



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office Environmental Analysis

March 16, 2015

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.
Venable LLP
575 7th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Docket No. FD 35095, Alaska Railroad Corporation - Construction and Operation
Exemption - A Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska: Comments on
Quarterly Report for the Fourth Quarter of 2014

Dear Ms. Floyd:

In its November 17, 2011 decision granting the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) the authority to construct and operate the Port MacKenzie rail line extension, the Board imposed 100 mitigation measures on the project. Mitigation Measure #98 requires ARRC to submit quarterly reports to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) on the progress of, implementation of, and compliance with the Board-imposed mitigation measures. On January 31, 2015, ARRC submitted a report for the quarter ending December 31, 2014.

OEA has reviewed the quarterly report for October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 and our comments are attached. OEA requests that these comments be addressed in the next quarterly report.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Navecky, OEA's Project Manager, at 202-245-0294.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

cc: Jay Johnson, Venable LLP

ATTACHMENT
Docket No. FD 35095
Port MacKenzie Rail Line Extension

I. OEA Comments on Prior Quarterly Reports - Not Addressed

The following comment on the 2014 second quarterly report does not appear to have been addressed.

Mitigation Measure #47 (Page 15) – Status comment stated that ARRC was attempting to reschedule follow-up meetings with various agencies on the Moose Mitigation Strategy Plan “during spring 2014 to solicit comments and finalize the plan.” Did ARRC schedule and conduct these follow-up meetings in 2014? Please clarify.

The following comments on the previous quarterly report (for the third quarter of 2014) do not appear to have been addressed.

Mitigation Measure #3 (Page 4) – Please add the 401 Water Quality Certification to the Permit Status List at the end of the report.

Mitigation Measure #28 (Page 10) – Construction of some segments is reported as substantially complete and bridges and culverts have presumably been in place for some period of time. Has ARRC inspected any of these conveyance structures for blockages? In future quarterly reports please indicate if inspections were conducted and describe actions taken to remove any blockages observed.

II. OEA Comments on Quarterly Report for October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

Mitigation Measure #47 (Page 14) – Status comment no longer includes text regarding the rescheduling of follow-up meetings with various agencies on the Moose Mitigation Strategy Plan. This text was present in 2014 quarterly reports 1, 2, and 3. Did ARRC schedule and conduct these follow-up meetings in spring of 2014 and has the plan been finalized? Addressing this comment will also address the outstanding comment on the 2014 second quarterly report (see above).