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TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP

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November 10, 2003

Ms. Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Room 504
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

2003 NOV 10 P 3:05
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Re: Finance Docket No. 34435: Ameren ERC, Inc., on behalf of a railroad to be formed -- Construction and Operation Exemption -- A Rail Line Between Coffeen and Walshville, Illinois.

Dear Section Chief Rutson:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(d), Ameren ERC, Inc., on behalf of a soon to be formed railroad subsidiary, (collectively "Ameren ERC") seeks the authority of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for the retention of Dawkins Environmental Consultants (hereinafter "Dawkins") as the third-party consultant to develop the appropriate environmental documentation for the proposed construction of an approximately 12 ½ - mile rail line between Ameren's Coffeen Power Plant near Coffeen, Illinois and Walshville, Illinois. Additional information describing the proposed construction was submitted in our letter dated November 3, 2003 requesting waiver of the six month prefiling notice.

If approved, we propose to retain Dawkins as the consultant to develop the necessary environmental documents on behalf of the Section on Environmental Analysis (SEA). Applicant understands that while Dawkins' fees will be paid by the Applicant, Dawkins will work under SEA's direction and supervision. The environmental documents and information collected by Dawkins will be used by SEA, in conjunction with Dawkins, to develop the environmental documentation.

Dawkins is listed on the SEA's Third Party Consultant Contact List which is comprised of individuals and firms with expertise and experience in environmental review of rail or transportation projects. In addition, Dawkins has been previously approved by the STB to prepare third-party environmental documents in numerous prior proceedings. Therefore, we believe that Dawkins would be the appropriate third-party consultant and we request your

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approval to retain Dawkins Environmental Consultants as the third party consultant for this construction project.

If you have any questions regarding this request or need further information, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 274-2959.

Very truly yours,


Sandra L. Brown

cc: David Navecky ✓
Glennon Hof
Carole Dawkins