



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

April 5, 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 #2

Dear Mr. Coburn:

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(a), we are requesting the information listed below, which is necessary for the Office of Environmental Analysis' Environmental Impact Statement in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. For information requests that are not directed to a specific alternative, please include information for every alternative set forth in the Final Scope issued on March 22, 2013 (i.e., the Colstrip Alternative, Tongue River Alternative, Tongue River Road Alternative, Moon Creek Alternative, the potential Decker 1 and 2 Alternatives, Ashland East Variation, and Terminus 1 Variation).

1. The December 17, 2012 supplemental application indicated a minimum Right-of-Way (ROW) width of 200 feet. Identify the maximum ROW width and circumstances under which the ROW width would exceed 200 feet. Identify the minimum ROW width and circumstances under which the minimum ROW width would be used.
2. Would the proposed action require the use of microwave towers along the ROW or in the project area? If so, indicate the number and approximate spacing of the towers.
3. Indicate whether there would be a transmission line constructed in all or parts of the ROW. If so, describe the voltage, wiring configuration, design of poles, and other pertinent details.
4. Indicate if an access road would be developed within the ROW. If so, what are the general specifications and characteristics anticipated for the road?
5. Indicate if new buildings would be constructed for the ancillary facilities in Ashland. If new buildings would be constructed, indicate the physical footprint of the planned facilities and their location.
6. Identify the location of river and stream crossings and the sizes and types of bridges and culverts for the crossings.

7. Identify the locations of at-grade road crossings, the owner of the road (public or private [no need to provide private owner's name]), and the proposed warning devices.
8. Identify the locations of grade-separated road crossings and indicate whether the rail line would pass under or over the roadway.
9. Indicate if any roads need to be relocated during the construction of the rail line. If so, disclose the name and location of the road and describe the relocation on a map.
10. Indicate if there is a need for sub-ballast in addition to that of the cut material. If so, identify the source of the additional sub-ballast and how ballast would be transported to the construction site.
11. Identify the source or sources of water that would be used for dust suppression, soil compaction and other construction activities.
12. Describe sedimentation control measures that would be implemented during construction.
13. Provide the number of construction workers in each phase of the project.
14. Indicate if any construction crew camps are anticipated. If so, explain where camps are anticipated to be located and approximately how large the footprint of each anticipated camp would be.
15. Describe all planned upgrades to the Colstrip Subdivision line that would be required for the proposed action. Indicate quantities and locations of new or upgraded components including track, bridges, culverts, at-grade crossings, and others.
16. Provide copies of the three following reports that were referenced in *Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. November 2008. Draft Environmental Assessment Tongue River Railroad Grant of Easement and Right of Way.*
 - a. Shannon & Wilson, Inc. 2007. An Evaluation of Pallid Sturgeon Responsiveness to Railroad-Induced Vibration. Private Report to Tongue River Railroad Company.
 - b. Wilson, Ihrig & Associates. 2007. Miles City State Fish Hatchery high resolution Acoustical Study, Miles City, Montana. Private Report to Tongue River Railroad Company
 - c. Womack & Associates. 2007. Tongue River Railroad project acoustical study: Miles City State Fish Hatchery. Private Report to Tongue River Railroad Company
17. Identify the length of the typical locomotive that would be associated with the unit coal trains.
18. Identify the average operating speed that trains would be anticipated to maintain along the rail line.

We look forward to receiving this information at your earliest convenience and in no case, any later than April 19, 2013. Please provide a copy of your response 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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping underline.

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis