



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO-2462

Office of Environmental Analysis

January 9, 2015

US Army Corps of Engineers
Southwestern Division
1100 Commerce Street
Suite 831
Dallas, Texas 75242

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35874, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company – Proposed Construction and Operation – Howard County, Texas; Environmental Consultation

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to let you know that the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is initiating an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of the project described below. I am also writing to ask your assistance in providing any information on the potential environmental impacts, resources, issues, or permits over which your agency or organization has special expertise or jurisdiction concerning this project.

Description of the Project

The Lone Star Railroad, Inc. (LSR) intends to file a petition with the Board requesting authority to construct a new rail line that would provide service to a growing industrial park area near Big Spring, Texas. The proposed line would be approximately 16,750 feet (3.2 miles) long and would connect to an industrial lead track, planned by Union Pacific Railroad Company, at two points between N. Midway Road and N. Moss Lake Road (see enclosed Project Location Map and Project Features Map).

An affiliate of LSR, Southern Switching Company, proposes to operate on the newly constructed track. The principal shippers and receivers would initially be related to crude-oil production in the Permian Basin. It is expected that shippers and receivers of commodities unrelated to crude oil production would also locate in the Industrial Park. At this time, it is estimated that rail traffic along the new LSR rail line would consist of approximately five trains per week (including inbound and outbound trains).

Preliminary Consultation Process

The Board is the federal agency that will decide whether to approve, approve with conditions (which could include conditions designed to mitigate potential impacts on the environment), or deny LSR's request for a license to construct and operate the proposed new line. Your participation in the agency consultation process will assist us in gathering information needed to assess the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the proposed rail line construction and operation.

In conducting the environmental review required by NEPA, we are consulting with, and soliciting comments from agencies and organizations that may have specific knowledge of potential environmental issues and impacts that may be associated with the proposed project. Your comments would be most helpful to us if they focused on specific environmental issues or concerns pertaining to your jurisdiction. Issues and resource areas that may be important to this project include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Local, regional, and national transportation systems
- Local land use plans
- Air emissions and air quality impacts
- Noise impacts
- Historic resources
- Biological resources
- Water resources
- Impacts to "environmental justice communities"

We also welcome information on any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate.

Submitting Your Comments

We request your response by January 30, 2015, so that we may incorporate your response into the scope of study, as appropriate, and address your concerns when scheduling meetings, site visits, or surveys.

Please send your comments to:

Mr. Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attention: STB Finance Docket No. 35874

If you have any questions concerning agency coordination and responses, the Board's environmental review process, or need specific information about the proposed project, please feel free to contact Kenneth Blodgett, OEA's Environmental Project Manager, by phone at (202) 245-0305 or by email at Kenneth.Blodgett@stb.dot.gov. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

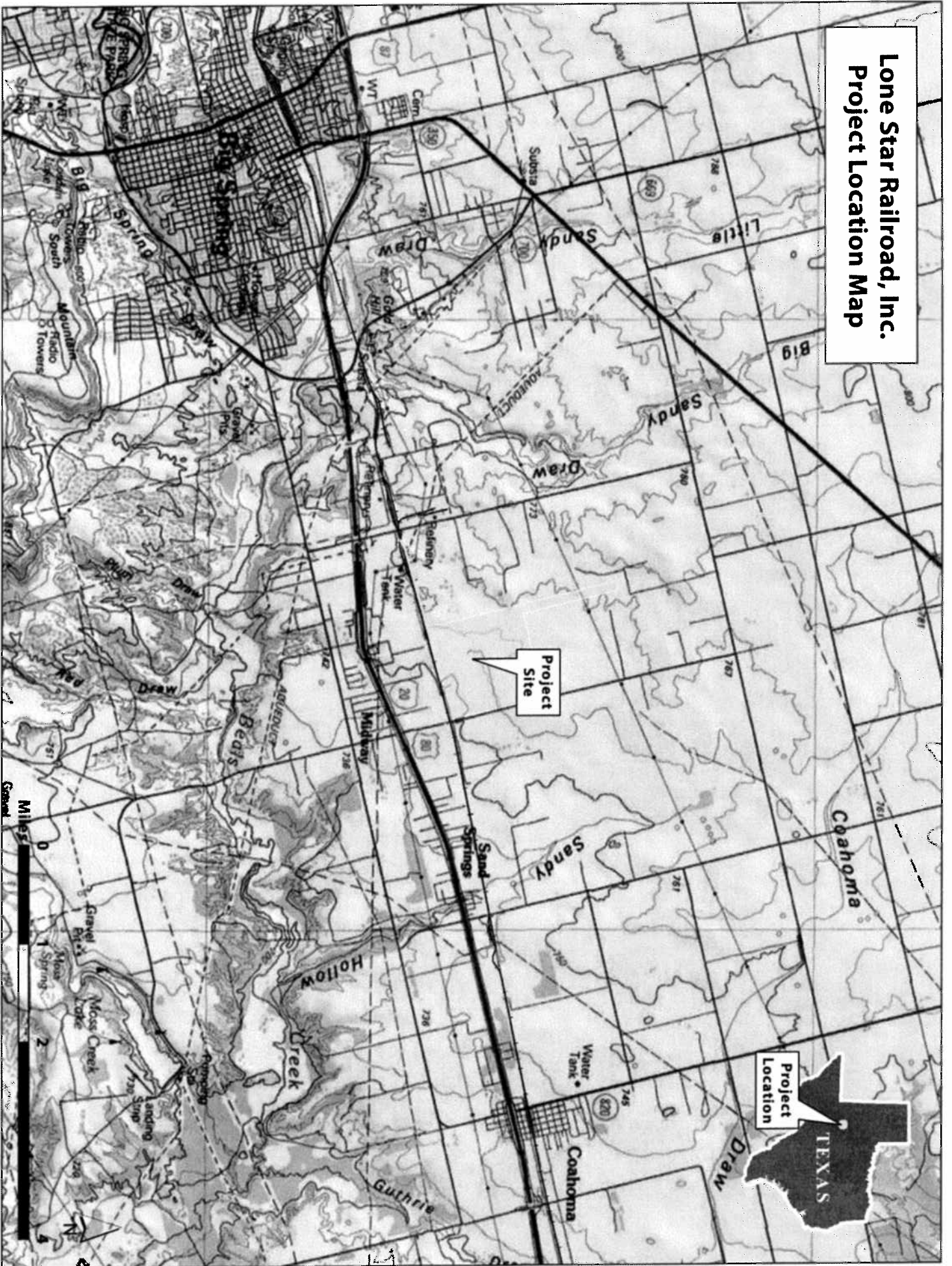
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

