



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

March 20, 2009

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.
Mayer Brown LLP
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 to Port MacKenzie, Alaska

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Consistent with 40 CFR § 1506.5(a), we request additional information needed for the Section of Environmental Analysis' on-going environmental review in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The supplemental project information submitted by the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) on January 14, 2009 contains project elements that were not analyzed in ARRC's Preliminary Environmental and Alternatives Report (PEAR). Therefore, we request PEAR-level information for new elements including the Hawk Lane closure and relocation, Ray Street extension, Cheri Lake Drive closure, relocation of the local business, anadromous stream relocation, Mac East Segment shift near the terminal reserve area, new Mac East Segment terminal reserve area, and new Mac West Segment terminal reserve.

More specifically, please provide the following information:

1. New water crossing information, including the purpose of the proposed 48-inch culvert near the eastern tie-in point of the Big Lake Segment to the main line;
2. Types of conveyance structures that could be needed;
3. Typical cross section of the anadromous stream relocation design and anticipated footprint for construction, including equipment access and staging areas, if required;
4. List of structures known to be present that would be affected (e.g., structures within the proposed right-of-way; structures that ARRC would acquire because access would be eliminated by the Hawk Lane closure; and structures that would be affected by the anadromous stream relocation, the Mac East Segment shift near the terminal reserve area, the new Mac East Segment terminal reserve, and the Mac West Segment terminal reserve); and
5. Brief description of the Cheri Lake Drive and Hawk closure plans (e.g., would the roads be closed or would they be removed, excavated and revegetated?).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "R".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis