



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

February 9, 2009

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.
Mayer Brown
1909 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35095, The Alaska Railroad Corporation – Petition for Exemption to Construct and Operate a Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(a), we would like to request additional information needed for the Section of Environmental Analysis' (SEA's) ongoing environmental review in connection with the above-referenced proceeding.

We understand from your filing of January 19, 2009, that ARRC has relocated the proposed terminal reserve for the Mac East segment of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension to address grade, wetland impact, and relocation of a major electrical transmission corridor issues. The proposed terminal reserve location for the Mac West segment remains in its original (January 2008) location. We are requesting that ARRC evaluate the feasibility of relocating the terminal reserve for the Mac West segment. The purpose of this request is to assist SEA in determining whether impacts to wetlands or other resources could be reduced or avoided by relocating the terminal reserve for the Mac West segment.

In addition, we request clarification of which communications tower locations identified in the Preliminary Environmental and Alternatives Report (PEAR) would be required for each of the eight proposed alternative alignments.

Thank you for your assistance. In addition to Dave Navecky of my staff, please provide a copy of your response to Alan Summerville of ICF International, our independent third-party contractor at 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia, 22031. Please feel free to contact Dave Navecky at 202-245-0294 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis