



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180
Telephone: 573-751-4115 ▲ www.MissouriConservation.org

SARA PARKER PAULEY, Director

RE: Docket No. 36500 (Sub-No. 1)

To Surface Transportation Board:

Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) staff have reviewed the above referenced docket request for comments on the Illinois Central Railroad Company Acquisition of a line of railroad between Kansas City, MO and Springfield and East St. Louis, Ill.

The Department is the agency responsible for forest, fish, and wildlife resources in Missouri. As such, we actively participate in project review when projects might affect those resources. The Department has no regulatory role over development; however, our comments and recommendations are for your consideration and are offered to reduce impacts to the forest, fish, and wildlife resources that could be caused by the proposed project.

We offer the following comments:

- A Natural Heritage Review has been conducted per this request for comments and is attached along with this document.
- Please note that the attached Natural Heritage Review Report is not site-specific, but rather contains general recommendations for reducing and mitigating potential project impacts across the transportation corridor. The consultant should review the online documents to prepare site-specific heritage review requests. To initiate a Natural Heritage Review, please visit the Missouri Natural Heritage Review Website at <https://naturalheritagereview.mdc.mo.gov/>. Please contact MDC Environmental Review Coordinator Hannah Roos at 573-522-4115 ext. 3182 or hannah.roos@mdc.mo.gov for assistance with this process.
- Impacts to the stream channel should be avoided or minimized.
- Modifications to the stream channel, (including piping beneath roadways or grade control structures), should be designed as to not impede aquatic organism passage.
- Streams, rivers and their adjacent floodplains, including wetlands and riparian corridors, are interrelated systems that are valuable natural resources. Disruptions to these systems can result in a variety of negative impacts to the watershed including reduced water quality, reduced habitat value, and increased erosion and flooding. Channel modifications can lead to cumulative impacts to the watershed including loss of aquatic habitat, loss of riparian areas, bank instability, upstream channel degradation/headcutting, and deposition of sediment downstream which can increase flooding due to decreased channel capacity.
- The applicant should implement all Best Management Practices for erosion control throughout all phases of the project to minimize the amount of sediment leaving the

COMMISSION

MARGARET F. ECKELKAMP
Washington

STEVEN D. HARRISON
Rolla

MARK L. McHENRY
Kansas City

WM. L. (BARRY) ORSCHELN
Columbia

project site. This should include, but not be limited to, preservation of existing vegetation, vegetated buffers, mulch covers, temporary seeding, and rolled erosion control products.

- Exercise caution to avoid introduction of non-native plants to the watershed, such as callery/Bradford pear, honeysuckle, and others. Consider use of Missouri native plants to revegetate areas where soil is disturbed for the project. Technical assistance for native plants suitable at this site as part of a landscape design is available through a variety of organizations, including the Department.
- Please find additional comments and suggestions in the included Natural Heritage Review.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding these comments, I can be reached by email at Phillip.brinkley@mdc.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Brinkley". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Phillip Brinkley
Regional Resource Planner
Missouri Department of Conservation, Kansas City region