



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO-287
DAW

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

June 13, 2006

National Park Service
Intermountain Region
12795 Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80225

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34836, Arizona Eastern Railway – Construction and Operation – In
Graham County, Arizona;
Request for Comments on Potential Environmental Impacts

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Arizona Eastern Railway (AZER) intends to file a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) requesting authority to construct and operate an approximately 10-mile rail line in Graham County, Arizona (AZ) (see Figure 1). The line would connect Phelps Dodge's proposed San Juan mining operation with an existing 133.5-mile AZER line that operates between Miami and Bowie, AZ, then connects with a line of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP). AZER anticipates that the line would handle about 5,000 carloads annually, or one round trip per day at 15 to 20 carloads per trip, six days per week. Commodities to be handled include sulfur and sulfuric acid in tank cars and copper cathodes in boxcars. According to AZER, this traffic represents new business, which would move directly by rail from Phelps Dodge's mine and processing facility.

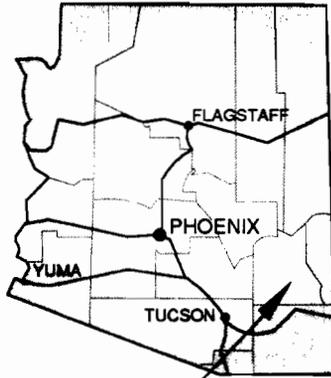
Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended (NEPA) and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will prepare an environmental document that evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and the reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposal including the no-build alternative. The purpose of this letter is to request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed project, as well as any permits and approvals that may be required.

This letter begins the process by which SEA will assess the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the proposed rail line construction and operation. We appreciate your assistance in identifying whether resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed project. We request your response by July 13, 2006, so that we may be able to schedule any meetings, site visits, or surveys, conduct necessary follow-up activities, and incorporate your response into the scope of the study, as appropriate.

CirclePoint is serving as SEA's independent third-party consultant in this proceeding, and will assist SEA in the preparation of the environmental document. Please send your comments to:

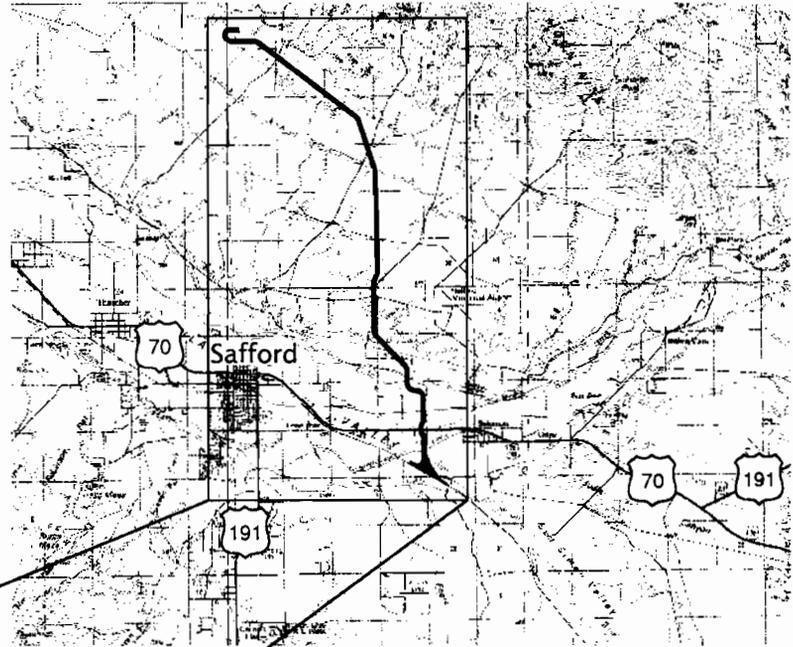
Mr. Scott Steinwert
CirclePoint
135 Main Street, Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94105

ARIZONA

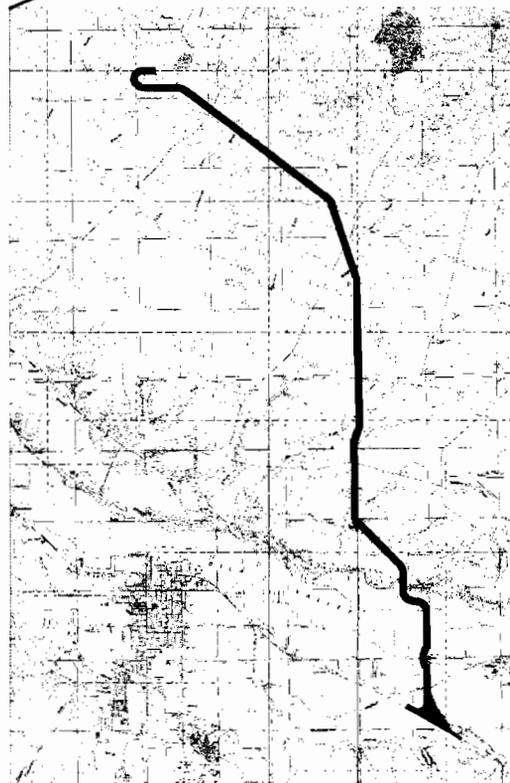


PROJECT
LOCATION

Portion of Graham County



Approximate Scale 1" = 20,000' Safford 1:100,000 USGS Quadrangle.



T.6S.,R.26E., Portion Sections 5,6,8,9,10,15,22,23,26,34 & 35.
T.7S.,R.26E., Portion Sections 3,11,14, 23, 24, & 25.
Graham County, Arizona,
Weber Peak & Safford 1:24,000 USGS Quadrangles.

0' 6800' 13600'
APPROX. SCALE: 1" = 13600'



PROPOSED ALIGNMENT ARIZONA EASTERN SAFFORD BRANCH PROJECT

VICINITY MAP

Figure 1

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Arizona / Nevada Area Office:
Kayla Eckert, Chief of Planning
3636 N. Central Ave. Suite 900
Phoenix, AZ 85012-1939

Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX\ICED-2
Connell Dunning, Environmental
Protection Specialist
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Phoenix Area Office
Allen Anspach, Regional Director
P.O. Box 10
Phoenix, AZ 85001

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region 2
Benjamin N. Tuggle, Acting Regional
Director
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

National Park Service
Tuzigoot National Monument
Cathy Davis, Superintendent
P.O. Box 219
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

National Park Service
Intermountain Region
12795 Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80225

Arizona Department of Agriculture
Donald Butler, Director
1688 West Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona DEQ
Stephen Owens, Director
Phoenix Main Office
1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona SHPO
James Garrison, State Historic
Preservation Officer
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Parks Department
Ken Travous, Director
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Herb Guenther, Director
3550 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Arizona Geological Survey
M. Lee Allison, Director
416 W. Congress Street, Suite 100
Tucson, AZ 85701

Arizona State Land Department
Gordon Taylor, Planning Section
Manager
1616 W. Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Graham County
Planning and Zoning Department
Greg Petz, Director
921 Thatcher Blvd
Safford, AZ 85546

Graham County
Planning and Zoning Department
Michael Bryce, County Engineer
921 Thatcher Boulevard
Safford, AZ 85546

Graham County
Supervisor's Office
Terry Cooper, County Manager/Clerk
921 Thatcher Blvd
Safford, AZ 85546

Graham County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff Frank Hughes
523 10th Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

Nat'l Resources Conservation Service
Jennifer Varin, Dist. Conservationist
Safford Service Center
305 East 4th Street
Safford, AZ 85546-2004

Bureau of Reclamation
PHOENIX AREA OFFICE
Bruce Ellis, Division Chief
Supervisory Environmental Specialist
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001

Coronado Nat'l Forest
Jeanine Derby, Forest Supervisor
300 W. Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

Apache-Sitgreaves Nat'l Forests
Elaine Zieroth, Forest Supervisor
P.O. Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938

U.S.D.I. Office of American Indian Trust
Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Bureau of Land Management
Safford Field Office
Bill Brandau, Field Manager
711 14th Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546-3337

Arizona Department of Mines and
Mineral Resources
Dr. Madan Singh, Director
1502 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-73210

Arizona Department of Transportation
Bill Harmon, District Engineer
2082 E. Highway 70
Safford, AZ 85546

Arizona Department of Transportation
Michael Delleo, P.E.
Rm. 357, MD 618E
205 S. 17th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Duane Shroufe, Director
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Arizona State Clearinghouse
1140 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85012

U.S. Geological Survey
Western Region
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

City of Safford Arizona
Huey Long, City Manager
P.O. Box 272
717 Main St.
Safford, AZ. 85548-0272