



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

E0-2402

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

November 21, 2014

Mr. Thomas F. McFarland, P.C.
208 South LaSalle Street
Suite 1890
Chicago, IL 60604-1112

Re: Finance Docket No. 35874, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company - Construction and Operation Exemption - Howard County, Texas; Approval of Third-Party Consultant

Dear Mr. McFarland:

Your request for approval under 49 CFR 1105.10(d) and 40 CFR 1506.5 for retention of ICF International (ICF) as an independent third-party consultant for the above referenced project is approved. ICF will prepare the appropriate environmental document on behalf of the Board in connection with a proposed project by Lone Star Railroad, Inc. (LSR). LSR proposes to construct approximately 9,000 feet of track (approximately 1.7 miles) near Big Spring in Howard County, Texas. An affiliate of LSR, Southern Switching Company, proposes to operate on the newly-constructed track, which would connect with an existing main line track of Union Pacific Railroad Company. The track would serve an industrial park (Big Spring Industrial Park). The principal shippers and receivers would initially be related to the burgeoning crude-oil production in the nearby Permian Basin. It is expected that shippers and receivers of commodities unrelated to crude oil production would also locate in the Industrial Park.

We have attached a disclosure statement that we ask you to forward to ICF to complete. Once the statement is signed by ICF, we request that ICF send it directly to us. As we discussed in our meeting on November 5, 2014, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis will directly supervise, review, and approve all environmental documents prepared by the independent third-party contractor.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kenneth Blodgett of my staff at (202) 245-0305.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

On behalf of ICF International, Inc., I certify that ICF International, Inc. has

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

Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company to construct a rail line in Howard County,

Texas.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date _____
