



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office Environmental Analysis

September 8, 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 Second 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 August 1, 2017, ARRC submitted a report for the quarter ending June 30, 2017.

OEA has reviewed the quarterly report for April 1, 2017 through June 30, 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 (2017 Q1)

No additional comments.

II. OEA Comments on Quarterly Report for April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017

Mitigation Measures #2, #24, #53, #70, #80, Permit Status Table (pages 4, 10, 17, 20, 21, and 31-34) – In response to OEA's comment on these measures in the 2017 Q1 report, Measure #2 comment response was revised regarding the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Construction General Permit (ACGP) status for Segment 2. Measure #2 response now states that 'clearing work on Segment 2 did not require a SWPPP.' OEA understands that clearing vegetation without disturbing soil or root mass does not require ACGP coverage or an SWPPP (Section 7.4 of the 2016 ACGP FAQ). OEA also understands that land disturbance over 1 acre requires ACGP coverage and that a SWPPP is required for any land disturbance greater than 5 acres (Section 2.1 of ACGP). Please clarify what is meant by 'clearing' for Segment 2, because every other segment of the project required an ACGP and SWPPP.