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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

January 10, 2008

Mr. John D. Heffner
1750 K Street, NW
Suite 350
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Finance Docket No. 35107, JP Rail - Construction and Operation – Bucks County, Bensalem, Pennsylvania; Approval of Third-Party Consultant

Dear Mr. Heffner:

Your request for approval under 49 CFR 1105.10(d) and 40 CFR 1506.5 for retention of McCormick & Taylor (M&T) as an independent third-party consultant for the above referenced project is approved. M&T will prepare the appropriate environmental document on behalf of the Board in connection with a proposed project by JP Rail to construct a rail line of approximately 1,200 feet in length between the connection with the existing Amtrak owned and Conrail operated rail line and terminating at a stub end within an enclosed building of a proposed transloading facility in Bucks County, Bensalem, Pennsylvania. The proposed rail line would be used to support the following: 1) railroad car repair, 2) railroad track construction, 3) rail tank car cleaning, 4) building supply delivery, 5) boxcar service – inbound and outbound, and 6) shipment of construction/demolition debris.

JP Rail, an existing Class III short line rail carrier operating in New Jersey under the name of the Southern Railroad of New Jersey (SRNJ) proposes to construct a rail line of approximately 1,200 feet in length starting at a connection with the existing Amtrak owned and Conrail operated rail line and terminating at a stub end within the enclosed building of a proposed transloading facility to be operated by JP Rail. JP Rail states that the new rail line will handle about 3,600 carloads totaling 360,000 tons annually. JP Rail proposes to move this rail traffic utilizing one train per day at 15 carloads per trips, five days per week, 50 weeks per year.

We have attached a disclosure statement that we ask you to forward to M&T to complete. Once the statement is signed by M&T, we request that M&T send it directly to us. As we discussed in our meeting on August 14, 2007, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis will directly supervise, review, and approve all environmental documents prepared by the independent third-party contractor.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Troy Brady of my staff at (610) 793-4301.

Sincerely,

Kent H. Bluffett

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Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

I, _____, certify
(name of contractor)
that I have no financial or other interest in the
outcome of the prospective application/petition of the
_____ to construct a rail
(name of applicant/petitioner)
line near _____.
(location)

Signed _____

Date _____