



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 30, 2015

Ben Stuckart
President
Spokane Washington City Council
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201-3335

Re: FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc.—Rail Construction and
Operation—In Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Mont.

Dear Mr. Stuckart:

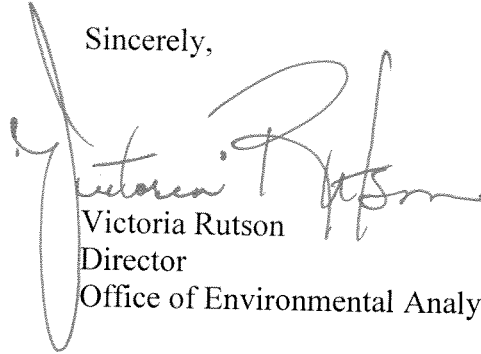
The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has received your August, 2014 letter, and we are writing to update you on the status of the Tongue River Railroad Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). OEA, the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related environmental laws as part of the Board's licensing process, will be issuing the Draft EIS in late April.

At that time, the public will have the opportunity to provide us with comments on all aspects of the Draft EIS. We will also be conducting public meetings, and details regarding the dates, times and locations of the public meetings will be available in the Draft EIS. We have added your organization and address to the list of those who will receive the document. The Draft EIS will also be posted on the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov) and the project website (www.tonguerivereis.com).

After the close of the public comment period, we will prepare a Final EIS that responds to comments on the Draft EIS and makes recommendations to the Board, including recommendations for mitigation measures. In reaching its final decision whether to approve, deny, or approve with environmental mitigation conditions Tongue River Railroad's proposal, the Board will consider the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all environmental comments that are received.

Thank you very much for your letter. We have placed your letter and my response in the environmental record for this proceeding. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-245-0295 or Danielle Gosselin of my staff at 202-245-0300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name and title.

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis