



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

May 6, 2009

Boggs Township Board of Supervisors
Post Office Box 69
West Decatur, PA 16858

Re: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Corman Railroad Co., Beech Creek Branch Line –
Construction and Operation – between Wallacetown and Gorton, Pennsylvania;
Alternative Route Evaluation

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to let you know about a new alternative that has been developed as a result of the public scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the above mentioned case. Below, I summarize the railroad's proposal, the agency's environmental review process, and information we have about the new alternative. Finally, I ask for your help in identifying potential environmental impacts associated with this new alternative.

Railroad's Proposal

On May 20, 2008, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines Inc. (RJCP) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 for 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 rail-banked line between Winburne and Gorton in Clearfield and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania. In total, the proposed project would involve the construction or rebuilding, and operation, of approximately 20 miles of the former Beech Creek Railroad to serve a new quarry, landfill, and industrial park being developed by Resource Recovery, LLC near Gorton, Pennsylvania.

Should this rail line construction and operation proposal be approved by the Board, RJCP would be able to provide rail transportation service to and from the proposed quarry, landfill and industrial park. RJCP anticipates that the line would handle approximately 17,000 carloads annually, or one round trip per day at approximately 55 carloads per trip, six days per week.

Board's Environmental Review Process

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will prepare an EIS that evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. As part of the NEPA process, SEA conducted a public scoping meeting for this project on February 10, 2009. At this meeting, a member of the public came forward with an alternative route that will be evaluated in the EIS. This alternative route would involve reconstructing an approximate 7.0-mile segment of abandoned rail line located adjacent to the Moshannon Creek between Philipsburg and Munson in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania (shown in orange on the enclosed Project Location Map). Associated with this alternative route would be the construction of approximately 2,500 feet of new track (shown in purple on the enclosed Project Location Map) to connect with RJCP's existing Wallaceton Subdivision line. From Munson eastward to Gorton, the proposed rail reactivation corridor remains unchanged.

Preliminary investigations indicate that this alternative route would avoid and minimize many of the socioeconomic and public safety concerns associated with the original Wallaceton to Munson route. As such, the purpose of this letter is to request information regarding potential resources within the area of this alternative route that may be of concern to your agency, as well as any permits and approvals that may be required.

Request for Assistance

We appreciate your assistance in identifying whether any resources may be affected by the alternative route and welcome information on any additional issues or concerns that you may have. We request your response by June 3, 2009 so that we can incorporate your response into the final scope of study, as appropriate. Please send your comments to:

Ms. Sandy Basehore
Skelly and Loy, Inc.
449 Eisenhower Boulevard, Suite 300
Harrisburg, PA 17111

