



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO-240

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

April 22, 2005

Ms. Kathryn Kusske Floyd
Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP
1909 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-1101

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34658, The Alaska Railroad Corporation – Petition for Exemption to Construct and Operate a Rail Line Between Eielson Air Force Base (North Pole) and Fort Greely (Delta Junction), Alaska

Dear Ms. Floyd:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is approving, under 49 CFR 1105.10(d), ICF Consulting (ICF) as the independent third-party consultant for the above-referenced proceeding. ICF will assist SEA in preparing the appropriate environmental documentation in connection with The Alaska Railroad Corporation's (ARRC or applicant) prospective exemption petition to construct and operate approximately 80 miles of rail line in Alaska.

We have attached a disclosure statement that you should forward to ICF to complete and return to us. As we previously discussed, SEA will direct, supervise, and control the work of the third-party consultant and review and approve all environmental documents prepared by the third-party consultant in this proceeding.

At a January 11, 2005 meeting with ARRC representatives and Mr. Rob Jenkins of your firm, we provided a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the responsibilities of the applicant, the consultant, and SEA. The MOU will need to be signed by the applicant, forwarded to ICF for signature, and returned to SEA. The purpose of the MOU is to establish an understanding between the applicant, the consultant and SEA regarding the conditions and procedures each party must follow in preparing all environmental documentation.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-565-1545 or David Navecky of my staff at 202-565-1593.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure (1)

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

On behalf of ICF Consulting, I certify that ICF Consulting has no financial or other interests in the outcome of the prospective petition in STB Finance Docket 34658, The Alaska Railroad Corporation – Petition for Exemption to Construct and Operate a Rail Line Between Eielson Air Force Base (North Pole) and Fort Greely (Delta Junction), Alaska.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Title:

Date: