



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

EI-16022

OCT 24 2008

Operations Division

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson:

This is in reference to your letter dated October 7, 2008 concerning the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the construction and operation of a 20-mile rail line between Wallacetown (Clearfield County) and Gorton (Centre County), Pennsylvania. The proposed rail line would serve a new quarry, landfill, and industrial park being developed by Resource Recovery, LLC, near Gorton in Rush Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1501.6 and 1508.8) define and address agency roles to facilitate cooperation and compliance under NEPA. Cooperating agencies are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process early on and provide information and environmental analysis for which they have special expertise to the lead agency, in this case the Board. The benefits for cooperating agency participation in the preparation of documentation and analysis include avoiding duplication with other Federal, State, and local procedures as well as enhancing the ability of the agencies to adopt environmental documentation for making decisions. The Corps has the responsibility and authority to regulate portions of the proposal that affect waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, and has the expertise necessary to assist the Board with meeting its statutory requirements. Therefore, in accordance with the CEQ regulations, we are accepting your invitation to be designated as a cooperating agency for the EIS for this project.

We appreciate being invited to provide comments during the development of the EIS, and we look forward to working with you as a cooperating agency. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call the project manager, Michael Dombroskie at (814)235-0571.

Sincerely,

Wade B. Chandler
Acting Chief, Pennsylvania Section

Copy Furnished:

Danielle Gosselin, Board

Sandy Basehore, Skelly and Lloyd

U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, State College Field Office

PADPEP, Northcentral Regional Office

PA Fish & Boat Commission

PA Historical and Museum Commission

Centre County Conservation District

Clearfield County Conservation District