

EI-33019

From: Saunders, Jason - NRCS, Platte City, MO <jason.saunders@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

Alex,

I have sent the information to our Area Soil Scientist, David Kacirek, and he will work with you to get the information completed.

Thanks,

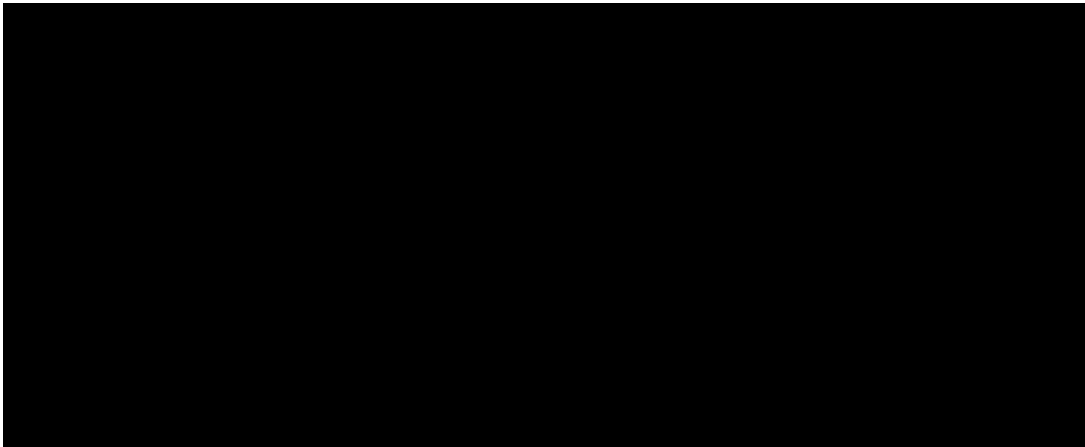
Jason Saunders
District Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
Clay/Clinton/Jackson/Platte FOSA
PO Box 1220
1209 Branch Street
Platte City, MO 64079
Phone: (816) 431-2101 ext. 3101
Cell: 816-244-5855
jason.saunders@mo.usda.gov

From: Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 10:57 AM
To: Saunders, Jason - NRCS, Platte City, MO <jason.saunders@usda.gov>
Cc: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>; Wolff, Mikenna <Mikenna.Wolff@icf.com>
Subject: [External Email]Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

[External Email]

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Greetings,



From: Kacirek, David - NRCS, St Joseph, MO <david.kacirek@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 9:23 AM

To: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>; Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>

Cc: Bradley-Redden, Diane - NRCS, St Joseph, MO <diane.bradley-redden@usda.gov>; Lugo-Camacho, Jorge - NRCS, Columbia, MO <jorge.lugo-camacho@usda.gov>; Saunders, Jason - NRCS, Platte City, MO <jason.saunders@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

To: Alex Bartlett, Adam Assenza

This e-mail and attachments are in response to your environmental effects request letters sent to Scott Edwards, State Conservationist, and Jason Saunders, District Conservationist, NRCS Missouri. I have attached my environmental effects letter detailing NRCS comments. Also attached is the AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form.

If you have any other concerns or questions, I am the NRCS point of contact for these projects in Northwest Missouri, and can be reached at the contact information below.

Thank you.

David Kacirek
Area Resource Soil Scientist
USDA / NRCS
3915 Oakland Avenue, Suite 103
Saint Joseph, MO 64506
816-364-3927 ext. 5786
Cell # 816-302-5435

From: Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>

Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 10:56 AM

To: Edwards, Scott - NRCS, Columbia, MO <scott.edwards@usda.gov>

Cc: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>; Wolff, Mikenna <Mikenna.Wolff@icf.com>

Subject: [External Email]Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

[External Email]

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Greetings,

On behalf of the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), I am writing you to request your review of the attached documentation relating to an application by the Port Authority of Kansas City (Port KC) to construct and operate approximately 1.7 miles of new rail line (proposed rail line). The proposed rail line would connect the Missouri River and the Missouri River Terminal (MRT) to an interchange point with the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company (KCT) in Kansas City, Missouri. Following your review, please provide information from your agency on resources that could be affected by the proposed rail line, as well as any related permits and/or approvals.

The attached letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental and cultural effects of the proposed rail line. Currently, the consultation period is 30 days and thus we kindly request your response by May 24, 2021.

Should you have any questions, please contact myself or OEA's Project Manager, Adam Assenza (Adam.Assenza@stb.gov).

Regards,

Alex

Project Manager, ICF, third-party consultant for OEA.



ALEX BARTLETT | Manager – Environmental Planning |
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3915 Oakland Avenue, Suite 103, St. Joseph, MO. 64506

May 14, 2021

Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC

Dear Danielle Gosselin,

This letter is in response to your environmental effects request letters dated April 23, 2021 and sent to Jason Saunders, District Conservationist, and Scott Edwards, State Conservationist, NRCS, Missouri. The following comments pertain to the proposed construction of the multimodal freight center involving rail, barge, and motor carriage aspects in Jackson and Clay Counties, Missouri. I have reviewed the proposed project and offer the following information for consideration in your environmental report:

1. Background Information-In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) which directs USDA through NRCS to provide technical assistance to Federal agencies, and State and local governments or organizations that desire to develop programs or policies to limit the conversion of productive farmlands to non-agricultural uses.
2. The Goal of FPPA- is to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of important farmland to nonagricultural uses. More information is available at the FPPA web site-
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?ss=16&navtype=SUBNAVIGATION&cid=nrcs143_008275&navid=1001701800000000&pnavid=1000000000000000&position=WELCOME.Html&tttype=detail&pname=Farmland%20Protection%20Policy%20Act%20%7C%20NRCS

As the web site explains, if areas are considered already in urban use, or are on existing right of way purchased before August 4th, 1984, then FPPA does not apply.

You can obtain site specific acres of prime farmland, and farmland of statewide importance by utilizing the Web Soil Survey. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

3. Review of the Proposed Project-Areas where distribution facilities or lines are constructed within road and highway right of ways, are determined "previously converted" to non-agricultural uses. Areas where the poles and guy wires are installed in cultivated fields and pastures will have only a minor impact on the conversion of important farmlands. Generally, buried cables and pipelines will not cause the conversion of important farmlands. **If any areas can no longer be farmed due to new construction, or restricted access, they are subject to FPPA and a form AD-1006 should be completed.** Cropland, forest, grassland, are included in the definition of agricultural land. If final construction does not eliminate any



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land from agricultural crop production, then FPPA does not apply. Construction for national defense purposes are exempt from the FPPA- Farmland Protection Policy Act.

4. The NRCS County Hydric soil lists can be obtained at the county NRCS field office, and on the Web Soil Survey. Hydric soils are soils that show properties of long term saturation, and have a high probability of being classified as a wetland. The Hydric soil list is also on line at the NRCS Web Soil Survey. If needed, site specific wetland determinations for non-agricultural purposes can be requested from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or from private consulting firms.
5. Erosion Considerations-If your project includes trenching, or construction activity that would destroy grass or vegetative cover, we recommend special attention be given to areas subject to soil erosion caused by rain and water flow. Even though most trenches are narrow, soil erosion can still be a significant hazard on slopes greater than 2 percent. Vegetation should be promptly reestablished on disturbed areas. The Missouri NRCS Critical Area Planting standard can be accessed on the electronic field office tech guide at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>
6. Soil chemical and physical properties based on the county soil survey can be accessed on Web Soil Survey. This would include soils data regarding saturated hydraulic conductivity, and soil particle size distribution. The soil survey is a general planning tool and should not be substituted for site specific soil investigations, or soil laboratory analysis.
7. Endangered Species- Some species may fall under state, and or, federal protection. If you have not already done so, I recommend that you contact the Missouri Department of Conservation regarding specific threatened and endangered species in the project area. MDC can be contacted at 2901 W. Truman Blvd, P.O Box 180, Jefferson City, MO. 65102, phone- 573-751-4115.

If you have any questions, please call me at 816-364-3927 ext. 5786.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David K. Kacirek", is written over a horizontal line.

David K. Kacirek
Area Resource Soil Scientist

cc: Diane Bradley-Redden, Area Conservationist, St. Joseph, MO
Jorge L. Lugo-Camacho, State Soil Scientist, Columbia, MO
Jason Saunders, District Conservationist, Platte City, MO

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request				
Name of Project		Federal Agency Involved				
Proposed Land Use		County and State county and state				
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)		YES ☐	NO ☐	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %			
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS			
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly						
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly						
C. Total Acres In Site						
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland						
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland						
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted						
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value						
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)						
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)				
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)				
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)				
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)				
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)				
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)				
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)				
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)				
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)				
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)				
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	0	0	0	0
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES ☐ NO ☐				
Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:						
Date:						

(See Instructions on reverse side)

Form AD-1006 (03-02)

STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map, or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM (For Federal Agency)

Part I: When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

Part III: When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

Part VI: Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

Part VII: In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$

For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.

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Should you have any questions, please contact myself or OEA's Project Manager, Adam Assenza (Adam.Assenza@stb.gov).

Regards,

Alex

Project Manager, ICF, third-party consultant for OEA.



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