
From: Rob Sanderson <Rob.Sanderson@mdc.mo.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>
Cc: Bartlett, Alex <Alex.Bartlett@icf.com>; Debra Burns <Debra.Burns@mdc.mo.gov>
Subject: Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City - Request for Information and Comment

Mr. Assenza,

Please see the attached letter regarding the Missouri Department of Conservation's comment on the above issue.

Let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Rob Sanderson

Regional Resource Planner
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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters

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Telephone: 573-751-4115 ▲ www.MissouriConservation.org

SARA PARKER PAULEY, Director

RE: Docket No. FD 36406, Port Authority of Kansas City

Dear Mr. Assenza:

Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) staff have reviewed the above referenced Public Notice whereby the Port Authority of Kansas City has proposed to construct and operate approximately 1.7 miles of new rail line at the confluence of the Missouri River and Blue River. The project is located in Township 50 North, Range 32 West, Section 28, Section 29, Section 31, and Section 32 in Clay County and Jackson County, Missouri.

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:

- The proposed project is located within the Missouri River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). COAs are identified based on the diversity and rarity of species and habitats present, and the comparative importance of projects to maintain them in the area over time. COAs have no regulatory role but reflect interest from multiple government agencies and citizen groups to work for conservation in the area. There may be ways your project can contribute to or benefit from this COA.
- The proposed project is adjacent to the Missouri River and the Blue River, which are important resources in Missouri. Care should be taken to avoid direct impacts to the banks of the Missouri River and the lower reaches of the Blue River. Pallid sturgeon frequently use the area around the project area both along the banks and the mouth of the Blue River. Excessive erosion in either area can be detrimental to sensitive species. A minimum of 100 feet of riparian corridor should be left undisturbed along the banks of both rivers to insure bank stability. Best management practices should be used to keep any and all spillage of rail contents from making their way into either waterbody.
- Clearing of trees/vegetation should be limited to what is necessary to complete the project. Any disturbed areas should be seeded and mulched immediately to prevent sediment from leaving the site.

COMMISSION

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- The Natural Heritage Review Report is attached and provides additional detail on sensitive resources known to have been located close to and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

Federal-listed

The Heritage Report indicates there are no wildlife preserves, designated wilderness areas or critical habitats, or federal-listed species records within the project area, or in the public land survey section provided. The Department notes this does not mean none are present, just that none are currently known within the proposed project area. The Missouri River is home to many aquatic species of federal and state concern.

State-listed

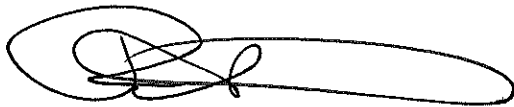
The Heritage Report indicates Peregrine Falcon and Yellow Mud Turtle are present within 5 miles of the proposed project area. Please see the full report for additional details.

State-ranked

The Heritage Report indicates several state-ranked species/natural communities found near the proposed project area. This includes the Great Plains Toad, Goldie's Fern, Western Silvery Minnow, Plains Minnow, Sturgeon Chub, Little Brown Myotis, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, American Badger, Rock Elm, and Mesic loess/glacial till forest. Please see the full report for additional details.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding these comments, I can be reached at [Phone number w/ extension] or by email at [email].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Sanderson', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Rob Sanderson

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