



EO-1079

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

October 7, 2008

Mr. Wade Chandler
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District
Post Office Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35116, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines, Inc. – Petition for Exemption to Construct and Operate a Rail Line between Wallacetown (Clearfield County) and Gorton (Centre County), Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Chandler:

The purpose of this letter is to invite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to participate as a cooperating agency in an environmental review of the project described below:

On May 20, 2008, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines, Inc. filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502, requesting authority to reconstruct and operate an abandoned 10.8-mile rail line between Wallacetown Junction and Winburne in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania and to rebuild the track on a connecting 9.3-miles of currently railbanked line between Winburne and Gorton in both Clearfield and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania. The proposed 20 miles of rail line, referred to as the Beech Creek Branch Line, would serve a new quarry, landfill and industrial park currently being developed by Resource Recovery, LLC, near Gorton in Rush Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania.

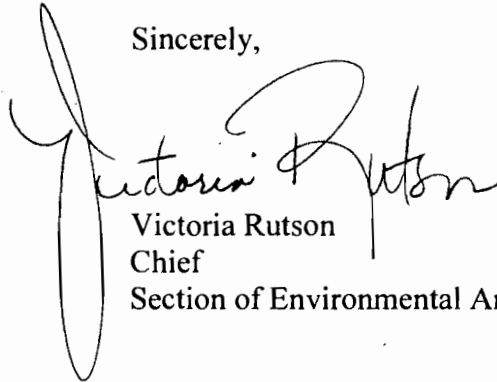
The construction and operation of this project has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts, including unavoidable impacts to wetlands and watercourses. As a result, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate. SEA intends to issue the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, as well as the Draft Scope of Study, in the near future. SEA also plans to hold a public scoping meeting as part of the EIS process.

Based on preliminary agency consultations and field reconnaissance of the project area conducted by SEA and its third-party contractor (Skelly and Loy, Inc.), SEA believes that the proposed project could impact resources (i.e., wetlands and watercourses) that fall under the

jurisdictional authority of the Corps. Therefore, consistent with 40 CFR 1501.6, we are inviting your office to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS because of the Corps' special expertise and jurisdiction by law.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Danielle Gosselin of my staff at 202-245-0300 (e-mail address: danielle.gosselin@stb.dot.gov), or Sandy Basehore, Skelly and Loy project manager, at 717-232-0593 (e-mail address: sbasehore@skellyloy.com). We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "V" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis