

EO-3105



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office Environmental Analysis

May 7, 2019

Brian Lindamood
Alaska Railroad Corp.
327 W Ship Creek Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

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 2019

Dear Mr. Lindamood:

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 April 30, 2019, ARRC submitted a report for the first quarter of 2019.

OEA has reviewed the quarterly report for January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 and our comments are attached.

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: Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Venable LLP
Jay Johnson, Venable LLP

ATTACHMENT
Docket No. FD 35095
Port MacKenzie Rail Line Extension

I. OEA Comments on a Previous Quarterly Report (i.e., Report for July through September 2018)

Comment on Mitigation Measure #71 (page 19): Please ensure the Construction Status map posted on the www.portmacrail.com website is the most current map. The Construction Status map attached to the 3rd Quarter Report is dated March 2018 while the Construction Status map on the website is dated September 2017. Also, the March 2018 Construction Status map states that clearing for Reddane Road is schedule for winter 2017. Please ensure that all time frames mentioned on the Construction Status map are current.

This comment was partially resolved in the 4th Quarter Report for 2018. However, the December 2018 Construction Status map in the 4th Quarter Report for 2018 still stated that clearing for Reddane Road and the rail corridor is scheduled for Winter 2017. Please ensure that all time frames mentioned are current.

Comment Resolved.

II. OEA Comments on Quarterly Report for October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

General Comment: Please ensure all time frames and quarter references are correct throughout the quarterly report. The Mitigation Checklist table is titled “Second Quarter 2018 (July to September)”; *Cultural Resources* and *Permitting* on Page 2 reference 3rd Quarter; the Subject line on Page 1 states “July 2018 through September 2018”.

Comment Resolved.

III. OEA Comments on Quarterly Report for January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019

Comment on Mitigation Measures #3 (page 4) and #14 (page 7), and Permit Status Table Row 1 (page 31): Please note that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit issued in 2012 has expired. When funding is acquired for Segment 2’s embankment (and prior to construction), Alaska Railroad Corporation will need to obtain a new Section 404 permit for the small amount of wetland/surface water impact reported for this segment.