

Note: similar letter was sent to all
consultation parties on attached list.

EO-3500



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

February 15, 2021

Mr. Gary Meden
Deputy for Programs and Project Management, Rock Island Division
Army Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building
1500 Rock Island Drive
Rock Island, IL 61204

RE: Docket No. FD 36439, Iowa Falls Railroad — in Hardin County, Iowa:
Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Meden:

On February 1, 2021, Flint Hill Resources (FHR) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board) seeking authority to construct and operate a new rail line near Iowa Falls, in Hardin County, Iowa (the Proposed Project). The Board is an independent federal agency that has jurisdiction over the construction and operation of new rail lines. As part of its licensing process, the Board is conducting an environmental review of the Proposed Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4331-4335, and related environmental laws and regulations. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the Proposed Project and request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected.

Project Background

The Proposed Project would include construction of approximately 2.3 miles of new rail line and would provide a competitive rail connection between FHR's Iowa Falls Ethanol Facility (the Facility) and an existing rail line owned and operated by the Canadian National Railway Company. The Facility is currently served by a rail line owned and operated by the Union Pacific Railway Company (UP). The existing UP connection would be retained and continue to provide rail service for the facility. The purpose of the new rail connection would be to create an additional rail transportation option for the Facility. FHR believes that this additional rail connection would enable the Facility to obtain improved and competitive rail service, leading to improved turnaround times, reduced transportation costs, improved facility operations, as well as provide operational flexibility to accommodate the Facility's changing rail service needs while also improving interchange with the rail carriers. The attached map shows FHR's preferred alignment in relation to the area served.

Environmental Review Process

Pursuant to NEPA and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare an environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and the reasonable and feasible

alternatives to the proposal. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required if OEA determines that the proposed project would have significant environmental impacts. If the proposed project appears unlikely to have significant environmental impacts, then an Environmental Assessment (EA) may be prepared instead. OEA is beginning the process of gathering information about project-related issues and concerns. Information collected will assist OEA in preparing the appropriate NEPA document.

Request for Comments

The Proposed Project would generally be located on or adjacent to existing rail infrastructure and would extend through a sparsely populated agricultural area. As noted above, OEA is requesting preliminary comments from agencies and organizations that may have specific knowledge of potential environmental issues and impacts that may be associated with the Proposed Project. Issues and resource areas that may be impacted include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Safety
- Local land use
- Existing transportation systems
- Air emissions and ambient air quality
- Energy use
- Water quality and wetlands
- Ambient noise levels
- Historic sites, archaeological sites, and cultural resources
- Socioeconomics (population, employment, and development)
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries
- Soils and geology

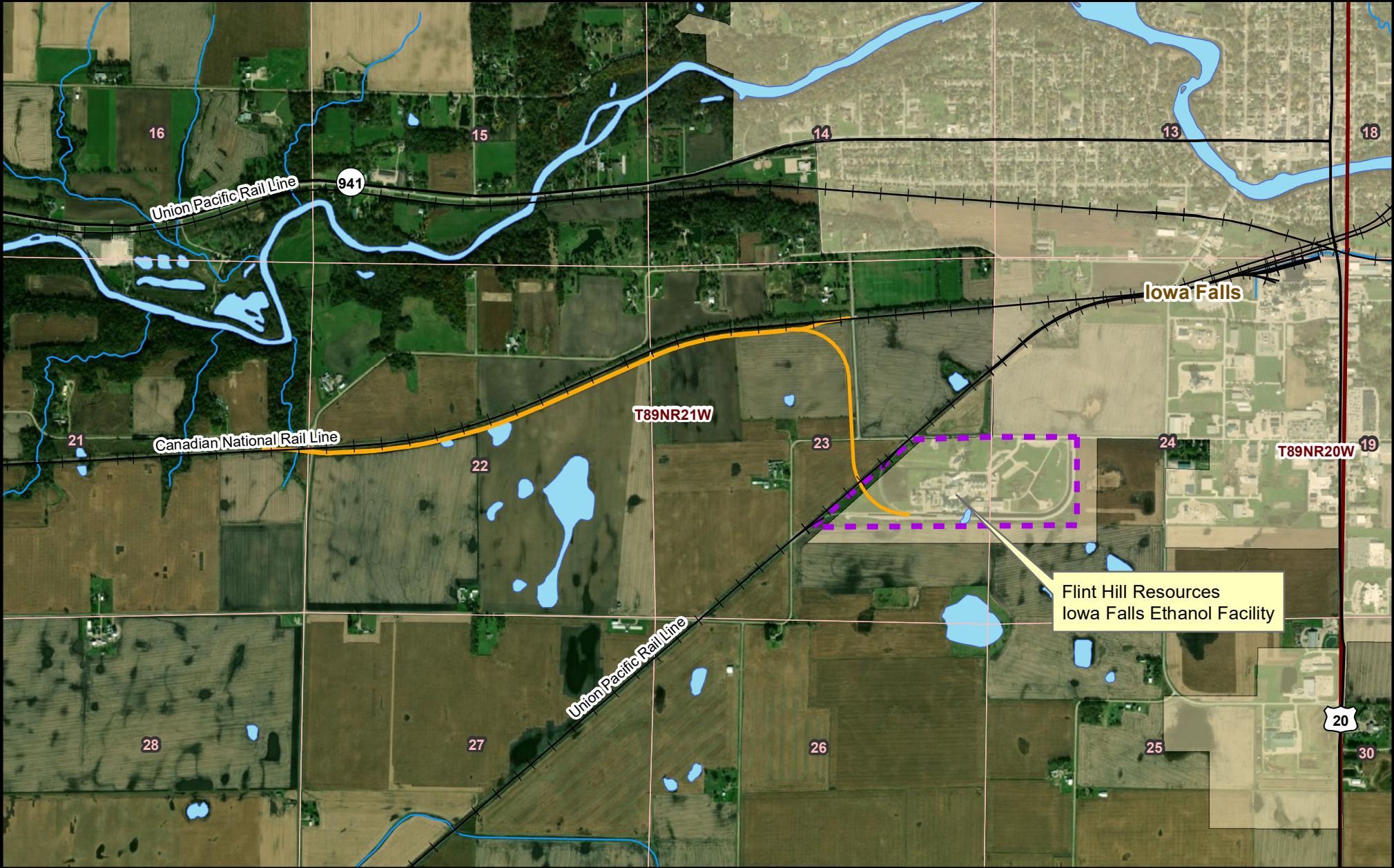
Any information on additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate would also be appreciated. We would appreciate your response by March 19, 2021 so that we may move forward expeditiously with the environmental review process. Please submit comments and responses electronically through the Board's website at <https://prod.stb.gov>. Brief comments can be typed in the comment field provided, and lengthier comments can be attached as a separate file.

If you have any questions concerning agency consultation, the Board's environmental review process, or the Proposed Project, please do not hesitate to contact Kenneth Blodgett of my staff at (202) 245-0305 or by email at kenneth.blodgett@stb.gov. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,



Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis



- Iowa Falls Ethanol Facility - Applicant's Preferred Alignment - Municipal Area - Waterbody - Stream	- Highway - Rail Lines - Township - Section	 0 1,000 2,000 Feet			Flint Hill Resources Iowa Falls Ethanol Facility Rail Line Project Project Area
--	---	---------------------------	--	--	--

**Docket No. FD 36439,
Iowa Falls Railroad — in Hardin County, Iowa
Preliminary Environmental Consultation
Agency Contact List**

Contact Name	Position	Agency	Address	Email
Mr. Gary Meden	Deputy for Programs and Project Management, Rock Island Division	Army Corps of Engineers	Clock Tower Building 1500 Rock Island Drive Rock Island, IL 61204	gary.r.meden@usace.army.mil
Mr. James Gulliford	Regional Administrator, Region 7	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	11201 Renner Boulevard Lenexa, KS 66219	r7actionline@epa.gov
Mr. Joe Miniace	Central Regional Office	Federal Aviation Administration	901 Locust Street Kansas City, MO 64106	OEGroup@faa.gov
Mr. Paul Taylor	Regional Administrator, Region 7	Federal Emergency Management Agency	11224 Holmes Rd Kansas City, MO 64131	FEMARegion7info@fema.dhs.gov
Ms. Lori Nordstrom	Midwest Region Assistant Regional Director	Ecological Services, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	5600 American Blvd. West Suite 990 Bloomington, MN 55437-1458	Lori_Nordstrom@fws.gov
Mr. Bert Frost	Regional Director, Midwest Region	National Park Service	601 Riverfront Dr Omaha, NE 68102	
Ms. Kristy Oates	Acting State Conservationist	Natural Resource Conservation Service	210 Walnut Street Room 693 Des Moines, IA 50309	kristy.oates@usda.gov
Ms. Gina Owens	Regional Forester, Eastern Region	U.S. Forest Service	626 East Wisconsin Ave Milwaukee, WI 53202	gina.owens@usda.gov
Mr. Mike Naig	Secretary of Agriculture	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship	502 E 9th St Des Moines, IA 50319	michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov
Mr. Ken Sharp	Division Director, Environmental Health	Iowa Department of Public Health	Lucas State Office Building 321 E. 12th St. Des Moines, IA 50319	kenneth.sharp@idph.iowa.gov
Mr. Trent Lambert	Mason City Field Office #2 Supervisor	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	2300 15th Street Mason City, IA 50401	trent.lambert@dnr.iowa.gov
Ms. Heather Gibb	Interim State Historic Preservation Officer	State Historical Society of Iowa	600 East Locust Des Moines, IA 50319	heather.gibb@iowa.gov
Mr. Tony Gustafson, P.E.	District Engineer, District 1	Iowa Department of Transportation	1020 S. 4th St. Ames, IA 50010	tony.gustafson@iowadot.us
Mr. Edward Engle	Rail Transportation Bureau	Iowa Department of Transportation	800 Lincoln Way Ames, IA 50010	Edward.Engle@iowadot.us
Ms. Geri Huser	Chair	Iowa Utilities Board	1375 E. Court Ave. Des Moines, IA 50319-0069	iub@iub.iowa.gov
Mr. Jeff Tisl	Regional Coordinator	Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District	840 Brooks Road Iowa Falls, IA 50126-8008	jeff.tisl@iowaagriculture.gov
	Governor Kim Reynolds's Office	Office of Governor	1007 East Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50319	
Mr. Chris Kuhnle	Director, Parks & Recreation	City of Iowa Falls, Iowa	315 Stevens Street Iowa Falls, IA 50126	ifpr@cityofiowafalls.com
Mr. Craig Coon	Airport Manager	Iowa Falls Municipal Airport	16041 US-65 Iowa Falls, IA 50126	airport@cityofiowafalls.com
Ms. Jody Anderson	City Manager	City Manager	315 Stevens Street Iowa Falls, IA 50126	janderson@cityofiowafalls.com
		Building and Zoning Department	315 Stevens Street Iowa Falls, IA 50126	
Mr. Bobby Komardley	Chairman	Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	PO Box 1330 Anadarko, OK 73005	bkomardley@outlook.com
Mr. David Grignon	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	PO Box 910 Keshena, WI 54135	dgrignon@mitw.org
Ms. Joan Delabreau	Chairwoman	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	PO Box 910 Keshena, WI 54135	chairman@mitw.org
Mr. Edmore Green	Chairman	Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska	305 N. Main St. Reserve, KS 66434	egreen@sacandfoxcasino.com
Ms. Sandra Massey	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma	920883 South Highway 99 Building A Stroud, OK 74079	smassey@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov
Mr. Justin Wood	Principal Chief	Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma	920883 South Highway 99 Building A Stroud, OK 74079	chief@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov
Ms. Judith Bender	Chairwoman	Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa	349 Meskwaki Rd. Tama, IA 52339	adminast.council@meskwaki-nsn.gov