
From: Hubner, Matt <Hubner.Matt@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Swenson, Merin
Cc: Wayland, Joshua; Rogers, Debra; Strobel, Philip; Razzazian, Christopher; McCarthy, Julia
Subject: RE: Uinta Basin Railway EIS-Cumulative Projects, Plans, & Actions Request

Dear Merin,

We appreciate the offer to review and provide feedback on the cumulative plans and projects list you provided for the Uinta Basin Railway Project. Upon our review, we recommend that the following larger-scale oil and gas projects be included in the cumulative impacts review for air quality as well as other resources:

- GNB (Greater Natural Buttes);
- GASCO Production Company;
- Monument Butte Oil and Gas Development;
- West Tavaputs Plateau Drilling Program;
- Crescent Point Randlett EDA Oil and Gas Development;
- Riverbend Unit Development;
- Ashley National Forest South Unit Leasing; and
- Fishlake National Forest Leasing

We would also like to note that “Horse Bench” (as identified in the list attached to your email) should be identified as “Wild Horse Bench.” The list above is not comprehensive, and we recommend that you solicit feedback from BLM UT (Erik Vernon) for a more comprehensive list of larger-scale oil and gas activities in the area. As noted above, there are some Forest Service oil and gas projects, but BLM may have insight on those as well.

In addition to oil and gas activity, we also recommend that the cumulative impact analysis include a comparison of the historic distribution of wetlands and aquatic resources to the cumulative loss of those resources over time. For example, identification of wetland impacts from other projects (e.g. cumulative losses in those areas of existing projects or impacts from potential for future development). Further, we recommend the cumulative impacts analysis identify projects such as roads and utility lines that may have or propose to narrow, relocate, or straighten waterbodies and adjacent floodplains in the project area.

Finally, we would like to note that the cumulative impacts analysis would benefit from evaluation of impacts to increased noise pollution as well as impacts to EJ communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 303-312-6500 or hubner.matt@epa.gov

Best regards,

Matt

Matt Hubner
NEPA Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 8, 8ORA-N
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

From: Swenson, Merin <Merin.Swenson@icf.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Hubner, Matt <Hubner.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov; Rogers, Debra <Debra.Rogers@icf.com>
Subject: Uinta Basin Railway EIS-Cumulative Projects, Plans, & Actions Request

To Matt Hubner, USEPA, Region 8:

The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Uinta Basin Railway and would like to request your agency's input on other projects, plans, and actions (referred to collectively here as "actions") that we should consider in the cumulative impact analysis for the EIS. ICF is the independent third-party contractor assisting the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis with analysis for the EIS. Additional information about the proposed rail line and the Board's EIS process is available at the Board-sponsored website at www.UintaBasinRailwayEIS.com and on the Board's website at www.stb.gov under Docket No. FD 36284.

The purpose of the cumulative impact analysis is to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed rail line in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. ICF conducted a desktop analysis to generate the attached list of currently planned or reasonably foreseeable future actions in the four-county study area using publicly available sources (Attachment 1). The attached tables are organized by county and include information on planned projects such as the project name, project type, summary description, status, and location.

We would appreciate your assistance with reviewing and refining our preliminary list of cumulative actions to consider in the EIS. Please review the attached table(s) for the county(ies) in your jurisdiction and provide recommended additions, subtractions, or refinements to the preliminary list in tracked changes and/or comments. If you are adding new entries, please provide a brief description of the project, the location (APNs or major cross streets), general project status, and a link to any publicly available sources to document the project status if available (i.e., permit applications, plans of development, etc.).

A map showing the three alternatives for the Uinta Basin Railway is also attached (Attachment 2). We kindly request that your agency provide a list of actions and other relevant information via email or mail to the contact person below within ***two weeks from the receipt of this email***. If electronic files are too large to submit via email, please either 1) mail hardcopy or electronic files, or 2) email the contact below for a link to an FTP site where electronic files can be uploaded.

Please Send Your Project Information to the Following Contact:

Merin Swenson, ICF Environmental Planner, MerinSwenson@icf.com
14123 Denver W Pkway Suite 100, Golden CO 80401

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions regarding this request. I appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,
Merin Swenson

Attachments:
Attachment 1 – Cumulative Plans and Projects List
Attachment 2 - Uinta Basin Railway Proposed Alternatives Map



MERIN SWENSON | 303.792.7832 direct
| Merin.Swenson@icf.com | icf.com
Environmental Planner

