

Assenza, Adam

From: Kachadoorian, Lydia (FRA) <lydia.kachadoorian@dot.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 3:37 PM
To: Rutson, Vicki
Cc: Gosselin, Danielle; Assenza, Adam; Brown, Sandra; jbeckett thebeckettgroup.org; krdetrolio@portofmoseslake.com; jbishop@portofmoseslake.com; mmiller@portofmoseslake.com; bpetersen@portofmoseslake.com; Kniss, Valarie (FRA); Shick, Laura (FRA); Van Nostrand, Christopher (FRA)
Subject: FRA accepts NEPA Cooperating Agency Designation - NCBRP Port of Moses Lake, FY17 INFRA/Docket No. FD 34936
Attachments: Port of Moses Lake_NCBRP_INFRA2017_FRA to STB_NEPA Cooperating Agency_si....pdf
Categories: NEPA-related, FOR ECT

Dear Ms. Ruston,

Attached you will find a FRA's acceptance to be a Cooperating Agency on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project ("NCBRP"/Docket No. FD 34936). FRA would like to thank you for taking the lead in the NEPA process and for working with us and our grant applicant. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can best support STB's efforts.

Sincerely,

Lydia Kachadoorian, Registered Professional Archaeologist 15668
Environmental Protection Specialist – Northeastern & Western Regions

*U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration
 Office of Railroad Policy and Development (RPD-1), Office of Program Delivery (RPD-10)
 Environmental and Corridor Planning Division (RPD-13)*

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U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 27, 2018

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project (U.S. DOT FY 2017 INFRA
Grant/Docket No. FD 34936), Port of Moses Lake, Grant County, Washington;
NEPA Cooperating Agency Designation**

Dear Ms. Rutson,

Thank you for your June 8, 2018 invitation to be a Cooperating Agency, pursuant 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act, for the Supplemental Environmental Assessment to the Surface Transportation Board's ("STB") 2009 Environmental Assessment for the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project ("NCBRP"/Docket No. FD 34936). As you are aware, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is providing funding under the Fiscal Year 2017 Infrastructure Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program to the Port of Moses Lake ("Port") for the NCBRP located in Grant County, Washington. The USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is administering the grant. Total project costs are estimated to be approximately \$30 million, with an anticipated USDOT contribution of \$9.9 million. The INFRA grant funding is for final design/engineering and construction and related activities.

The eleven-mile-long NCBRP consists of the following:

- Segment 1 = Re-routing aging rail infrastructure inside Moses Lake to a new, approximately 5-mile long line along the Wheeler Industrial Corridor, between Wheeler and Parker Horn.
- Segment 2 = Construction of three miles of new rail lines to access industrial lands adjacent to the Grant County International Airport (GCIA).
- Segment 3 = Upgrades to three miles of existing rail line between Parker Horn and the GCIA.

FRA accepts the STB's invitation to be a Cooperating Agency given our responsibilities related to the administration of grant funds for the NCBRP. FRA will make staff available to enhance STB's interdisciplinary capabilities in preparing the necessary environmental analyses and documentation.

We appreciate STB's generous offer and ask that your staff continue to coordinate with Lydia Kachadoorian, FRA Environmental Protection Specialist, at (617) 494-3989 or lydia.kachadoorian@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura A. Shick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Laura A. Shick
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental & Corridor Planning Division
Office of Railroad Policy and Development

cc: Danielle Gosselin, STB
Adam Assenza, STB
Lydia Kachadoorian, FRA
Valarie Kniss, FRA
Jeff Bishop, Port of Moses Lake
Milton Miller, Port of Moses Lake
Kim Detrollo, Port of Moses Lake
Sandy Brown, Thompson Hine LLP
Jeannie Beckett, The Beckett Group