



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

January 23, 2013

David H. Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc.—Rail Construction and Operation—in Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Mont.; Information Request #1

Dear Mr. Coburn:

We have reviewed the filings submitted by Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc. (TRRC) dated October 16, 2012 and December 17, 2012 in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. Consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(a), we request the following information to assist the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in conducting the environmental review in this case:

1. The December 17, 2012 supplemental application (“Supplemental Application”) states that coal from the Otter Creek mine could move east or west for domestic use or export, including export to Asia. *See* Rowlands VS at 4. Please provide more specific information about the potential market locations for the coal that would be transported from the mines identified in the Supplemental Application via the Tongue River Railroad. If TRRC does not have this information, OEA requests a detailed explanation of why this information cannot be supplied.
2. The Supplemental Application states that Otter Creek coal may find markets overseas through U.S. ports along the Atlantic, Pacific, Great Lakes or Gulf Coasts. *See* Supplemental Application at 20. Please provide information about any potential plans to transport Otter Creek coal through U.S. ports in these locations.
3. Please provide any information about potential shippers with whom Arch Coal has negotiated or signed contracts to ship Powder River Basin (PRB) coal from the Northern PRB on the Tongue River Railroad.

4. Please provide justification for construction and operation of the Montco Mine spur to Terminus Point #1 (including information about the Montco mine itself and other mines in the vicinity that might potentially be served by the spur in the future).
5. The Supplemental Application states that 3.7 trains per day would travel on the Tongue River Railroad. Because this number represents the average number of trains per day, please provide the maximum number of trains per day that could potentially travel on the Tongue River Railroad in the reasonably foreseeable future if the line is approved and constructed.

Please provide the above-requested information at your earliest convenience, but no later than February 5, 2013, to Mr. Ken Blodgett of my staff at 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20423, 202-245-0305 (e-mail address: Kenneth.Blodgett@stb.dot.gov) and to Mr. Alan Summerville of ICF International, our independent third-party contractor, at 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia, 22031, 703-934-3616 (e-mail address: Alan.Summerville@icfi.com). Please feel free to contact me or Mr. Blodgett if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis