



*SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423*

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

May 2, 2014

RE: Finance Docket 34075, Six County Association of Governments Construction and Operation Exemption Rail Line between Levan and Salina, Utah

Dear Reader:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is pleased to provide you with the enclosed Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Six County Association of Governments' (SCAOG) proposed 43.2-mile rail line in Juab, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties, Utah. The proposed project would begin at the connection with the Union Pacific Railroad mainline track located near Juab, Utah, about 16 miles south of Nephi, and would terminate about 0.5 mile southwest of Salina, Utah.

This Supplemental Draft EIS was prepared by OEA in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Board is the lead agency for preparing this Supplemental Draft EIS, while BLM and USACE are cooperating agencies. The proposed project considered in this Supplemental Draft EIS involves decisions by the Board, BLM, and USACE. The Board is the agency responsible for granting authority for the construction and operation of the proposed rail line. BLM is responsible for administering right-of-way grants across public land. USACE is responsible for granting Clean Water Act Section 404 permits.

In addition to analyzing the Proposed Action and Alternatives, this Supplemental Draft EIS sets forth OEA's preliminary recommended mitigation, sets forth SCAOG's voluntary mitigation measures, and encourages mutually acceptable negotiated agreements to mitigate adverse environmental impacts if the Board approves the project.

This Supplemental Draft EIS reflects OEA's independent analysis and considers the views of the public as well as Federal, state, and local agencies.

Availability of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

OEA has distributed this Supplemental Draft EIS to all parties of record, including key governmental agencies and other appropriate entities. OEA has made the Supplemental Draft EIS available for review at the Richfield Public Library (83 E. Center Street), the Salina Public Library (90 W. Main Street), the Nephi Public Library (21 East 100 North), and the Gunnison Civic Library (38 W. Center Street). The entire document is also available on the Board's website at www.stb.dot.gov.

Public Comments on and Review of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the Supplemental Draft EIS. This notice starts the public comment period, which will last for 45 days. The notice should appear on May 9, 2014, and all comments must be postmarked no later than June 23, 2014.

The public and any interested parties are encouraged to submit written comments on all aspects of the Draft EIS and this Supplemental Draft EIS. OEA will consider all comments in preparing the Final EIS, which will include responses to all substantive comments, OEA's final conclusions on expected impacts, and final recommendations, including mitigation recommendations. The Board will then make its final decision regarding this project and any environmental conditions it might impose. When considering whether to grant final approval of the Proposed Action, the Board will consider the potential environmental effects and any environmental mitigation it might impose on the project.

When submitting comments, please be as specific as possible and substantiate your concerns and recommendations. Please mail written comments to the address below:

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing FD 34075
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Comments may also be filed electronically on the Board's web site, www.stb.dot.gov, by clicking on the "E-FILING" link in the top navigation bar. Comments are due by June 23, 2014.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental review process. If you would like additional information about the environmental review process, please contact OEA's Project Manager for this project, Phillis Johnson-Ball, at (202) 245-0304.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis