

E1 - 1642)
Rec'd 2/25/09
2/2/09

To:
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Attn: Stephanie Wheeler
Public Involvement Officer
PO Box 107500
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7500

From:
Delta Fish & Game Advisory Committee
PO Box 605
Delta Jct., AK 99737
Vern Aiton
Jacob White
Dean Cummings

Regarding:
Comments regarding Alaska Railroad Northern Rail Extension.

These comments are in regards primarily to that portion of the proposed Northern Rail Extension that is South and west of the Tanana River.

CROSSINGS:

There is a long history of miners, trappers, hunters, fishers, explorers and hikers crossing the proposed right-of-way on foot and by dogsled, ATV, snowmobiles and heavy equipment. Because these people will continue to access that area, it's imperative that there be numerous RR crossings to protect these travelers and to maintain the RR bed to prevent erosion.

As a minimum, there should be crossings at:

- 1 Trail across from Delta BLM Airstrip 64*05' 02" approximate.
2. Section Line E/W 64*05" 02" approximate
3. Section Line N/S 64*07'37" approximate
4. Rainbow Lake/ Forestry Road 64* 08'33"N 145* 57' 40" approximate
- 5 West End Winter Forestry Road
6. Dry Channel of Delta Creek [access to full flood plain]
7. Delta Creek [access to full flood plain]
8. Coole Lake Trail

- 9. Donnelly Washburn Trail
- 10. Little Delta River [access to full flood plain]
- 11. DNR Winter Trail

All bridges should allow adequate under-passage for watercraft and land vehicles.

WILDLIFE

Newly pioneered rights-of-way expose unwary wildlife to abuse by construction and RR crews. Possession of firearms by construction crews should be strictly prohibited with severe penalties for contractors violating the prohibition.

No portion of the proposed right-of-way should be vegetated with any plant life that attracts wildlife and exposes the wildlife to construction and train traffic.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Hiltner", is centered on the page.

CC: AKDNR
AC file



February 4, 2009

David Navecky
STB Finance Docket #34658
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TEL 907.265.2671

FAX 907.265.2365

Dear Mr. Navecky:

Enclosed are comments on the Northern Rail Extension (NRE) project, dated February 2, 2009. Comments were sent by the Delta Junction Fish & Game Advisory Committee. Because the committee's correspondence does *not* indicate it is a courtesy copy of comments submitted to the Surface Transportation Board (STB), I am forwarding the letter just in case you did not receive it. The committee may have mistakenly believed that draft EIS comments should be sent to the Alaska Railroad, instead the STB.

Please consider the committee's comments in the EIS public input process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephenie Wheeler, (907) 265-2671
Public Involvement Officer

CC: Delta Junction Fish & Game Advisory Council



February 4, 2009

Vern Aiton, Jacob White and Dean Cummings
Delta Fish & Game Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 605
Delta Junction, AK 99737

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TEL 907.265.2671

FAX 907.265.2365

Gentlemen:

Today, in the mail, I received your written comments on the Northern Rail Extension (NRE) project. You did not indicate if this is a courtesy copy of the comments that you submitted to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). As the federal agency with authority over railroad extensions in the United States, the STB is overseeing the NRE Environmental Impact Statement / Study (EIS), and had released a draft EIS for public review in December 2008. The deadline to comment on the draft EIS was February 2, 2009, the date of your letter.

I am forwarding your correspondence to the STB in case you did not do so, believing instead that draft EIS comments should be sent to the Alaska Railroad. Attached is my cover letter to the STB for your reference.

Thank you for your interest and your input.

Sincerely,

Stephenie Wheeler, (907) 265-2671
Public Involvement Officer

CC: Surface Transportation Board, Finance Docket #34658