
From: Wayland, Joshua
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Wendy Park
Subject: RE: EIS question
Attachments: 50557.pdf

Wendy,

Yes, this morning the Board issued the attached Notice extending the comment period by 45 days to January 28, 2021. We will be issuing public announcements of this development starting today, but please feel free to pass it along.

Best,
Josh

From: Wendy Park <WPark@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:42 AM
To: Wayland, Joshua <Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov>
Subject: RE: EIS question

Thank you, Josh. Any update on when we should hear back on our extension request?

Wendy

From: Wayland, Joshua <Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Wendy Park <WPark@biologicaldiversity.org>
Subject: RE: EIS question

Hi Wendy,

I hope you're doing well. To calculate the amount of affected habitat, we overlaid the rail line footprint (approximately the rail right-of-way) and the temporary footprint (the approximate construction easement) on mapped habitat. The tables in the Draft EIS do not disaggregate the acreage of crucial habitat from substantial habitat for big game species; both types of habitat would be affected. There is an interactive map on the project website at www.uintabasinrailwayeis.com that shows the rail line footprint and the temporary footprint—you can access it by clicking on the Project Map link on the left side of the home page.

Just in case it would be useful to you, I've attached several .kmz files showing the project design details, including the rail centerlines, rail line footprint, and temporary footprint for each alternative. Those files also show other project features, such as road crossings, tunnels, and bridges. All of this information is on the interactive map, but I thought you might want to have underlying GIS data.

I hope this helpful. Please just let me know if there is other information that would be helpful for you.

Best,
Josh

Joshua Wayland, PhD
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
202.245.0330

From: Wendy Park <WPark@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Wayland, Joshua <Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov>
Subject: EIS question

Hi Josh,

Thanks for your time today. Another question occurred to me – how does the EIS determine the amount of habitat that will be affected by the rail? Is it all habitat within a certain distance from the ROW? We would like to calculate the amount of crucial habitat that will be impacted, or could you provide this figure?

Thank you,

Wendy

50557
OEA

SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 9, 2020

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

NOTICE

Docket No. FD 36284

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition—Construction and Operation—in Utah, Carbon,
Duchesne, and Uintah Counties, Utah

Extension of Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Uinta Basin Railway in the above-captioned proceeding on October 30, 2020. The issuance of the Draft EIS initiated a 45-day public comment period and comments were originally due by December 14, 2020. OEA is issuing this Notice to advise the public and all interested parties that the comment period will be extended an additional 45 days. Comments on the Draft EIS are now due by **January 28, 2021**. OEA held six online public meetings during the original comment period and will not be holding any additional public meetings during the extended comment period.

OEA is extending the comment period for the Draft EIS in response to requests from the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation and various advocacy organizations, including Utah Tar Sands Resistance, Center for Biological Diversity, Western Resources Advocates, Mountain Lion Foundation, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, WildEarth Guardians, Living Rives/Colorado Riverkeeper, and Argyle Wilderness Preservation Alliance. Those requesters state that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected the ability of stakeholders and the public to fully review and comment on the Draft EIS within the original 45-day comment period. Due to the unique challenges posed by the pandemic, OEA believes that a 45-day comment period extension is warranted.

After the close of the extended comment period, OEA will prepare a Final EIS that responds to comments received on the Draft EIS. When deciding whether to authorize construction and operation of the proposed rail line, the Board will consider the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all environmental comments that are received. Any comments previously submitted on the Draft EIS do not need to be resubmitted.

Comments submitted by mail should be addressed to: Joshua Wayland, Surface Transportation Board, c/o ICF 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031, Attention: Environmental filing, Docket No. FD 36284.

Comments may also be filed electronically on the Board-sponsored project website, www.uintabasinrailwayeis.com.

Please refer to **Docket No. FD 36284** in all correspondence addressed to the Board. Comments on the Draft EIS are now due by **January 28, 2021**. For more information about the Board's environmental review process and the EIS, please visit the Board-sponsored project website at www.untabasinrailwayeis.com.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.