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November 3, 2015

EI-21181

Mr. Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Issuance of Draft Environmental Assessment for the Lone Star Railroad, Docket Number FD 35874

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above referenced project. TPWD staff has reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments and recommendations concerning this project.

Project Description

Lone Star Railroad Inc. proposes to construct and Southern Switching Company proposes to operate approximately 3.18-miles of rail line that would connect to an existing Union Pacific Railroad Company mainline and provide rail service to an industrial park property near Big Spring, in Howard County, Texas.

Previous Coordination

TPWD provided information and recommendations regarding this project to ICF International on May 8, 2015. This letter is included in Appendix A of the EA.

Recommendation: Please review the TPWD correspondence in Appendix A and consider the recommendations provided, as they remain applicable to the project as proposed.

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TPWD appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this EA. Please contact me at (806) 761-4936 or Richard.Hanson@tpwd.texas.gov if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Hanson" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Hanson
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

RH: gg.ERCS-11951