



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

April 28, 2021

Mark R. Coulter
Vice President and General Counsel
Port Authority of Kansas City
110 Berkley Plaza
Kansas City, MO 64120

Re: Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City—Construction and
Operation Exemption—in Jackson and Clay Counties, Mo.; Resumption of
Environmental Review

Dear Mr. Coulter:

I am writing to inform you that the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has reviewed the Port Authority of Kansas City's (Port KC) recently submitted Alternatives Report and funding information and finds the materials satisfactory. Accordingly, OEA is resuming its environmental review in this proceeding.

Background

Port KC first met with OEA on April 2020 to discuss Port KC's proposed construction and operation of approximately 1.7 miles of new rail line that would connect the Missouri River and the Missouri River Terminal (MRT) to an interchange point with the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company (KCT). Even though OEA had been working on the environmental review of the Port KC project since April 2020, on November 3, 2021, Port KC sent OEA changes to its preferred alignment and to six other alignments under consideration by Port KC for its proposed rail line. With this November 2021 submittal, Port KC's newly identified preferred alternative involved eight tracks instead of the four originally submitted to OEA in 2020, crossed existing rail lines via a new or existing tunnel, and effectively doubled the construction and operation footprint from Port KC's 2020 proposal.

Unfortunately, the alternatives material in Port KC's November 2021 submittal required some rework of environmental documentation already completed by OEA under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370m-12, and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105. To reduce the likelihood that additional aspects of the environmental review would need to be redone if Port KC continued to make modifications, OEA placed the environmental review on hold on December 7, 2021. In the letter dated December 7, 2021,

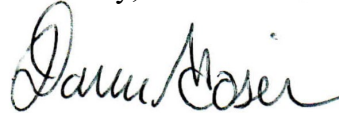
pausing the environmental review, OEA requested that Port KC prepare and submit an Alternatives Report that defines clearly and conclusively Port KC's purpose and need for the proposed action, the alternatives developed by Port KC that satisfy the purpose and need, and Port KC's preferred alternative. That report also needed to discuss the No-Action Alternative that will be assessed by OEA in the environmental review. Additionally, as OEA was uncertain of Port KC's ability to secure funding for the necessary wetland and waterbody delineation and cultural resources fieldwork and the accompanying technical reports, OEA required that Port KC provide a timeline of when that funding was anticipated.

March 2022 Alternatives Report

On March 29, 2022, Port KC submitted the requested Alternatives Report and timeline of funding available to complete field work associated with OEA's environmental review. After reviewing these materials, OEA finds that they are satisfactory. Therefore, OEA is resuming its environmental review, effective immediately. A copy of this letter will be sent to cooperating agencies, along with an updated environmental review timeline, to inform them of the resumption of the environmental review process in this proceeding.

Thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to contact Mr. Assenza of my staff at adam.assenza@stb.gov or at 202-245-0301 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

CC: Justin Marks

From: [Assenza, Adam](#)
To: MCoulter@portkc.com (MCoulter@portkc.com)
Cc: [Marks, Justin J.](#); [Gosselin, Danielle](#); [Navecky, David](#); [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Subject: FD 36406: Resumption of Environmental Review
Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 7:08:25 PM
Attachments: [FD 36406 Port KC Resumption of Environmental Review.pdf](#)

Hello Mr. Coulter,

Please see the attached letter in response to Port KC's Alternatives Analysis submission.

Thanks,

ADAM ASSENZA
Environmental Protection Specialist (he/him)
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
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