



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

May 2, 2025

Tanya Spratt
Union Pacific Railroad
1400 Douglas Street, 15th Floor
Omaha, NE 68179

By email at tspratt@up.com

Re: Docket No. FD 36854, Union Pacific Railroad Company—Construction and Operation Exemption—In Matagorda County, Texas; Waiver of Six-Month Prefiling Notice Requirement

Dear Ms. Spratt:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(c)(2), the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is granting your April 25, 2025 request for waiver of the six-month prefiling notice generally required for rail construction projects under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(a)(1).

On April 8, 2025, via videoconference, OEA met with representatives from Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP). At the meeting, UP explained that it intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate approximately 5 miles of new rail line near Wadsworth, Texas (the Line) to provide service to LyondellBasell Industries' (LYB) Matagorda Polymers Plant and other potential shippers. During the meeting, UP explained that the Line would also include a proposed new western wye at a joint UP and BSNF Railroad (BNSF) line known as the Celanese Industrial Lead near the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 3057 and FM 2668. According to UP, rail traffic would consist of two trains per day (one train traveling in each direction), seven days per week.

At the April 8, 2025 meeting, OEA provided a general overview of the Board's environmental review process, OEA's role in the process, and the use of third-party consultants. OEA believes that UP is sufficiently aware of OEA's environmental review process to grant the six-month waiver request.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Stevens of my staff at 202-245-0304 or by email at Karen.Stevens@stb.gov.

Sincerely,

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis