



EI - 20714

Regional Planning

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August 21, 2014

Attn: Brian Yates
EnSafe, Inc.
5724 Summer Trees Dr.
Memphis, Tennessee 38134

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35802, Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority --- Rail Construction and Operation--- in Lake County, Tennessee: Request for Information on proposed 5.5 Mile Rail Line to serve the Port of Cates Landing

Dear Mr. Yates:

Thank you for your letter dated July 24th, 2014 requesting comments from the Northwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency concerning the proposed 5.5-mile rail line to serve Cates Landing in Lake County, Tennessee. John Bucy, executive director of the Northwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency and the Northwest Tennessee Development District has requested that I respond to your request in writing for both agencies.

We have been involved from the start with grant proposals to assist in funding the Northwest Regional (Deep Water) Port at Cates Landing. We have assisted in obtaining funds from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development (ECD), and the Tennessee Department of Transportation TDOT. Other support we have been able to give to the Port's efforts included writing letters of support to elected officials, attending many Port meetings, and assisting other agencies with their prospective funding opportunities.

I say all of the above to make a point that we are very familiar with the Port and it's request going forward to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to build a 5.5 mile connector rail line to join up to the Tenn-Kenn Railroad main line. We are very much in support of the efforts to go forward with obtaining the necessary approvals to build this rail line.

The Northwest Tennessee Regional Port at Cates Landing will one day have a large company locate there and with the adjoining Industrial Park, there will definitely be a need to rail to be connected to this site running from the main line of Tenn-Kenn Railroad

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which is 5.5 miles to the east. Much planning and work has already taken place including a new wide highway recently built by TDOT for heavy truck traffic. The deep-water port is now in operation. Now, the need for the rail to be built for the future industries has come front and center.

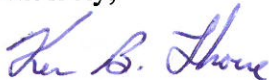
We do not see any negatives to be listed in the forms of:

- Safety
- Local land use
- Existing transportation systems
- Air emissions and ambient air quality
- Energy Use
- Water quality and wetlands
- Ambient noise levels
- Historic sites, archaeological sites, or cultural resources
- Socioeconomics (population, employment, growth, and development)
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries
- Soils and geology

Again, we fully support this request moving forward to assist in building the rail connector line to the Port.

If you have any questions, please feel free to phone me at (731)587-4213 ext. 229

Sincerely,



Ken Thorne
Director of Planning
NWTDD

C: Mr. John Bucy, Executive Director NWTDD and NWTHRA