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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office Environmental Analysis

May 23, 2017

Kathryn Kusske Floyd
Venable LLP
575 7th 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 2017

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, 2017, ARRC submitted a report for the quarter ending March 31, 2017.

OEA has reviewed the quarterly report for January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017 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 Previous Quarterly Report (2016 Q4)

None.

II. OEA Comments on Quarterly Report for January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017

General, 2nd Bullet (page 1) – Please ensure the latest Construction Status map is posted on www.portmacrail.com. The current map on the website is dated June 2016 while the map attached to the 2017 Q1 Report is March 2017.

Mitigation Measures #2, #24, #53, #70, #80, Permit Status Table (pages 3, 9, 17, 20, 21, and 31-34) – These measures and the Permit Status table do not reflect the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Construction General Permit (ACGP) status for Segment 2. Segment 2 right-of-way was cleared from December 2016 to January 2017. Please confirm that an ACGP was obtained for Segment 2.

Mitigation Measure #88 (page 26) – Please confirm the constructed tower complies with Federal Aviation Administration requirements.