



Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

September 11, 2008

Ms Jo Carole Dawkins
Dawkins Environmental Consulting
P.O. Box 845
Springfield, AL 35146

Re: Request for Project-Related Comments and Information
STB Finance Docket No. 35131 Vaughn Railroad.

A review of the Soil Survey of Greene County, Pennsylvania shows the Route B through Pennsylvania may contain map units that have minor components of Hydric Soils, Important Farmlands (Prime and Statewide Important Soils), and Pennsylvania "Prime agricultural land" as defined in [4 PA. CODE CH. 7] [EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2003-2] [33 Pa.B. 3483] Agricultural Land Preservation Policy, March 20, 2003. All of these issues should be addressed according to federal or state requirements. If federal funds are to be used, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006) needs to be completed for the project.

For projects involving earthmoving, both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control practices should be planned, implemented and maintained. We recommend consultation with the appropriate county Conservation District for review of erosion and sediment control plans and practices.

There is also a potential for landslides and slip prone soils within the area.
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/hazards/images/slidemap.jpg>

I have enclosed various soil maps from the Web Soil Survey
(<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>) with the area surrounding Route B delineated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgar A. White".

Edgar A. White
State Soil Scientist

MAP LEGEND

	Area of Interest (AOI)		Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Rails
	Area of Interest (AOI)		Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of 1 (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60		Interstate Highways
	Soil Map Units		Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		US Routes
	Soil Ratings		Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		State Highways
	Not prime farmland		Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Local Roads
	All areas are prime farmland		Farmland of statewide importance		Other Roads
	Prime farmland if drained		Farmland of local importance		
	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of unique importance		
	Prime farmland if irrigated		Not rated or not available		
	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season				

MAP INFORMATION

Original soil survey map sheets were prepared at publication scale. Viewing scale and printing scale, however, may vary from the original. Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for proper map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17N

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Greene and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania
Survey Area Date: Version 4, Feb 1, 2008

Soil Survey Area: Marion and Monongalia Counties, West Virginia
Survey Area Date: Version 5, Jun 3, 2008

Your area of interest (AOI) includes more than one soil survey area. These survey areas may have been mapped at different scales, with a different land use in mind, at different times, or at different levels of detail. This may result in map unit symbols, soil properties, and interpretations that do not completely agree across soil survey area boundaries.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 1996

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Farmland Classification

Farmland Classification— Summary by Map Unit — Greene and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
CaC	Culleoka silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	3.3	0.2%
CaD	Culleoka silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	1.6	0.1%
CkB	Culleoka-Upshur complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	2.3	0.1%
CkC	Culleoka-Upshur complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	6.4	0.3%
CkD	Culleoka-Upshur complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	9.7	0.5%
DaB	Dekalb channery loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	7.2	0.3%
DaC	Dekalb channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	2.3	0.1%
DaD	Dekalb channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	2.4	0.1%
DoB	Dormont silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	16.9	0.8%
DoC	Dormont silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	11.8	0.6%
DoD	Dormont silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	120.5	5.7%
DiD	Dormont-Culleoka silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	119.7	5.7%
DiF	Dormont-Culleoka silt loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	943.7	45.0%
Fa	Fluvaquents, loamy	Not prime farmland	29.5	1.4%
GdA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	5.2	0.2%
GdB	Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	26.6	1.3%
GdC	Glenford silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	12.6	0.6%
GeB	Guernsey silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	4.4	0.2%
GeC	Guernsey silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	2.6	0.1%
Hu	Huntington silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	2.9	0.1%

Farmland Classification— Summary by Map Unit — Greene and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
LbA	Library silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	2.0	0.1%
Nw	Newark silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance	113.9	5.4%
UdB	Udorthents, smoothed, gently sloping	Not prime farmland	4.6	0.2%
WeB	Weikert-Culleoka complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	21.9	1.0%
WeC	Weikert-Culleoka complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	11.5	0.5%
WeD	Weikert-Culleoka complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	2.6	0.1%

Farmland Classification— Summary by Map Unit — Marion and Monongalia Counties, West Virginia				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
AgB	Allegheny silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	0.1	0.0%
Cg	Chagrin silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	9.1	0.4%
CkC	Clarksburg silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	0.3	0.0%
CkD	Clarksburg silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	66.0	3.1%
CwD	Culleoka-Westmoreland silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	7.3	0.3%
DgD	Dormont and Guemsey silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	13.6	0.6%
GuD	Gilpin-Culleoka-Upshur silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	26.9	1.3%
GuE	Gilpin-Culleoka-Upshur silt loams, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	104.1	5.0%
GuF	Gilpin-Culleoka-Upshur silt loams, 35 to 65 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	275.9	13.1%
Ho	Holly silt loam	Not prime farmland	3.2	0.2%
Lh	Lobdell-Holly silt loams	Farmland of statewide importance	40.4	1.9%
U2	Udorthents, dumps, low base	Not prime farmland	38.0	1.8%
W	Water	Not prime farmland	22.0	1.0%
ZoC	Zoar silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	3.9	0.2%

Totals for Area of Interest (AOI)	2,099.2	100.0%
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Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Tie-break Rule: Lower

 $z \leq$

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
 Soil Map Units

Soil Ratings
 All Hydric
 Partially Hydric
 Not Hydric
 Unknown Hydric

Not rated or not available

Political Features

Municipalities

 Cities

 Urban Areas

Water Features

 Oceans

 Streams and Canals

Transportation

 Rails

Roads

 Interstate Highways

 US Routes

 State Highways

 Local Roads

 Other Roads

MAP INFORMATION

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Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 1996

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Hydric Rating by Map Unit

Hydric Rating by Map Unit— Summary by Map Unit — Greene and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
CaC	Culleoka silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not Hydric	3.3	0.2%
CaD	Culleoka silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not Hydric	1.6	0.1%
CkB	Culleoka-Upshur complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not Hydric	2.3	0.1%
CkC	Culleoka-Upshur complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not Hydric	6.4	0.3%
CkD	Culleoka-Upshur complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not Hydric	9.7	0.5%
DaB	Dekalb channery loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not Hydric	7.2	0.3%
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DoB	Dormont silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not Hydric	16.9	0.8%
DoC	Dormont silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not Hydric	11.8	0.6%
DoD	Dormont silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not Hydric	120.5	5.7%
DtD	Dormont-Culleoka silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not Hydric	119.7	5.7%
DtF	Dormont-Culleoka silt loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not Hydric	943.7	45.0%
Fa	Fluvaquents, loamy	Partially Hydric	29.5	1.4%
GdA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Partially Hydric	5.2	0.2%
GdB	Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Partially Hydric	26.6	1.3%
GdC	Glenford silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Partially Hydric	12.6	0.6%
GeB	Guernsey silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not Hydric	4.4	0.2%
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Cg	Chagrin silt loam	Not Hydric	9.1	0.4%
CkC	Clarksburg silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Unknown Hydric	0.3	0.0%
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U2	Udorthents, dumps, low base	Unknown Hydric	38.0	1.8%
W	Water	Unknown Hydric	22.0	1.0%
ZoC	Zoar silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Unknown Hydric	3.9	0.2%
Totals for Area of Interest (AOI)			2,099.2	100.0%

Description

This rating indicates the proportion of map units that meets the criteria for hydric soils. Map units are composed of one or more map unit components or soil types, each of which is rated as hydric soil or not hydric. Map units that are made up dominantly of hydric soils may have small areas of minor nonhydric components in the higher positions on the landform, and map units that are made up dominantly of nonhydric soils may have small areas of minor hydric components in the lower positions on the landform. Each map unit is designated as "all hydric," "partially hydric," "not hydric," or "unknown hydric," depending on the rating of its respective components.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). Under natural conditions, these soils are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

The NTCHS definition identifies general soil properties that are associated with wetness. In order to determine whether a specific soil is a hydric soil or nonhydric soil, however, more specific information, such as information about the depth and duration of the water table, is needed. Thus, criteria that identify those estimated soil properties unique to hydric soils have been established (Federal Register, 2002). These criteria are used to identify map unit components that normally are associated with wetlands. The criteria used are selected estimated soil properties that are described in "Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 1999) and "Keys to Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 2006) and in the "Soil Survey Manual" (Soil Survey Division Staff, 1993).

If soils are wet enough for a long enough period of time to be considered hydric, they should exhibit certain properties that can be easily observed in the field. These visible properties are indicators of hydric soils. The indicators used to make onsite determinations of hydric soils are specified in "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States" (Hurt and Vasilas, 2006).

References:

Federal Register. July 13, 1994. Changes in hydric soils of the United States.

Federal Register. September 18, 2002. Hydric soils of the United States.

Hurt, G.W., and L.M. Vasilas, editors. Version 6.0, 2006. Field indicators of hydric soils in the United States.

Soil Survey Division Staff. 1993. Soil survey manual. Soil Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 18.

Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436.

Soil Survey Staff. 2006. Keys to soil taxonomy. 10th edition. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: Absence/Presence

Tie-break Rule: Lower