



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

April 7, 2015

Frank Cox
Mayor, City of Stevenson
7121 E Loop Road
P.O. Box 371
Stevenson, WA 98648

Re: FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc.—Rail Construction and
Operation—In Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Mont.

Dear Mr. Cox:

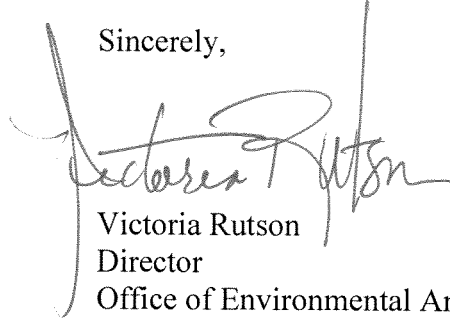
The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has received your March, 2015 letter, and we are writing to thank and update you on the status of the Tongue River Railroad Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). OEA, the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related environmental laws as part of the Board's licensing process, will be issuing the Draft EIS in late April.

At that time, we will solicit public comments and conduct public meetings. We have added your organization and address to the list of those who will receive the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will also be posted on the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov) and the project website (www.tonguerivereis.com). Details regarding the dates, times and locations of the public meetings will be available in the Draft EIS.

After the close of the public comment period, we will prepare a Final EIS that responds to comments on the Draft EIS and makes recommendations to the Board, including recommendations for mitigation measures. In reaching its final decision whether to approve, deny, or approve with environmental mitigation conditions Tongue River Railroad's proposal, the Board will consider the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all environmental comments that are received.

Again, thank you very much for your letter. We have placed your letter and my response in the environmental record for this proceeding. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-245-0295 or Danielle Gosselin of my staff at 202-245-0300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical line extending upwards from the right side of the name.

Victoria Rutson

Director

Office of Environmental Analysis