

ELBERT COUNTY  
Board of Commissioners

45 Forest Avenue  
Elberton, Georgia 30635  
706/283-2000 Telephone  
706/283-1818 Fax

TOMMY LYON, Chairman  
CHRIS ALEXANDER, Commissioner  
KENNETH ASHWORTH, Commissioner  
HORACE HARPER, Commissioner/Vice Chairman  
FREDDIE JONES, Commissioner  
HAROLD REYNOLDS, Commissioner



BOB THOMAS, Co. Administrator  
PHIL PITTS, Finance Director  
JUDY VAUGHN, Co. Clerk  
BILL DAUGHTRY, Co. Attorney

December 27, 2013

Mr. Kevin Starner  
Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
449 Eisenhower Boulevard  
Suite 300  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

RE: STB Docket No. 35756, Hartwell Railroad Company - Construction and Operation  
Exemption - In Elbert County, Georgia; Preliminary Consultation

Dear Mr. Starner,

This letter is to inform you that there are no known concerns regarding the connection of this railroad at the proposed location. Elbert County is pleased to have this project completed. We feel it would benefit the overall economic development potential for the Hartwell Railroad to be connected with the CSX line in Elberton. We know of no environmental or historical concerns in this proposed area. The property is all zoned as industrial.

The only local permit that may be required is a land disturbance permit if more that one (1) acre of dirt is moved within the project area. Our Code Enforcement Officer, Patrick Hopp, would review the plans. His telephone contact information is (706) 213-1000. His email address is [phopp@elberton.net](mailto:phopp@elberton.net).

Again, we look forward to seeing this project move forward and completed in Elbert County.

Sincerely,

Bob Thomas, Administrator  
Elbert County Government



50 East Main Street Lavonia, GA 30553 ph:706-356-5359 fx: 706-356-5364

Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC

January 23, 2014

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Hartwell Railroad Company is seeking to establish an interchange with CSX Transportation in Elberton, GA under Docket Number FD 35756. The establishment of this interchange track will reinstate service which was lost with Norfolk Southern Corporation's abandonment of two miles of track in Elberton in 1995. The establishment of this interchange track will greatly enhance local business' access to both east coast Class I railroads and the resultant economic benefit. This area of Georgia has only minimal infrastructure and access to this additional rail service will provide tremendous benefit to this economically struggling region.

In particular, it will give our company access to another Class I railroad's direct points without the undue burden and cost of using two Class I railroads for delivery. This will result in improved transit times as well as creating a more competitive economic environment. Access to vendors and customers in new markets that have been cost prohibitive in the past due to transportation will be a direct benefit.

We strongly support the approval of Hartwell's Petition for construction of this interchange under the above docket number. The benefit will not only help our company, it will improve the transportation infrastructure as the United States economy moves forward. Since rail maintains its infrastructure, it will aid in getting trucks off of the highways which are already in need of significant improvements. We see nothing but a Win-Win for everyone with your approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince Fanello". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vince Fanello  
President/CEO

[vfanello@fanelloindustries.com](mailto:vfanello@fanelloindustries.com)

RECEIVED



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

DEC 17 2013

ATHENS, GA  
USFWS

December 13, 2013



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
105 West Park Drive, Suite D,  
Athens, GA 30605  
706-613-9493 Fax 706-613-6059

FWS Log No.

NG-14-78-E28E

Robin Goodloe  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Georgia Ecological Services Fi  
105 Westpark Drive  
Westpark Center, Suite D  
Athens, GA 30606-3175

Species protected under the Endangered Species Act are not likely to occur on the project site. This tower is either (1) collocated or (2) is a monopole or lattice structure less than 200' tall that requires no guys wires and will be lit according to FCC regulations; therefore we anticipate impacts to migratory birds will be minimal. No National Wildlife Refuges are located in the vicinity of the proposed tower.

Sandra S. Tucker, Field Supervisor

2/11/14  
Date

Re: STB Finance Docket No. B5756, Hartwell Railroad Company and  
Operation Exemption - In Elbert County, Georgia; Preliminary Consultation

Dear Ms. Goodloe:

I am writing to request your review and preliminary comments (explained in more detail below) on a proposed rail line construction that will soon be filed with my agency, the Surface Transportation Board (Board). The Hartwell Railroad Company intends to file a petition with the Board requesting authority to construct and operate approximately 1,400 feet of connecting track between its existing rail line and the adjacent CSX Abbeville Subdivision (see the attached Project Location Map). The purpose of this project is to provide a workable connection between the Hartwell Railroad and CSX to increase mobility and provide economic shipping competitiveness for its existing and future customers. The need for the proposed project is based on the current lack of connectivity between these two active railroads.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare an environmental document that evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding potential resources within the project area that may be of concern to your agency, as well as any permits and approvals that may be required.

