



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

November 1, 2023

Peter W. Denton
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

Jay C. Johnson
Venable LLP
600 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: FD 36727, CSX Transportation, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation – Rail Line
of Meridian & Bigbee Railroad LLC; and,**

**FD 36732, Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited and the Kansas City
Southern Railway Company D/B/A CPKC – Acquisition and Operation –
Certain Rail Line of Meridan & Bigbee Railroad LLC in Lauderdale
County, Miss. And Choctaw and Marengo Counties, Ala.**

Dear Messrs. Denton and Johnson:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(d), the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is approving Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) as the independent third-party contractor for the above-referenced proceedings. VHB will assist OEA in preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for both above-referenced acquisition and operation proposals.

Attached please find a disclosure statement that we ask you to forward to VHB to complete and return to us. As previously discussed, VHB will work as an independent third-party contractor under OEA's sole direction and supervision. Also attached, please find a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which should be signed and then forwarded to VHB for signature and returned to OEA. The purpose of the MOU is to outline the responsibilities of all the parties involved and to establish the conditions and procedures each party must follow during the environmental review.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 202-245-0300 or Elizabeth Webster of my staff at 202-245-0387 or by email at Elizabeth.Webster@stb.gov for the CPKC docket, or Diana Wood of my staff at 202-245-0302 or by email at Diana.Wood@stb.gov for the CSXT docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures