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IDEM Indiana Department of Environmental Management



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Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Dear Grant Administrator or Other Finance Approval Authority:

RE: CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) submitted an application to the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §§ 11323 and 49 C.F.R. Part 1180. CSXT proposes Board authority to acquire from the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company (GTW) an exclusive, perpetual, non-assignable railroad operating easement over a 22.3-mile portion of Canadian National Railway's Elsdon Subdivision rail line between Munster, Indiana and Elsdon, Illinois.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is aware that many local government or not-for-profit entities are seeking grant monies, a bond issuance, or another public funding mechanism to cover some portion of the cost of a public works, infrastructure, or community development project. IDEM also is aware that in order to be eligible for such funding assistance, applicants are required to first evaluate the potential impacts that their particular project may have on the environment. In order to assist applicants seeking such financial assistance and to ensure that such projects do not have an adverse impact on the environment, IDEM has prepared the following list of environmental issues that each applicant must consider in order to minimize environmental impacts in compliance with all relevant state laws.

IDEM recommends that each applicant consider the following issues when moving forward with their project. IDEM also requests that, in addition to submitting the information requested above, each applicant also sign the attached certification, attesting to the fact that they have read the letter in its entirety, agree to abide by the recommendations of the letter, and to apply for any permits required from IDEM for the completion of their project.

IDEM recommends that any person(s) intending to complete a public works, infrastructure, or community development project using any public funding consider each of the following applicable recommendations and requirements:

WATER AND BIOTIC QUALITY

1. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that you obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) before discharging dredged or fill materials into any wetlands or other waters, such as rivers, lakes, streams, and ditches. Other activities regulated include the relocation, channelization, widening, or other such alteration of a stream, and the mechanical clearing (use of heavy construction equipment) of wetlands. Thus, as a project owner or sponsor, it is your responsibility to ensure that no wetlands are disturbed without the proper permit. Although you may initially refer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory maps as a means of identifying potential areas of concern, please be mindful that those maps do not depict jurisdictional wetlands regulated by the USACE or the Department of Environmental Management. A valid jurisdictional wetlands determination can only be made by the USACE, using the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual.

USACE recommends that you have a consultant check to determine whether your project will abut, or lie within, a wetland area. To view a list of consultants that have requested to be included on a list posted by the USACE on their Web site, see USACE Permits and Public Notices (<http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/orf/default.asp>) and then click on "Information" from the menu on the right-hand side of that page. Their "Consultant List" is the fourth entry down on the "Information" page. Please note that the USACE posts all consultants that request to appear on the list, and that inclusion of any particular consultant on the list does not represent an endorsement of that consultant by the USACE, or by IDEM.

Much of northern Indiana (Newton, Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange, Steuben, and Dekalb counties; large portions of Jasper, Starke, Marshall, Noble, Allen, and Adams counties; and lesser portions of Benton, White, Pulaski, Kosciusko, and Wells counties) is served by the USACE District Office in Detroit (313-226-6812). The central and southern portions of the state (large portions of Benton, White, Pulaski, Kosciusko, and Wells counties; smaller portions of Jasper, Starke, Marshall, Noble, Allen, and Adams counties; and all other Indiana counties located in north-central, central, and southern Indiana) are served by the USACE Louisville District Office (502-315-6733).

Additional information on contacting these U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) District Offices, government agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands, and other water quality issues, can be found at <http://www.in.gov/idem/4396.htm>. IDEM recommends that impacts to wetlands and other water resources be avoided to the fullest extent.

2. In the event a Section 404 wetlands permit is required from the USACE, you also must obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the IDEM Office of Water Quality. To learn more about the water quality certification program, visit: <http://www.in.gov/idem/4384.htm>.
3. If the USACE determines that a wetland or other body of water is isolated and not subject to Clean Water Act regulation, it is still regulated by the state of Indiana . A state isolated wetland permit from IDEM's Office of Water Quality is required for any activity that results in the discharge of dredged or fill materials into isolated wetlands. To learn more about isolated wetlands, contact the Office of Water Quality at 317-233-8488.
4. If your project will impact more than 0.5 acres of wetland, stream relocation, or other large-scale alterations to bodies of water such as the creation of a dam or a water diversion, you should seek additional input from the Office of Water Quality, Wetlands staff at 317-233-8488.
5. Work within the one-hundred year floodway of a given body of water is regulated by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water. Contact this agency at 317-232-4160 for further information.
6. The physical disturbance of the stream and riparian vegetation, especially large trees overhanging any affected water bodies should be limited to only that which is absolutely necessary to complete the project. The shade provided by the large overhanging trees helps maintain proper stream temperatures and dissolved oxygen for aquatic life.
7. For projects involving construction activity (which includes clearing, grading, excavation and other land

disturbing activities) that result in the disturbance of one (1), or more, acres of total land area, contact the Office of Water Quality – Watershed Planning Branch (317/233-1864) regarding the need for of a Rule 5 Storm Water Runoff Permit. Visit the following Web page

- <http://www.in.gov/idem/4902.htm>

To obtain, and operate under, a Rule 5 permit you will first need to develop a Construction Plan (<http://www.in.gov/idem/4917.htm#constreq>), and as described in 327 IAC 15-5-6.5 (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03270/A00150> [PDF], pages 16 through 19). Before you may apply for a Rule 5 Permit, or begin construction, you must submit your Construction Plan to your county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) (<http://www.in.gov/isda/soil/contacts/map.html>).

Upon receipt of the construction plan, personnel of the SWCD or the Indiana Department of Environmental Management will review the plan to determine if it meets the requirements of 327 IAC 15-5. Plans that are deemed deficient will require re-submittal. If the plan is sufficient you will be notified and instructed to submit the verification to IDEM as part of the Rule 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) submittal. Once construction begins, staff of the SWCD or Indiana Department of Environmental Management will perform inspections of activities at the site for compliance with the regulation.

Please be mindful that approximately 149 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) areas are now being established by various local governmental entities throughout the state as part of the implementation of Phase II federal storm water requirements. All of these MS4 areas will eventually take responsibility for Construction Plan review, inspection, and enforcement. As these MS4 areas obtain program approval from IDEM, they will be added to a list of MS4 areas posted on the IDEM Website at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/4900.htm>.

If your project is located in an IDEM-approved MS4 area, please contact the local MS4 program about meeting their storm water requirements. Once the MS4 approves the plan, the NOI can be submitted to IDEM.

Regardless of the size of your project, or which agency you work with to meet storm water requirements, IDEM recommends that appropriate structures and techniques be utilized both during the construction phase, and after completion of the project, to minimize the impacts associated with storm water runoff. The use of appropriate planning and site development and appropriate storm water quality measures are recommended to prevent soil from leaving the construction site during active land disturbance and for post construction water quality concerns. Information and assistance regarding storm water related to construction activities are available from the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices in each county or from IDEM.

8. For projects involving impacts to fish and botanical resources, contact the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Fish and Wildlife (317-232-4080) for additional project input.
9. For projects involving water main construction, water main extensions, and new public water supplies, contact the Office of Water Quality - Drinking Water Branch (317-308-3299) regarding the need for permits.
10. For projects involving effluent discharges to waters of the State of Indiana , contact the Office of Water Quality - Permits Branch (317-233-0468) regarding the need for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
11. For projects involving the construction of wastewater facilities and sewer lines, contact the Office of Water Quality - Permits Branch (317-232-8675) regarding the need for permits.

AIR QUALITY

The above-noted project (see page 1) should be designed to minimize any impact on ambient air quality in, or near, the project area. The project must comply with all federal and state air pollution regulations. Consideration should be given to the following:

1. Regarding open burning, and disposing of organic debris generated by land clearing activities; some types of open burning are allowed under specific conditions (<http://www.in.gov/idem/4148.htm>). You also can seek an open burning variance from IDEM.

IDEM generally recommends that you take vegetative wastes to a registered yard waste composting facility or that the waste be chipped or shredded with composting on-site. You must register with IDEM if more than 2,000 pounds is to be composted; contact 317-232-0066). The finished compost can then be used as a mulch or soil amendment. You also may bury any vegetative wastes (such as leaves, twigs, branches, limbs, tree trunks and stumps) on-site, although burying large quantities of such material can lead to subsidence problems.

2. Reasonable precautions must be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions from construction and demolition activities. For example, wetting the area with water, constructing wind barriers, or treating dusty areas with chemical stabilizers (such as calcium chloride or several other commercial products). Dirt tracked onto paved roads from unpaved areas should be minimized.

If construction or demolition is conducted in a wooded area where blackbirds have roosted or abandoned buildings or building sections in which pigeons or bats have roosted for three to five years, precautionary measures should be taken to avoid an outbreak of histoplasmosis. This disease is caused by the fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum*, which stems from bird or bat droppings that have accumulated in one area for three to five years. The spores from this fungus become airborne when the area is disturbed and can cause infections over an entire community downwind of the site. The area should be wetted down prior to cleanup or demolition of the project site. For more detailed information on histoplasmosis prevention and control, please contact the Acute Disease Control Division of the Indiana State Department of Health at 317-233-7272.

3. The U.S. EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that people not have long-term exposure to radon at levels above 4 pCi/L. For a county-by-county map of predicted radon levels in Indiana, visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/4267.htm>.

The U.S. EPA further recommends that all homes and apartments (within three stories of ground level) be tested for radon. If in-home radon levels are determined to be 4 pCi/L or higher, then U.S. EPA recommends a follow-up test. If the second test confirms that radon levels are 4 pCi/L or higher, then U.S. EPA recommends the installation of radon-reduction measures. For a list of qualified radon testers and radon mitigation (or reduction) specialists, visit http://www.in.gov/isdh/regsvcs/radhealth/pdfs/radon_testers_mitigators_list.pdf. Also, is recommended that radon reduction measures be built into all new homes, particularly in areas like Indiana that have moderate to high predicted radon levels.

To learn more about radon, radon risks, and ways to reduce exposure, visit <http://www.in.gov/isdh/regsvcs/radhealth/radon.htm>, <http://www.in.gov/idem/4145.htm>, or <http://www.epa.gov/radon/index.html>.

4. With respect to asbestos removal, all facilities slated for renovation or demolition (except residential buildings that have four (4) or fewer dwelling units and which will not be used for commercial purposes) must be inspected by an Indiana-licensed asbestos inspector prior to the commencement of any renovation or demolition activities. If regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM) that may become airborne is found, any subsequent demolition, renovation, or asbestos removal activities must be performed in accordance with the proper notification and emission control requirements.

If no asbestos is found where a renovation activity will occur, or if the renovation involves removal of less than 260 linear feet of RACM off of pipes, less than 160 square feet of RACM off of other facility components, or less than 35 cubic feet of RACM off of all facility components, the owner or operator of the project does not need to notify IDEM before beginning the renovation activity.

For questions on asbestos demolition and renovation activities, you can also call IDEM's Lead/Asbestos section at 1-888-574-8150.

In all cases where a demolition activity will occur (even if no asbestos is found), the owner or operator must still notify IDEM 10 working days prior to the demolition, using the form found at www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/44593.pdf.

Anyone submitting a renovation/demolition notification form will be billed a notification fee based upon the amount of friable asbestos containing material to be removed or demolished. Projects that involve the removal of more than 2,600 linear feet of friable asbestos containing materials on pipes, or 1,600 square feet or 400 cubic feet of friable asbestos containing material on other facility components, will be billed a fee of \$150 per project; projects below these amounts will be billed a fee of \$50 per project. Billings will occur on a quarterly basis.

For more information about IDEM policy regarding asbestos removal and disposal, visit:
<http://www.in.gov/idem/4983.htm>.

