



***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

***Washington, DC 20423***

*Office Environmental Analysis*

May 29, 2015

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.  
Venable LLP  
575 7<sup>th</sup> 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 First 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 May 1, 2015, ARRC submitted a report for the quarter ending March 31, 2015.

OEA has reviewed the quarterly report for January 1, 2015 through March 31, 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**

None – all resolved.

**II. OEA Comments on Quarterly Report for January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015**

**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.

**Project Progress, *Permitting* (page 2) and Mitigation Measure #8 (page 6)** – The referenced (as Attachment 2) certificate of completion for the flood hazard permit issued by Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) is not attached to this first quarterly report for 2015.