

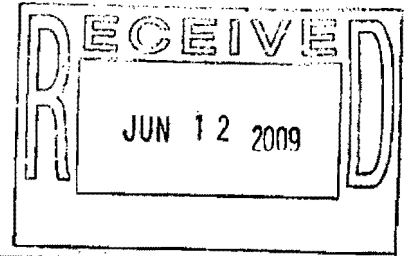


SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Affairs

SI-17796 2009-1121

SKB



Mr. David Densmore
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850



No federally listed species under our jurisdiction is known or likely to occur in the project area. This determination is valid for two years. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

[Signature], Supervisor 6-9-09

Re: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Corman Railroad Co., Beech Creek Branch Line – Construction and Operation – Between Wallacetown and Gorton, Pennsylvania; Alternative Route Evaluation

Dear Mr. Densmore:

I am writing to let you know about a new alternative that has been developed as a result of the public scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the above-mentioned case. Below, I summarize the railroad's proposal, the agency's environmental review process, and information we have about the new alternative. Finally, I ask for your help in identifying potential environmental impacts associated with this new alternative.

Railroad's Proposal

On May 20, 2008, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines Inc. (RJCP) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 for authority to reconstruct and operate an abandoned 10.8-mile rail line between Wallacetown Junction and Winburne in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, and to rebuild the track on a connecting 9.3 miles of currently rail-banked line between Winburne and Gorton in Clearfield and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania. In total, the proposed project would involve the construction or rebuilding, and operation, of approximately 20 miles of the former Beech Creek Railroad to serve a new quarry, landfill, and industrial park being developed by Resource Recovery, LLC near Gorton, Pennsylvania.

Should this rail line construction and operation proposal be approved by the Board, RJCP would be able to provide rail transportation service to and from the proposed quarry, landfill and industrial park. RJCP anticipates that the line would handle approximately 17,000 carloads annually, or one round trip per day at approximately 55 carloads per trip, six days per week.

Board's Environmental Review Process

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will prepare an EIS