



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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October 27, 2008

EI-16154
KRB

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Request for Project-Related Comments and Information, STB
Finance Docket No. 35131 – Vaughan Railroad Company,
Construction and Operation of a Line of Railroad to a new coal
mine to be located in Monongalia County, West Virginia

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The PennDOT Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways (BRFPW) received your letter of August 22, 2008, in which you requested BRFPW's assistance in identifying whether resources of concern to PennDOT may be affected by the proposed project to construct and operate a new rail line in Monongalia County, West Virginia (see STB Docket No. 35131 referenced above). We understand that you are gathering information on the project area and project-related issues and concerns to assist SEA in the preparation of the appropriate NEPA document for the proposed project.

Your letter was forwarded to PennDOT Engineering District 12-0 which has jurisdiction for the area that is under consideration as a possible location for the proposed new rail line. In addition, the letter has also been reviewed by both PennDOT Bureau of Design's Environmental Quality Assurance Division (EQAD) and its Utilities and Right-of-Way Section (Grade Crossing Unit).

PennDOT has identified only one rail/highway grade crossing in PA that would be located on the Route B alternative in Greene County, PA (the Route A alternative would be located entirely within Monongalia County, West Virginia). PennDOT would have typical hazard concerns with respect to vehicular and rail traffic at that crossing and would seek assurances that proper protection (warning lights, crossing gates, etc.) would be placed at that location prior to initiation of rail service on the line should the Route B alternative route ultimately be selected for construction of a rail line.

Should you have any questions or if we may be of any further assistance to you regarding this matter, please contact Tom Stettler of my staff at (717) 772-2637 or e-mail tstettler@state.pa.us.

Sincerely

Denise L. Pyers

Director

Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports & Waterways