



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

October 21, 2022

Katheryn K. Floyd, Esq.
Venable LLP
600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Sent via Email: KFloyd@Venable.com

Re: Docket No. FD 35095, Alaska Railroad Corporation - Construction and Operation
Exemption - A Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska: Suspension of
Quarterly Reports

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Thank you for your letter dated October 12, 2022 requesting that the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) suspend the quarterly reports as required by the Board's November 17, 2011 decision granting construction and operation approval in the above-referenced proceeding.

In your letter, you explain that the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension project is funded by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough through state capital budget appropriations and that the project has thus far received approximately \$184 million for construction. However, when the state-wide economy experienced a downturn, the Alaska State Legislature was no longer able to continue its financial support, and project construction was placed on temporary hold pending additional State funding. You note that, except for a seven-mile segment near the end of the proposed rail line, all right-of-way construction has been completed. Only the track and some communication infrastructure remain to be constructed to operate railway traffic.

You ask that the quarterly reports be suspended until more funding becomes available for the project, and construction activity resumes. Accordingly, OEA grants your request to suspend the quarterly reports on the condition that you provide annual updates to OEA at the end of every October (beginning in 2023) on the status of funding, or sooner if project construction is anticipated to resume.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact me or Diana Wood of my staff at (202) 245-0302.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dan Moser". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Director
Office of Environmental Analysis