area. The project area does not meet the definition of prime farmland because it is already in or committed to urban development, covered by railroad tracks, and not available for use as farmland or for livestock or timber production. Therefore, the proposed action will have no effect on prime agricultural lands.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this project. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Karen Fullen at 208-378-5725.

Sincerely,

Eugene Shook
Acting For

JEFF BURWELL
State Conservationist

cc: James Eller, District Conservationist, NRCS, Caldwell, ID
Bob Tribelhorn, Assistant State Conservationist, Operations - West, NRCS, Moscow, ID