



EI-17852
KB

August 13, 2009

Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit
Attn. Kenneth Blodgett
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Finance Docket No. 35218

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

We received a copy of **Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, Environmental Assessment, STB Finance Docket No. 35218, Meridian Southern Railway, LLC - Construction of Connecting Track Exemption - in Lauderdale County, MS.** We have comments regarding this environmental assessment.

We have been communicating with Peter Denton of K & L Gates in Washington, DC and representatives of the consulting engineer, Engineering Plus of Meridian, MS concerning this matter for some time now, and we have concerns about this project.

On page 4 of the Assessment, 2nd paragraph, a statement reads: "MDS does not anticipate any adverse effects to essential public services as a result of the proposed connecting track construction." We take exception to this statement. There are two sanitary sewer lines and one water line that are crossed by the proposed extension, one 12" and one 8" sewer lines and one 8" water line. In our conversations with the consultants, they have not satisfactorily demonstrated to us how they are going to construct the proposed extension over our existing utility lines. In addition, the proposed extension increases the number of rail lines within the area that we have to deal with concerning our utility lines' maintenance and expansion plans.

We are not opposed to the proposed extension and we support expansion plans by Meridian Southern Railway, LLC; however, they must address the issues regarding our existing utility lines. We request that the Surface Transportation Board would seriously consider our concerns and not grant approval of the Environmental Assessment until our concerns have been satisfied.

Please contact me at 601-485-1917 or champadcock@meridianms.org if you have any questions, or if you need further information. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Champ Adcock, E.I.
Acting City Engineer
City of Meridian, MS

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CHERI BARRY
(601) 485-1927
FAX: (601) 485-1911

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Ward 2

BARBARA HENSON
Ward 3

JESSE E. PALMER, SR.
Ward 4

BOBBY R. SMITH
Ward 5

COUNCIL CLERK:
(601) 485-1959
FAX: (601) 485-1913

CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chief Administrative Officer

(601) 485-1929
FAX: (601) 485-1911

Community Development:

(601) 485-1910
FAX: (601) 484-6813

Finance and Records:

(601) 485-1946
FAX: (601) 485-1979

Fire:

(601) 485-1822
FAX: (601) 485-1878

Homeland Security:

(601) 484-6890
FAX: (601) 484-6895

Parks and Recreation:

(601) 485-1802
FAX: (601) 485-1851

Police:

(601) 485-1841
FAX: (601) 484-6832

Public Works:

(601) 485-1920
FAX: (601) 485-1864