

Rutherford, NC

568-2X
567-2X



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Asheville Field Office
160 Zillicoa Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

November 4, 2015

Ms. Candice Andre
VHB
4000 WestChase Blvd., Ste 530
Raleigh, NC 27607

Dear Ms. Andre:

Subject: Propose Railroad Abandonment, SB 175.50 to SB 180.47 (4.97 miles), STB Docket Numbers AB-568 (Sub No. 2X) and AB-567 (Sub No. 2X), Rutherford County, North Carolina

We received your letter dated September 30, 2015, requesting our comments on the subject project. Please note that you sent the letter to our Raleigh Field Office. They received it on October 5, 2015, they then forwarded it to us, and we received it October 16, 2015. In the future, you would receive our responses in a more timely fashion if requests were sent to the appropriate office. To assist you with this, attached is a list of North Carolina's counties showing which ones are handled by our respective offices in North Carolina. The following comments are provided in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703); and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (Act).

We previously provided comments to your office (Mr. Kristoffer J. G. Dramby) on September 29, 2015. In that letter we stated that no federally listed endangered or threatened species or their habitats occur in the project area and that the requirements under section 7 of the Act are fulfilled. We believe that is still the case. Obligations under the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review, or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is determined that may be affected by the identified action.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Allen Ratzlaff of our staff at 828/258-3939, Ext. 229. In any future correspondence concerning this project, please reference our Log Number 4-2-15-535.

Sincerely,

-- original signed --

Janet Mizzi
Field Supervisor

Cc:

Office of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20423

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

ASHEVILLE FIELD OFFICE WORK AREA:

Alexander	Jackson
Alleghany	Lincoln
Anson	Macon
Ashe	Madison
Avery	McDowell
Buncombe	Mecklenburg
Burke	Mitchell
Cabarrus	Polk
Caldwell	Rowan
Catawba	Rutherford
Cherokee	Stanly
Clay	Stokes
Cleveland	Surry
Davidson	Swain
Davie	Transylvania
Forsyth	Union
Gaston	Watauga
Graham	Wilkes
Haywood	Yadkin
Henderson	Yancey
Iredell	

RALEIGH FIELD OFFICE WORK AREA:

Alamance	Lee
Beaufort	Lenoir
Bertie	Martin
Bladen	Montgomery
Brunswick	Moore
Camden	Nash
Carteret	New Hanover
Caswell	Northampton
Chatham	Onslow
Chowan	Orange
Columbus	Pamlico
Craven	Pasquotank
Cumberland	Pender
Currituck	Perquimans
Dare	Person
Duplin	Pitt
Durham	Randolph
Edgecombe	Richmond
Franklin	Robeson
Gates	Rockingham
Granville	Sampson
Greene	Scotland
Guilford	Tyrrell
Halifax	Vance
Harnett	Wake
Hertford	Warren
Hoke	Washington
Hyde	Wayne
Johnston	Wilson
Jones	

Contact Information:
 Asheville Field Office
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 160 Zillicoa Street
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 Phone: 828/258-3939
 Fax: 828/258-5330

Contact Information:
 Raleigh Field Office
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 P.O. Box 33726
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726
 Phone: 919/856-4520
 Fax: 919/856-4556

