



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 3, 2025

Mr. Joshua Runyan
Steptoe LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Docket No. FD 36889: Nevada Gold Rail LLC - Construction - Line of
Railroad in Eureka Lander Counties, Nevada.: Waiver of Six-Month Prefiling
Notice and Approval of Third-Party Contractor

Dear Mr. Runyan:

Thank you for your letter dated November 21, 2025 requesting a waiver of the six-month prefiling notice requirement and approval of a third-party contractor in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. According to your letter, Nevada Gold Rail LLC (NGM Rail) intends to file for authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct a new rail line in Nevada. As part of the Board's licensing process, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will conduct an environmental review for the proposed rail line under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and related environmental laws including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.

Waiver of the Six-Month Notice Requirement

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(c), OEA is granting your request for waiver of the six-month prefiling notice generally required for rail line construction projects under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(a)(1). OEA last met with NGM Rail on October 9, 2024 regarding the proposed rail construction project. At the meeting, NGM Rail representatives provided OEA with an overview of the project, and OEA explained the Board's environmental review process. After meeting with NGM Rail, OEA believes that it has adequate information and that NGM Rail is sufficiently aware of the environmental review process, to grant this waiver request.

Third-Party Contractor Approval

Your request for approval under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(d) and 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5 for retention of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) as an independent third-party contractor is also approved. OEA will work with VHB to prepare the appropriate environmental document

on behalf of the Board for this project. Enclosed please find a disclosure statement that we ask you to forward to VHB to complete. Once the statement is signed by VHB, we request that VHB send it back to us. As discussed at our October 9, 2024 meeting, OEA will directly supervise the independent third-party contractor and review and approve all environmental documents.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact me or Adam Assenza of my staff at (202) 245-0301 or by email at adam.assenza@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
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

On behalf of _____, I certify that _____ has
(name of contractor) (name of contractor)

no financial or other interests in the outcome of the prospective petition of the

_____ to construct a rail line in _____.
(name of applicant/petitioner) (location of proposed rail line)

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____