

SERVICE DATE – MARCH 13, 2024

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 36652

GREEN EAGLE RAILROAD, LLC—
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION EXEMPTION—IN MAVERICK COUNTY, TEX.

Decided: March 13, 2024

By petition filed December 14, 2023, Green Eagle Railroad, LLC (GER), a noncarrier subsidiary of Puerto Verde Holdings (PVH), seeks an exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10901 to construct and operate a new rail line in Maverick County, Tex. (the Line). (Pet. 1.) According to GER, the Line would extend approximately 1.335 miles from the southern border of the United States and connect to Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) at approximately UP milepost 31 on UP’s Eagle Pass Subdivision. (Id.)

GER states that the proposed Line is part of PVH’s Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridge—a proposal by PVH to create a new trade corridor for freight rail and commercial motor vehicles (CMV) extending from Eagle Pass, Tex., to the United States-Mexico border and then approximately 17.79 miles into the Mexican State of Coahuila.¹ (Id.) According to the petition, the components of the Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridge corridor include the Line, the GER rail line in Mexico connecting to Ferrocarril Mexicano, S.A. de C.V. (Ferromex) at the Ferromex Rio Escondido rail yard, a new CMV roadway running parallel to the railroad tracks in the United States and Mexico, a new bridge crossing the Rio Grande River with two spans to carry the railroad tracks and the CMV roadway, and customs inspection facilities. (Id. at 1-2.) GER states that the construction and operation of the Line would “develop an economically viable solution to meet the needs for border infrastructure improvements that will increase safety and facilitate crucial binational trade between the United States and Mexico.” (Id. at 2.)

The petition for exemption raises issues that require consideration by the Board, and an environmental and historic review will also be required. By this decision, the Board is instituting a proceeding under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(b). The issues presented by the petition will be addressed in a subsequent decision.

¹ According to the petition, an applicant seeking authorization to construct, operate, or maintain a border crossing must also apply for a Presidential permit through the U.S. Department of State to be approved by the President. (Pet. 9.) GER states that, on October 18, 2023, PVH submitted its Presidential permit application with Maverick County, Tex., as its public entity sponsor, for the Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridge. (Id. at 9-10.)

It is ordered:

1. Under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(b), a proceeding is instituted.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Mai T. Dinh, Director, Office of Proceedings.