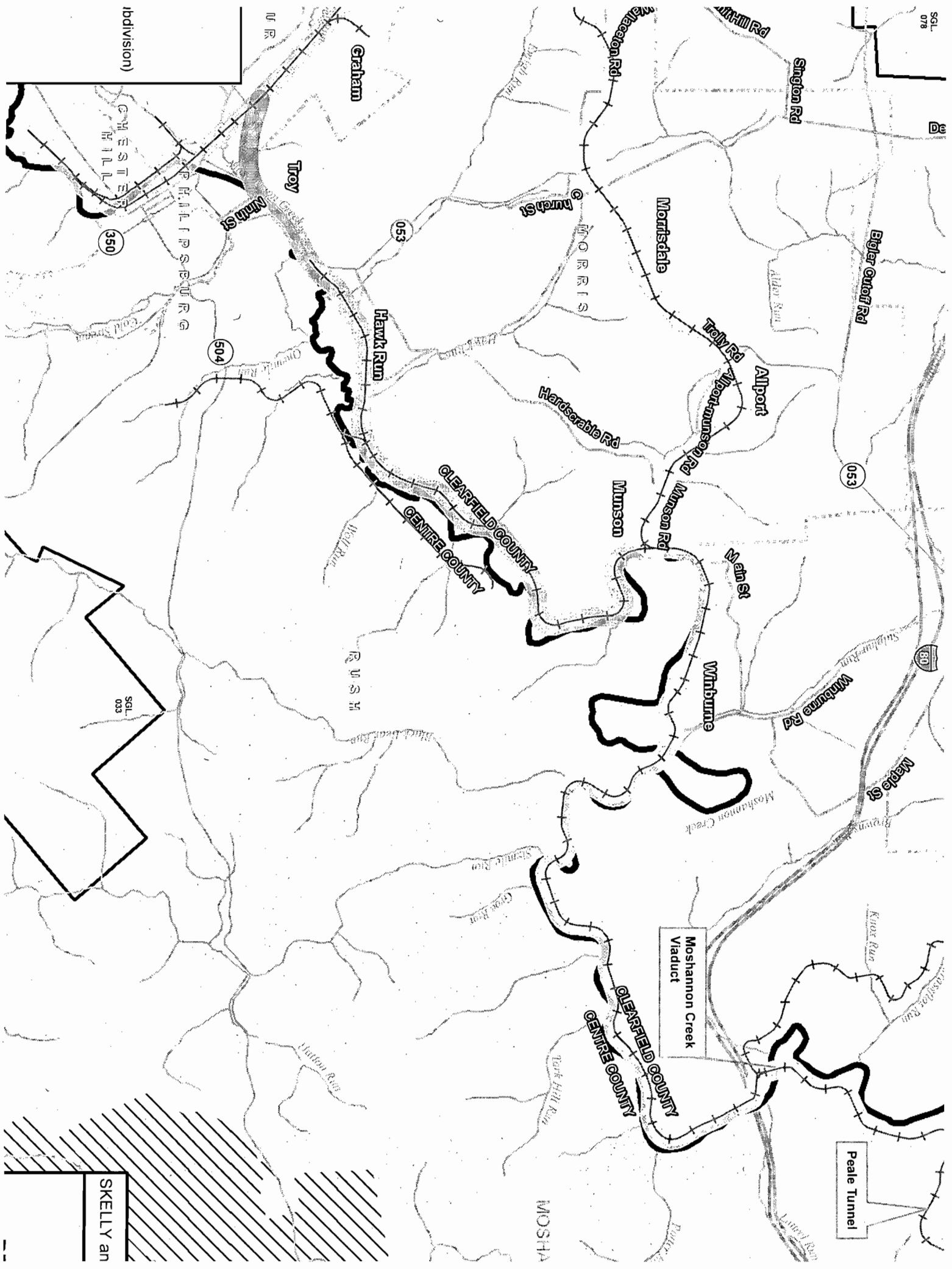
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Basehore, Project Manager for Skelly and Loy, Inc., at 717-232-0593, or Danielle Gosselin, SEA Project Manager, at 202-245-0300. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: Ronald A. Lane, Esq.



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FEDERAL AGENCIES:

Mr. David Densmore
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801

Mr. Jonathan Crum
Federal Highway Administration
Pennsylvania Division
228 Walnut Street, Room 508
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1720

Mr. Craig Derickson
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1 Credit Union Place, Suite 340
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Mr. Donald Welsh
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3
1650 Arch Street
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Mr. Dennis Reidenbach
National Park Service – Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor
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Mr. Tom Pluto
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District
State College Field Office
1631 South Atherton Street
State College, Pennsylvania 16801

Department of Housing and Urban Development
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Federal Railroad Administration
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Federal Emergency Management Agency
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615 Chestnut Street
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

Department of Health and Human Services
Region III
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STATE AGENCIES:

Mr. Jeff Schmid
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Division of Environmental Services
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823-9620

Mr. Jim Leigey
Pennsylvania Game Commission
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Ms. Rebecca Bowen
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market Street
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Mr. Robert Yowell
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Northcentral Region
208 West Third Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-6448

Mr. Robert Merrill, Jr.
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Moshannon District
3372 State Park Road
Penfield, Pennsylvania 15849-1722

Mr. Dennis Wolff
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

Mr. Dennis Yablonsky
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
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Ms. Denise Pyers
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
Commonwealth Keystone Building
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. Kevin Kline, PE
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – Engineering District 2-0
1924 Daisy Street Extension
Post Office Box 342
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

Ms. Jean Cutler
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

LOCAL AGENCIES:

Ms. Jodi Brennan
Clearfield County Department of Planning
650 Leonard Street
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

Clearfield County Commissioners
Clearfield County Court House
230 East Market Street, Suite 101
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

Mr. Robert Jacobs
Centre County Planning and Community Development Office
Willowbank County Office Building
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Morris Township Board of Supervisors
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Morrisdale, Pennsylvania 16858

Rush Township Board of Supervisors
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Snow Shoe Township Board of Supervisors
268 Oldside Road
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Wallaceton Borough Commissioners
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