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THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

November 13, 2014

By e-mail to kenneth.blodgett@stb.dot.gov

Mr. Ken Blodgett
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Finance Docket No. 35874, *Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company -- Track Construction and Operation Exemption -- in Howard County, TX*

Dear Ken:

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(d), Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company (Petitioners) respectfully request that the Office of Environmental Analysis ("OEA") approve the use of a third-party consultant, to be selected by OEA, to work under the supervision of OEA in the preparation of the environmental documentation required under 49 C.F.R. Part 1105 in connection with the above-captioned matter.

Petitioners wish to inform OEA that they would have no objection if OEA were to select ICF International (ICF) as the third-party consultant. ICF is among the third-party consultants pre-approved by OEA for use in environmental studies. Since 1969, ICF has been a leader in environmental matters.

Very truly yours,

Thomas F. McFarland/pe

Thomas F. McFarland
Attorney for Petitioners

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cc: Ms. Victoria Rutson, *vicki.rutson@stb.dot.gov*