



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office Environmental Analysis

December 4, 2015

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.
Venable LLP
575 7th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Docket No. FD 35095, Alaska Railroad Corporation - Construction and Operation
Exemption - A Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska: Comments on
Quarterly Report for the Third Quarter of 2015

Dear Ms. Floyd:

In its November 17, 2011 decision granting the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) the authority to construct and operate the Port MacKenzie rail line extension, the Board imposed 100 mitigation measures on the project. Mitigation Measure #98 requires ARRC to submit quarterly reports to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) on the progress of, implementation of, and compliance with the Board-imposed mitigation measures. On October 30, 2015, ARRC submitted a report for the quarter ending September 30, 2015.

OEA has reviewed the quarterly report for July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 and our comments are attached. OEA requests that these comments be addressed in the next quarterly report.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Navecky, OEA's Project Manager, at 202-245-0294.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

cc: Jay Johnson, Venable LLP

ATTACHMENT
Docket No. FD 35095
Port MacKenzie Rail Line Extension

I. OEA Comments on Prior Quarterly Reports - Not Addressed

Project Progress, Cultural Resources (page 2) – The report for the fourth quarter of 2014 states that the *Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project Multiple Property Documentation: Iditarod Dog Sledding Properties in the Point MacKenzie Area, 1967-1978* (IDSMP) would be finalized in early 2015, but no update on the IDSMP is provided in this report on the first quarter of 2015. Please state in the next quarterly report that the IDSMP report was finalized and submitted to the Board and Alaska State Historic Preservation Office on February 13, 2015.

Mitigation Measure #47 (page 14) – The report on the first quarter of 2015 states that ARRC would contact each agency in the second quarter of 2015 to confirm acceptance of the Moose Mitigation Strategy Plan. The current report on the second quarter of 2015 Q2 suggests that these contacts did not occur and states that ARRC would consult with each agency in 2015. Please provide the status of these consultations in the report covering the quarter ending September 30, 2015.

II. OEA Comments on the Current Quarterly Report for July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015

None.