5. With respect to lead-based paint removal, IDEM encourages all efforts to minimize human exposure to lead-based paint chips and dust. IDEM is particularly concerned that young children exposed to lead can suffer from learning disabilities. Although lead-based paint abatement efforts are not mandatory, any abatement that is conducted within housing built before January 1, 1978, or a child-occupied facility is required to comply with all lead-based paint work practice standards, licensing and notification requirements. For more information about lead-based paint removal, visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/permits/guide/waste/leadabatement.html>.
6. Ensure that asphalt paving plants are permitted and operate properly. The use of cutback asphalt, or asphalt emulsion containing more than seven percent (7%) oil distillate, is prohibited during the months of April through October. See 326 IAC 8-5-2, Asphalt Paving Rule (<http://www.ai.org/legislative/iac/T03260/A00080.PDF>).
7. If your project involves the construction of a new source of air emissions or the modification of an existing source of air emissions or air pollution control equipment, it will need to be reviewed by the IDEM Office of Air Quality (OAQ). A registration or permit may be required under 326 IAC 2 (www.ai.org/legislative/iac/t03260/a00020.pdf). New sources that use or emit hazardous air pollutants may be subject to Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and corresponding state air regulations governing hazardous air pollutants.
8. For more information on air permits, visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/4223.htm>, or to initiate the IDEM air permitting process, please contact the Office of Air Quality Permit Reviewer of the Day at (317) 233-0178 or oamprod@idem.in.gov.

LAND QUALITY

In order to maintain compliance with all applicable laws regarding contamination and/or proper waste disposal, IDEM recommends that:

1. If the site is found to contain any areas used to dispose of solid or hazardous waste, you need to contact the Office of Land Quality (OLQ) at 317-308-3103.
2. All solid wastes generated by the project, or removed from the project site, need to be taken to a properly permitted solid waste processing or disposal facility. For more information, visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/4998.htm>.
3. If any contaminated soils are discovered during this project, they may be subject to disposal as hazardous waste. Please contact the OLQ at 317-308-3103 to obtain information on proper disposal procedures.
4. If Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are found at this site, please contact the Industrial Waste Section of OLQ at 317-308-3103 for information regarding management of any PCB wastes from this site.
5. If there are any asbestos disposal issues related to this site, please contact the Industrial Waste Section of OLQ at 317-308-3103 for information regarding the management of asbestos wastes. (Asbestos removal is addressed

above, under Air Quality.)

6. If the project involves the installation or removal of an underground storage tank, or involves contamination from an underground storage tank, you must contact the IDEM Underground Storage Tank program at 317-308-3039(<http://www.in.gov/idem/4999.htm>).

FINAL REMARKS

Should the applicant need to obtain any environmental permits in association with this proposed project, please be mindful that IC 13-15-8 requires that they notify all adjoining property owners and/or occupants within ten days of your submittal of each permit application. Applicants seeking multiple permits, may still meet the notification requirement with a single notice if all required permit applications are submitted with the same ten day period.

Please note that this letter does not constitutes a permit, license, endorsement, or any other form of approval on the part of either the Indiana Department of Environmental Management or any other Indiana state agency.

Should you have any questions relating to the content or recommendations of this letter, or if you have additional questions about whether a more complete environmental review of your project should be conducted, please feel free to contact Brad Baughn at (317) 234-3386, BBaughn@idem.in.gov.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Easterly
Commissioner

Signature(s) of the Applicant

I acknowledge that I am seeking grant monies, a bond issuance, or other public funding mechanism to cover some portion of the cost of the public works, infrastructure, or community development project as described herein, which I am working (possibly with others) to complete.

Project Description

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) submitted an application to the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §§ 11323 and 49 C.F.R. Part 1180. CSXT proposes Board authority to acquire from the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company (GTW) an exclusive, perpetual, non-assignable railroad operating easement over a 22.3-mile portion of Canadian National Railway's Elsdon Subdivision rail line between Munster, Indiana and Elsdon, Illinois.

With my signature, I do hereby affirm that I have read the letter from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management that appears directly above. In addition, I understand that in order to complete the project in which I am interested, with a minimum impact to the environment, I must consider all the issues addressed in the aforementioned letter, and further, that I must obtain any required permits.

Dated Signature of the Public Owner

Contact/Responsible Elected Official _____

Chris Maffet

Dated Signature of the Project
Planner/Consultant Contact Person _____

Chris Maffet