



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

April 15, 2010

Ronald A. Lane
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Re: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines
Inc. – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Clearfield County, PA

Dear Mr. Lane:

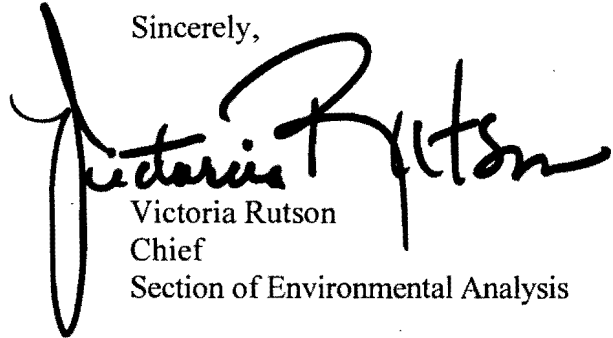
Thank you for your April 1, 2010 letter regarding the proposed construction, operation, and reactivation of approximately 20 miles of the former Beech Creek Railroad in Clearfield and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania. In your letter, you request a time frame for completion of the Board's environmental review process.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued the Final Scope of Study for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in this proceeding last July. We are now in the process of preparing the Draft EIS and hope to have it completed by early summer. Once issued, the Draft EIS will be available for public review and comment, and a public meeting will be held in the project area during the comment period. SEA will then prepare a Final EIS that considers comments on the Draft EIS, sets forth any additional analyses, and makes final recommendations to the Board on appropriate mitigation measures. In reaching its final decision, the Board will take into account the full environmental record, including the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all environmental comments that are received.

As you are aware, this case involves considerable public opposition and controversy. SEA received over 100 opposition letters before even initiating any public involvement in the environmental review process. Because this case includes complex transportation issues, it is also a case of first impression for the Board. SEA is working as expeditiously as possible. The environmental review in these types of cases requires extra care and takes time to finish. At the moment, we are unable to give you an exact date when the environmental review process will be completed other than the date we are working toward to issue the Draft EIS. It depends on a variety of factors including how many comments we receive on the Draft EIS because we will have to respond to all comments on the Draft EIS in preparing the Final EIS.

While you are awaiting the issuance of the Draft EIS, I encourage you to reach out to those who oppose your project. There may be some mutually-acceptable mitigation that would help in making your project more acceptable to the project opponents. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would prefer if you contacted me rather than Danielle Gosselin of my staff. Danielle Gosselin remains fully committed to working on the Draft EIS and asking her to stop in order to reply takes her away from that important task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "R".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis