



***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

***Washington, DC 20423***

*Office Environmental Analysis*

March 14, 2014

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 No. 8

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 January 31, 2014, ARRC submitted Quarterly Report No. 8 for the quarter ending December 31, 2013.

OEA has reviewed Quarterly Report No. 8 and our comments are attached. OEA requests that these comments be addressed in Quarterly Report No. 9, which will cover January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014.

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 Quarterly Report No. 8  
(Quarter Ending December 31, 2013)**

**Project Progress, *Permitting* (Bullet #1, Page 2):** The noncompliance letter issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on August 22, 2013 was not attached to the report, as stated. This issue arose in Quarterly Report No. 7 (for quarter ending September 30, 2013), where the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) stated that the letter of noncompliance was attached but it was not. In response to Quarterly Report No. 7, the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) requested that ARRC provide the letter of noncompliance in the current report. ARRC acknowledged OEA's request in the current report, but did not attach the letter to the report.

**Project Progress, *Permitting* (Bullet #3, Page 2):** The three permits listed are not included in the Permit Status Table included in the report. Please include these and any other newly issued permits in the Permit Status Table in future quarterly reports.