

EO-1060



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**Washington, DC 20423**

*Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration*

May 13, 2008

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.  
Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP  
1909 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35095, The Alaska Railroad Corporation – Petition for Exemption to Construct and Operate a Rail Line to Port Mackenzie, Alaska

Dear Ms. Floyd:

The Section of Environment Environmental Analysis (SEA) has reviewed the Alaska Railroad Corporation's (ARRC's) proposed plan, received along with your letter dated April 22, 2008, to develop general wetlands mapping and functional assessments for potential alignments for the proposed Port MacKenzie Rail Extension. Comments that SEA received from agencies and the public during the scoping period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) reaffirmed the value of additional wetlands data to evaluate and compare potential wetland impacts. We do not have any comments on ARRC's proposed methodology for developing additional information on wetlands locations and functions except that we request a copy of the field reconnaissance plan and that ARRC coordinate scheduling of field work to ensure that staff from SEA's EIS team can participate.

We also request a copy of the proposed Wetlands Technical Report, which will detail the study methods and results, show mapped wetlands, and describe wetland functions in the project area. We would also like to receive a copy of the mapped wetlands in geodatabase format.

In addition to Dave Navecky of my staff, please provide a copy of related correspondence to Mr. Alan Summerville of ICF International, our independent third-party contractor at 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia, 22031. Please feel free to contact Dave Navecky at 202-245-0294 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis