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February 5, 2003

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20423



Re: Finance Docket No. 34314,  
Bexar County Rural Rail Transportation District --  
Construction -- In Bexar County, Texas

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The Bexar County Rural Rail Transportation District ("Bexar County") intends to file a petition in the referenced docket in the near future, seeking an exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10901 to permit the construction of a line of railroad approximately seven (7) miles in length, to connect a new industrial development site south of the city limits of San Antonio, Texas, to rail lines operated by the Union Pacific Railroad Company and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, respectively, in Bexar County, Texas.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.11(d), Bexar County has contracted with Ms. Jo Carole Dawkins of Dawkins Environmental Consultants, Springville, Alabama to act as an independent third party consultant to prepare the necessary environmental impact documentation for the subject construction project, under the Board's supervision. Bexar County also intends to retain HDR Engineering, Inc. to assist Ms. Dawkins as she may request.

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Bexar County understands that if approved as a third party consultant, Ms. Dawkins will be subject to the direction and control of the Board and not of Bexar County, and that HDR will be subject to Ms. Dawkins', and hence the Board's, direction as well.

Bexar County hereby requests that the Section of Environmental Analysis approve the nomination of Jo Carole Dawkins as independent third party consultant for the subject project. Any questions concerning this request or Ms. Dawkins' qualifications may be directed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin J. Dowd', with a large loop at the end of the signature.

Kelvin J. Dowd  
Attorney for the  
Bexar County Rural Rail  
Transportation District

KJD:dmb

cc: Mr. Tony Brady (SEA)  
Ms. Jo Carole Dawkins  
Mr. Seth H. Mitchell  
Ed Schwening, Esq.