



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 10, 2017

Travis G. Hughes, Chief
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston District
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

**Re: STB Docket No. FD 36095, Palmetto Railways – Construction Exemption –
In Berkeley County, South Carolina; Invitation to be Joint-Lead Agency**

Dear Mr. Hughes:

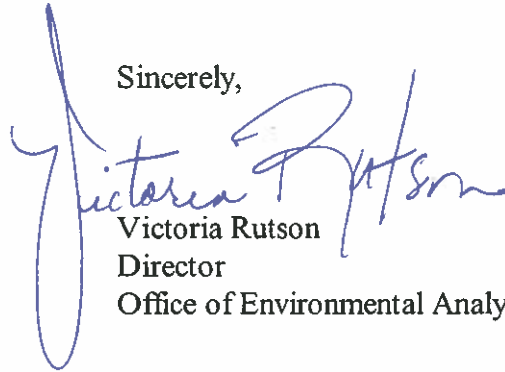
I am writing to invite the Charleston District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to participate with the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) as a joint lead agency in the preparation of the environmental documentation under to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a proposed Palmetto Railways project in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

Pursuant to the regulations implementing NEPA at 40 C.F.R. §§ 1501.5 and 1502.6, federal agencies may act as joint lead agencies to prepare an environmental review. As joint leads in the NEPA process, OEA and USACE would ensure that the environmental documentation evaluates all required resource areas, contains an adequate range of alternatives, and includes appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse or significant impacts on resources. And we would share the responsibility for public involvement and resource analysis. We can discuss further details of our roles soon.

At a meeting on November 30, 2016 with OEA, Palmetto Railways explained that it is seeking to construct, operate and own an approximately 20 to 30-mile segment of new rail line in Berkeley County, SC. The project would connect the existing 6,781-acre Camp Hill Commerce Park to the CSX Transportation A-Line near the Santee Cooper Cross Generating Station. The proposed rail line would serve the entire commerce park, but most immediately, the existing Volvo factory, which is expected to begin production by the end of 2018.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Diana Wood at Diana.Wood@stb.gov, 202-245-0302 or Joshua Wayland at Josh.Wayland@sbt.dot, 202-245-0330. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "V" and a cursive "Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis