



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

May 6, 2024

[Name]

[Title]

[Street]

[City/State/Zip]

By email at [email address]

**RE: Docket No. FD 36723, Savannah Industrial Logistics, LLC – Construction
 Exemption & Docket No. FD 36723 (Sub-No. 1), Savannah Industrial
 Transportation LLC (SIT) – Lease and Operation Exemption – Line of
 Savannah Industrial Logistics, LLC in Effingham County, Ga.; Preliminary
 Environmental Consultation**

[Name]:

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and the Surface Transportation Board’s (Board) decision in Savannah Indus. Transp., LLC—Operation Exemption—in Effingham Cnty., Ga., FD 36489, (STB served Aug. 1, 2023) (August Decision), Savannah Industrial Logistics, LLC (SIL) filed for after-the-fact authority to construct a rail line (the Line) in Docket No. FD 36723, and Savannah Industrial Transportation, LLC (SIT), an affiliate of SIL, filed for after-the-fact authority to lease and operate the same Line in Docket No. 36723 (Sub-No. 1).¹ The Line, which is located in an industrial park near Rincon, in Effingham County, Georgia, has no mileposts and extends from a connection with Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) near NSR milepost 16.6 to a connection with CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), near CSXT milepost S484.0, a distance of approximately 11,404 feet. (See Attachment 1: Maps).

Before making its decision on whether to grant this authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of SIL and SIT’s construction and lease and operation proposals, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370m-11), the Board’s environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws,

¹ The Board determined that because the Line was already being operated as a “rail line” within the Board’s jurisdiction, SIL should have gotten prior approval from the Board to construct and operate the Line. See August Decision at 2-3. The Board, therefore, directed SIL to file for construction authority under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 or § 10502 after the fact. The Board further found that SIT should have sought Board authority prior to acquiring the Line through its lease agreement with SIL. Id. at 6. Accordingly, the Board instructed SIT to seek acquisition authority under 49 U.S.C. 10901 or 10502 after the fact.

including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108). The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare environmental documentation to analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the after-the-fact construction, lease and operation of the Line. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposals, request information on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected, identify any permits and approvals that could be required, and identify any other concerns you may have.

Background

The Line already exists because it was constructed in the latter half of 2020 and leased without the requisite Board authority. The Line currently serves one shipper in the industrial park. In the August Decision, the Board specifically allowed SIT to continue its current operations to the existing shipper on the Line pending a final decision from the Board on whether to authorize the after-the-fact construction and lease and operation. SIT has recently filed for authority from the Board to add three additional shippers.

SIT currently operates one train a day, 5 days a week, on the Line and forecasts that the number of trains per day and level of service over the Line, post authorization, would remain at one train a day, 5 days per week.

Additional background information can be found in the Board's decisions in Docket Nos. 36489, 36723, and 36723 (Sub-No. 1). These decisions and related filings can be found on the Board's website at www.stb.gov.

Request for Comments

OEA requests your comments within 30 days and no later than **June 5, 2024**. All comments and filings can be submitted electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov. To submit an environmental comment, select "File an Environmental Comment" (below the "Need Assistance?" button) on the Board's home page. Please make sure to refer to **Docket Nos. FD 36723 and FD 36723 (Sub-No. 1)** in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board. Brief comments can be typed in the comment field provided, and lengthier comments can be attached as Word, Adobe Acrobat, or other file formats. Commenters are strongly encouraged to submit comments via the Board's e-filing system.

You may also send written comments to Karen Stevens, OEA's Project Manager, by mail to:

Karen Stevens
Surface Transportation Board, OEA
Docket Nos. FD 36723 and FD 36723 (Sub-No. 1)
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Stevens at 202-245-0304 or by email at Karen.Stevens@stb.gov.

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:

Attachment 1: Maps

Attachment 2: Initial Agency and Tribal Distribution List

Figure 1: Project Overview Map

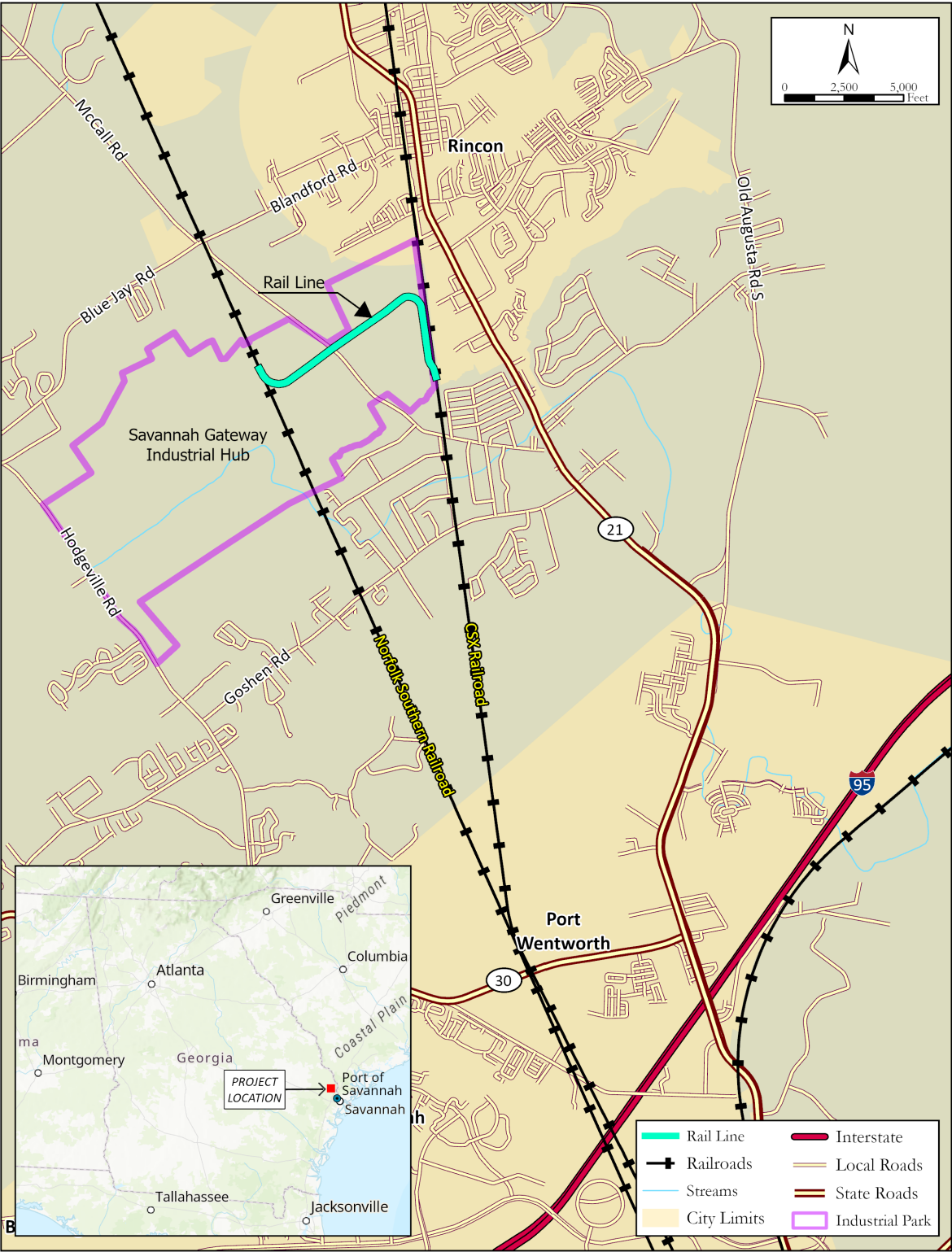
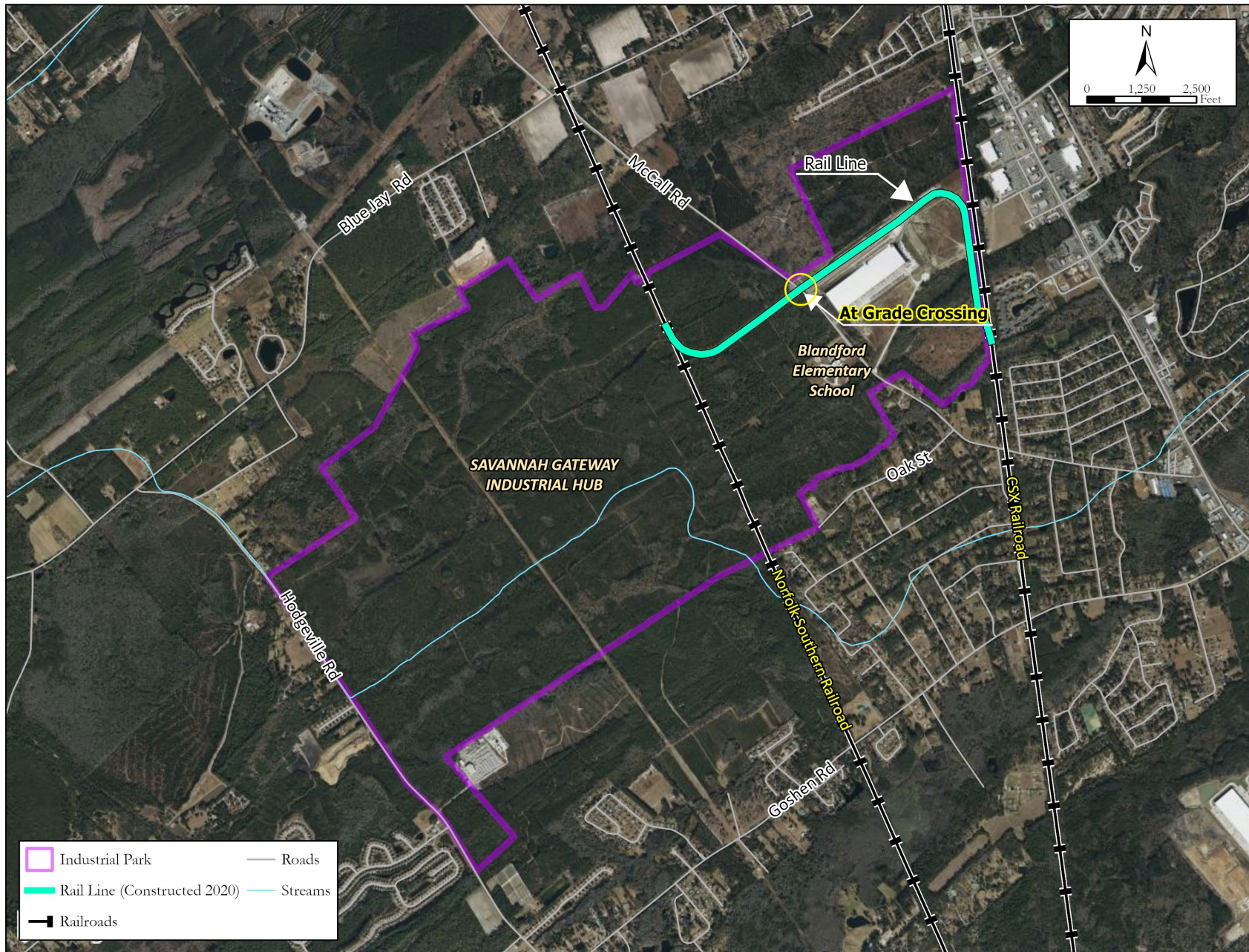


Figure 2: Project Location Map – Effingham County, Georgia





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Initial Agency and Tribal Distribution List

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The below table lists all Federal and State elected officials; Federal, State, and local agencies; and Tribal Nations contacted by the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in connection with Docket No. FD 36723 and FD 36723 (Sub-No. 1).

Federal and State Elected Officials

- United States Senator Jon Ossoff
- United States Senator Raphael Warnock
- United States Congressman Rick W. Allen
- United States Congressman Earl L. “Buddy” Carter
- State Representative Bill Hitchens
- State Senator Billy Hickman
- Georgia Governor Brian Kemp

Federal

- James Tillman, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture
- Lauren Haynes Knutson, Director, Environmental Planning Division, Regional Office of Environment, US HUD
- Renea Hall, Field Environmental Officer, Regional Office of Environment, US HUD, -- Atlanta Field Office
- Erik Blechinger, Deputy District Engineer for Planning, Programs, and Project Management, USACE Savannah District
- Aaron Bernstein, Director, National Center of Environmental Health
- Mark Foust, Regional Director, Planning and Compliance Division, NPS
- Gary LeCain, Chief, Environmental Affairs Program, US Geological Survey
- Ntale Kajumba, Manager, NEPA Program Office, EPA – Region 4
- Jeananne Gettle, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA – Region 4
- Mike Oetker, Regional Director, Southeast Region, USFWS

- Peter Maholland, Field Supervisor, USFWS – Ecological Services Field Office
- Robert Samaan, Region 4 Administrator, Mitigation Division, FEMA

State

- Eric Duff, Administrator, Office of Environmental Services, Georgia Department of Transportation
- Mark McKinnon, Communications Manager, Law Enforcement Division, Georgia DNR
- Jeff Cown, Director, Environmental Protection Division, Georgia DNR
- Ted Will, Director, Georgia Department of Wildlife Resources Division, DNR
- Jennifer Dixon, Director, Georgia Historic Preservation Division
- Ben Sutton, Director of Preservation, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation
- Billy Brown, Effingham County Chief Ranger, Georgia Forestry Commission
- Joseph Martinenza, Manager, Floodplain Management Unit, Georgia DNR
- Jennifer Fordham, Region 12 Regional representative, Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Dionne Lovett, Executive Director, Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia
- Melanie Wilson, Executive Director, Chatham-Savannah Metro Planning Commission

County

- Wesly Corbitt, Chairman At Large, Effingham County Regional Commission
- Stephen Candler, Director of Development Services, Effingham County, GA
- Yancey Ford, Superintendent, Effingham County School District
- Michael T. Muldrew, County Judge
- Phil Kieffer, Commissioner, District 5
- Tim Callanan, County Manager, Effingham County
- Wanda McDuffie, EMS Director, Effingham County Emergency Medical Services
- Richard Bush, Chief Deputy, Effingham County Sheriff

Local

- Kevin Exley, Mayor of Rincon
- Teri Lewis, Planning and Development Director, City of Ricon

Tribal

- Ben Yahola, THPO, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Wilson Yargee, Chief, Environmental Affairs Program, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Caitlin Rogers, THPO, Catawba Indian Nation (a.k.a. Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina)
- Dr. Wenonah G. Hair, THPO and Catawba Cultural Center Executive, Catawba Indian Nation (a.k.a. Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina)
- Jonathan Cernek, Chairman, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Kristian Poncho, THPO, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- David Hill, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Turner Hunt, THPO, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Other

- Griffith Lynch, President and CEO, Georgia Ports Authority