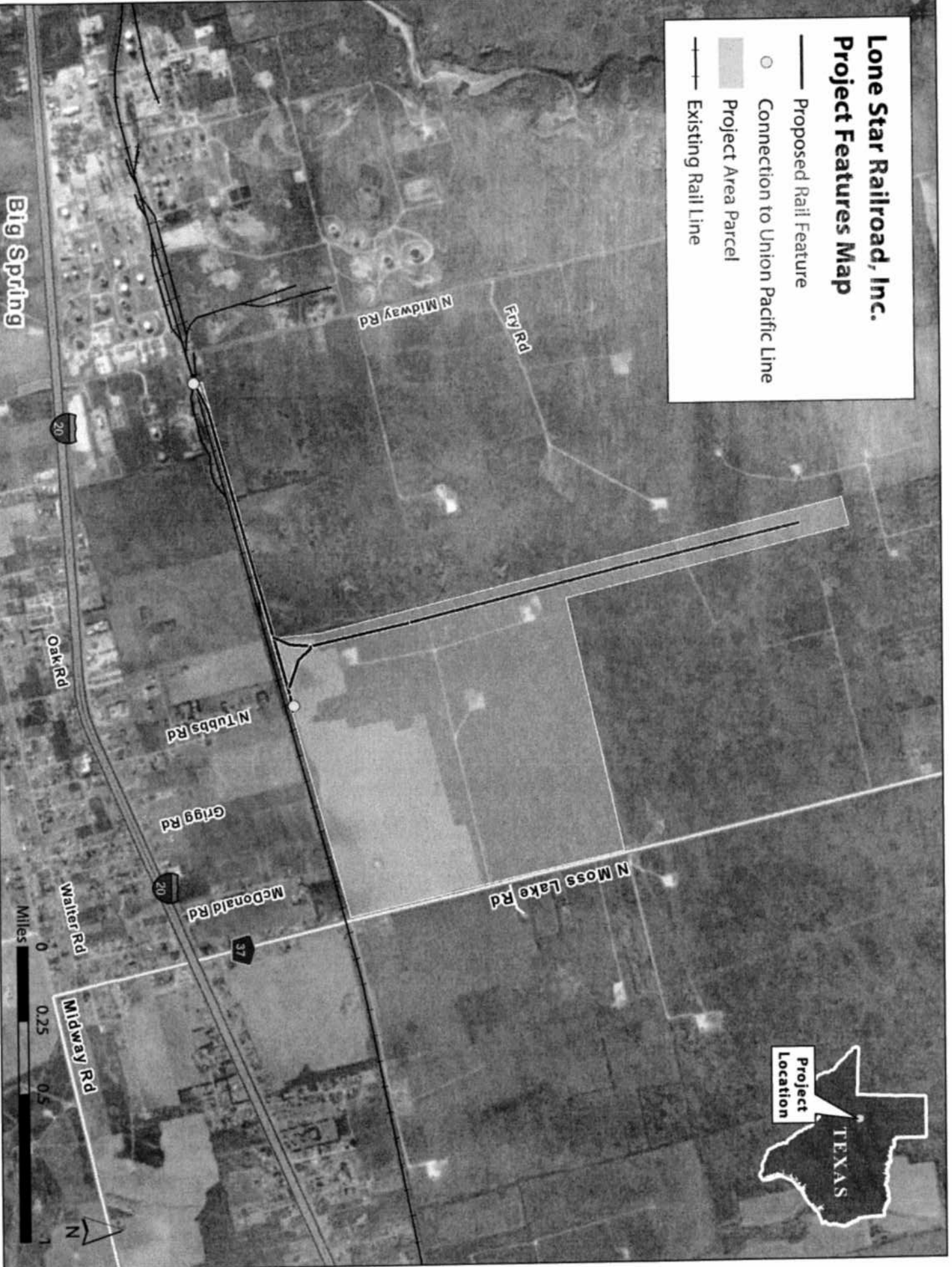
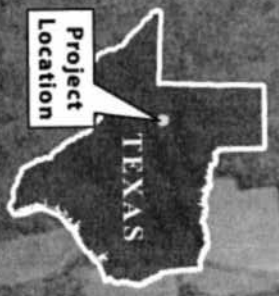
- Lone Star Railroad, Inc. Project Location Map
- Lone Star Railroad, Inc. Project Features Map

**Lone Star Railroad, Inc.
Project Location Map**



Lone Star Railroad, Inc. Project Features Map

- Proposed Rail Feature
- Connection to Union Pacific Line
- Project Area Parcel
- Existing Rail Line



Big Spring

Miles

0

0.25

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Environmental Consultation Mailing List

US Army Corps of Engineers
Southwestern Division
1100 Commerce Street
Suite 831
Dallas, Texas 75242

US Department of Agriculture
Natural Resource Conservation Service Texas
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
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FRC 800 North Loop 288
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US National Park Service
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Mark Wolfe
Texas Historic Commission
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Texas Department of Transportation
4250 North Clack Street
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Lorinda Gardner
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
9900 West Interstate 20
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Mark Lockwood
Texas Parks and Wildlife
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Railroad Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
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Bob Tarrant
Texas Department of Agriculture
5402 Engelwood Avenue
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P.O. Box 12428
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City of Big Spring
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, Texas 79720

The Honorable Larry McLellan
Mayor of Big Spring, Texas
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Brian Klinksiek
Howard County Engineer
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Big Spring, Texas 79720

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