



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO-1370

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

October 9, 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 of a Rail Line Extension to Port Mackenzie, Alaska: Request for Clarification of Comments on Working Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Chapter 2, Proposed Action and Alternatives

Dear Ms. Floyd:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) would like to obtain clarification regarding the Alaska Railroad Corporation's (ARRC) suggested edit (underlined insertion) to the following Chapter 2 draft text.

"ARRC would construct a terminal reserve area along the southern terminus of the rail line. This area would eventually consist of yard sidings, storage areas, and a terminal building to support train maintenance. ARRC has proposed two terminal reserve areas, but would build only one depending on which alternative the Board authorized, if any. The terminal reserve area would be approximately 1,000 feet wide and in excess of 9,800 feet long."

SEA would like ARRC to clarify the meaning of "in excess of," and requests that ARRC provide any updated information on the proposed length of the terminal reserve area. SEA is uncertain if "in excess" of 9,800 feet long" means that the proposed terminal reserve would be slightly longer or substantially longer than 9,800 feet. A range or upper bounds of the terminal reserve's proposed length would be useful to SEA's ongoing assessment for the EIS.

Please provide SEA with the requested information by October 16, 2009. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this case. If you have any questions or comments please contact Dave Navecky, SEA's Project Manager, at 202-245-0294, or Alan Summerville, ICF International's Project Manager, at 703-934-3616.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis