

Eo-1359



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

January 30, 2009

Kathryn Kusske Floyd
Mayer Brown
1909 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35095, The Alaska Railroad Corporation – Petition for Exemption to Construct and Operate a Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(a), we would like to request additional information needed for the Section of Environmental Analysis' ongoing environmental review in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. ARRC has explained to SEA that the purpose of its proposal to construct and operate a new rail line from Port MacKenzie to the ARRC main line is to provide freight rail service to shippers interested in moving goods between the Port and various locations within the interior of Alaska. The addition of rail service to and from Port MacKenzie could increase the number of ships that serve the Port. Consequently, we are requesting that ARRC provide information on the increased number of ships serving the Port that would result from the proposed action.

As you know, ARRC in its petition for exemption filed with the Board on December 5, 2008, projects rail operations of two trains daily of 40 to 80 railcars each. Please include the expected number of ships per week, type and make of vessel, vessel duration at port, typical acoustic parameters by vessel class, and estimated schedules of arrivals and departures with your estimate. SEA will use this information to assess in our environmental review the indirect and cumulative effects, if any, from ship traffic that may result from the proposed rail extension.

We appreciate your assistance. In addition to Dave Navecky of my staff, please provide a copy of your response to Mr. Alan Summerville of ICF International, our independent third-party contractor at 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia, 22031. Please feel free to contact Dave Navecky at 202-245-0294 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis