

EO-1303



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

October 1, 2009

JoAnn Gillette, Coordinator
Review Committee
People Protecting Communities
P.O. Box 38
Clarence, PA 16829

Re: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines
Inc. – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Clearfield County, PA

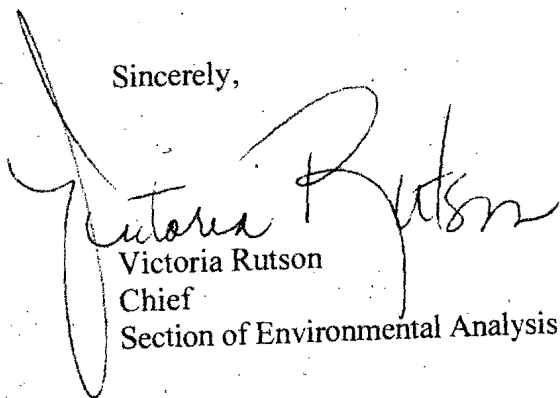
Dear Ms. Gillette:

Thank you for your August 18, 2009 letter regarding the proposed construction and operation of approximately 20 miles of the former Beech Creek Railroad in Clearfield and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania. In your letter, you petition the Board to reconsider the decision served on July 31, 2009 in this case. However, the issues raised in your letter will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before the Board makes its final decision. In the July 31, 2009 decision, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued the Final Scope of Study for the EIS. SEA is now in the process of preparing the Draft EIS which will be available for public review and comment upon its completion. A public meeting will also be held in the project area during the comment period. SEA will then prepare a Final EIS that considers comments on the Draft EIS, sets forth any additional analyses, and makes final recommendations to the Board on appropriate mitigation measures. In reaching its final decision, the Board will take into account the full environmental record, including the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all timely environmental comments that are received.

We will include your letter as a comment in the public record and will address your concerns in the Final EIS. As discussed in the Final Scope of Study and above, you will have the opportunity to provide additional comments after issuance of the Draft EIS. SEA will consider and respond to all comments received on the Draft EIS in the Final EIS before the Board makes its final decision.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Danielle Gosselin of staff at (202) 245-0300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Kevin Starner, Skelly & Loy, Inc.