

January 17, 2014

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VIA EMAIL

Mr. Josh Wayland
Office of Environmental Assessment
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority

Dear Mr. Wayland:

I am writing on behalf of the Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority ("NWTRPA") to request your formal approval, in accordance with 49 CFR §1105.10(d), of an independent third-party consultant to work with your office to prepare the necessary environmental documentation associated with NWTRPA's proposed construction and operation of a new rail line ("the Line"). The Line will extend from its junction with an existing line of the Tenneken Railroad near Tiptonville, in Lake County, TN, to NWTRPA's port facility on the Mississippi River, a distance of approximately 5.5 miles. The Line will also serve a new industrial park to be constructed roughly half way between the Line's origin and destination points.

Within the next few weeks NWTRPA anticipates filing an individual Petition for Exemption under 49 U.S.C. §10502 from the provisions of §10901 to permit it to construct and operate the Line.

NWTRPA proposes that the environmental consulting firm, ENSAFE, be retained as the Office of Environmental Analysis's ("OEA's") third-party consultant. We know that ENSAFE has been identified by the OEA as an entity that is qualified to serve as a third-party consultant for railroad-related projects.

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Mr. Danny Adams is expected to lead the ENSAFE team. The contact information for Mr. Adams is:

Mr. Danny Adams, QHP
ENSAFE
Ecology Program Manager
5724 Summer Trees Drive,
Memphis, TN 38134
Work Tel: 901-372-7962
Cell: 901-489-8374
Email: dadams@Ensafecom

We expect ENSAFE's work to be performed under the OEA's direction, supervision, and control pursuant to 49 CFR §1105.(d). Further, we expect ENSAFE to undertake this project in accordance with the OEA's requirements for disclosure and pursuant to the memorandum of understanding entered among OEA, ENSAFE, and NWTRPA.

We look forward to your response and to answering any questions you might have.

Sincerely yours,



John D. Heffner

cc: Victoria Rutson, Esq.
John Lannom, Esq.