



Palmetto
RAILWAYS

AEI-25860

March 28, 2017

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

**Re: STB Docket No. FD 36095, Palmetto Railways – Construction Exemption –
In Berkeley County, South Carolina; Request for Approval of Third Party
Consultant**

Dear Ms. Rutson,

We are writing to request your approval, in accordance with 49 C.F.R §1105.10(d), to retain an independent third-party consultant to work with your office to prepare the necessary environmental documentation associated with the proposed construction of a rail line by Palmetto Railways. Palmetto Railways intends to file a petition in STB docket number FD 36095 seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the Board) to construct a line of railroad in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

Palmetto Railways proposes that ICF Jones and Stokes Inc. (ICF) be retained as the Office of Environmental Analysis's (OEA's) third-party consultant. ICF is among the third-party consultants pre-approved by the Board as qualified to conduct environmental analysis on behalf of OEA. We understand that ICF's work would be performed on behalf of, and at the direction of, the Board, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1150.10(d). Further, we understand that ICF would undertake this project in accordance with the Board's requirements for disclosure of any conflicts of interest and pursuant to an appropriate memorandum of understanding that would be entered among the Board, ICF, and Palmetto Railways. We can confirm that ICF is not presently engaged in any other projects for Palmetto Railways.

Sincerely,

Jeff McWhorter
President and CEO