



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

E0-2401

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

November 20, 2014

Mr. Thomas F. McFarland, P.C.
208 South LaSalle Street
Suite 1890
Chicago, IL 60604-1112

Re: Finance Docket No. 35874, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company - Construction and Operation Exemption - Howard County, Texas; Waiver of Six-Month Prefiling Notice

Dear Mr. McFarland:

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1105.10(c), we are granting your request of November 13, 2014, for waiver of the six-month prefiling notice generally required for construction projects under 49 CFR 1105.10 (a)(1).

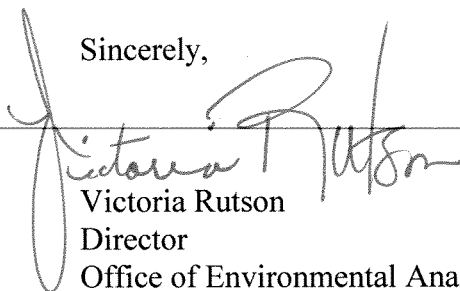
The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has met and consulted with Lone Star Railroad, Inc. (LSR) representatives regarding the proposed environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of a new rail line in Howard County, Texas. At a meeting on November 5, 2014, LSR's representatives provided OEA with an overview of the project.

LSR proposes to construct approximately 9,000 feet of track (approximately 1.7 miles) near Big Spring. An affiliate of LSR, Southern Switching Company, proposes to operate on the newly-constructed track, which would connect with an existing main line track of Union Pacific Railroad Company. The track would serve an industrial park (Big Spring Industrial Park). The principal shippers and receivers would initially be related to the burgeoning crude-oil production in the nearby Permian Basin. It is expected that shippers and receivers of commodities unrelated to crude oil production would also locate in the Industrial Park.

The information provided by LSR and the fact that OEA has explained in detail the Surface Transportation Board's environmental review process to LSR's representatives lead OEA to believe that it has adequate information, and that LSR is sufficiently aware of the environmental review process, to grant this request.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact me or Kenneth Blodgett of my staff at (202) 245-0305.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis