

July 19, 2022

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Danielle Gosselin  
Director  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Finance Docket No. 36633 – Louisiana Gateway Rail Mainline Extension Project

Dear Danielle:

As you are aware, the Louisiana 23 Development Company, LLC (“LA23”) seeks to construct a new rail line that will run to the future site of a 149-acre container terminal known as the Louisiana Gateway Terminal. This project is known as the Louisiana Gateway Rail Mainline Extension Project (“LA Gateway Extension”).

The purpose of the LA Gateway Extension is to provide the future Louisiana Gateway Terminal direct rail access. The line extension, which is approximately 9-miles in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, would stretch from Ironton, Louisiana in the north to Woodland, Louisiana in the south.

On July 13, 2022, LA23 representatives met with you via Zoom. We discussed information compiled during the LA Gateway Extension’s development phase, as well as various environmental and planning considerations relevant to the project.

To the extent that 49 C.F.R. §1105.6(a) might be read to apply to the LA Gateway Extension, LA23 requests a waiver of the 49 C.F.R. §1105.10(a) requirement to consult with OEA at least 6 months prior to the filing of a petition for an exemption. We believe that the six-month prenotification is not needed with respect to this project for several reasons. First, as you are aware, LA23 is continuing to prepare substantial engineering and environmental data and plans to submit further information to OEA in the future. Second, pursuant to the Board’s procedures, LA23 intends to utilize an independent third-party consultant, to be selected by OEA, to prepare the necessary agency environmental documentation for the project. Third, in light of the overall LA Gateway Extension schedule, a six-month delay would needlessly impede the progress of this important project.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to working with you on this project.

Danielle Gosselin  
July 19, 2022  
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kathryn K. Floyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" being more prominent than the last name "Floyd".

Kathryn K. Floyd

cc: Anne Crochet, Taylor Porter  
Sam Matheny, Volkert, Inc.  
Jay C. Johnson

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Re: Finance Docket No. 36633 – Louisiana Gateway Rail Mainline Extension Project

Dear Danielle:

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §1105.10(d), the Louisiana 23 Development Company, LLC (“LA23”) requests that the Office of Environmental Analysis (“OEA”) approve the use of a third-party consultant, to be selected by OEA, to work under the supervision of OEA in the preparation of the environmental documentation required under 49 C.F.R. Part 1105 in connection with the above-captioned matter.

LA23 wishes to inform OEA that it would have no objection if OEA were to select Freese and Nichols as the third-party consultant. Freese and Nichols is among the third-party consultants pre-approved by OEA for use in the environmental studies.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Floyd

cc: Anne Crochet, Taylor Porter  
Sam Matheny, Volkert, Inc.  
Jay C. Johnson