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the proposed rail line construction. We appreciate your assistance in identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed project and welcome information on any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. We request your response by January 17, 2014, 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 study, as appropriate.

Kstarnes@skellyloy.com

NG-14-78-E28E



P.O. Box 340 • 300 Fisher Drive • Hartwell, GA 30643 • (706) 376-4793 • (706) 376-4578 Fax

Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Hartwell Railroad Company is seeking to establish an interchange with CSX Transportation in Elberton, GA under Docket Number FD 35756. The establishment of this interchange track will reinstate service which was lost with Norfolk Southern Corporation's abandonment of two miles of track in Elberton in 1995. The establishment of this interchange track will greatly enhance local business' access to both east coast Class I railroads and the resultant economic benefit. This area of Georgia has only minimal infrastructure and access to this additional rail service will provide tremendous benefit to this economically struggling region.

In particular, it will give our company access to another Class I railroad's direct points without the undue burden and cost of using two Class I railroads for delivery. This will result in improved transit times as well as creating a more competitive economic environment. Access to vendors and customers in new markets that have been cost prohibitive in the past due to transportation will be a direct benefit.

We strongly support the approval of Hartwell's Petition for construction of this interchange under the above docket number. The benefit will not only help our company, it will improve the transportation infrastructure as the United States economy moves forward. Since rail maintains its infrastructure, it will aid in getting trucks off of the highways which are already in need of significant improvements. We see nothing but a Win-Win for everyone with your approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Hart', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Darrell Hart  
Materials Manager  
Quality Industries, LLC  
706-376-4793 ext 314



P.O. BOX 1250  
SEYMOUR, IN 47274  
(812) 497-2557  
FAX (812) 497-3311

January 24, 2014

Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Hartwell Railroad Company is seeking to establish an interchange with CSX Transportation in Elberton, GA under Docket Number FD 35756. The establishment of this interchange track will reinstate service which was lost with Norfolk Southern Corporation's abandonment of two miles of track in Elberton in 1995. The establishment of this interchange track will greatly enhance businesses access to both east coast Class I railroads and the resultant economic benefit. This area of Georgia is lacking in infrastructure and the access to the additional rail service will go a long way in impacting this economically struggling region.

In particular, it will give our company access to another Class I railroad's direct points without the undue burden and cost of using two Class I railroads for delivery. This will result in improved transit times as well as creating a more competitive economic environment. Access to vendors and customers in new markets that have been cost prohibitive in the past due to transportation will be a direct benefit. (Add anticipated O/B and I/B carloads that will result from installation of CSX connection and any other expected benefits).

We strongly support the approval of this interchange under the above docket. The benefit will not only help our company, it will improve the transportation infrastructure as the United States economy moves forward. Since rail maintains its infrastructure, it will aid in getting trucks off of the highways which are already in need of significant improvements. We see nothing but a Win-Win for everyone with your approval of this Docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Wesner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tony Wesner, COO



Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC

January 22, 2014

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Hartwell Railroad Company is seeking to establish an interchange with CSX Transportation in Elberton, GA under Docket Number FD 35756. The establishment of this interchange track will reinstate service which was lost with Norfolk Southern Corporation's abandonment of two miles of track in Elberton in 1995. The establishment of this interchange track will greatly enhance local business' access to both east coast Class I railroads and the resultant economic benefit. This area of Georgia has only minimal infrastructure and access to this additional rail service will provide tremendous benefit to this economically struggling region.

In particular, it will give our company access to another Class I railroad's direct points without the undue burden and cost of using two Class I railroads for delivery. This will result in improved transit times as well as creating a more competitive economic environment. Access to vendors and customers in new markets that have been cost prohibitive in the past due to transportation will be a direct benefit.

We strongly support the approval of Hartwell's Petition for construction of this interchange under the above docket number. The benefit will not only help our company, it will improve the transportation infrastructure as the United States economy moves forward. Since rail maintains its infrastructure, it will aid in getting trucks off of the highways which are already in need of significant improvements. We see nothing but a Win-Win for everyone with your approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,

James Harding  
Senior Group Manager  
The Scoular Company  
1800 Second Street  
Sarasota FL, 34232



Law Department  
500 Water Street, J150  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
TEL. 904-359-3276  
EFAX. 904-245-3650  
John\_Patelli@CSX.com

**JOHN P. PATELLI**  
SENIOR COUNSEL  
CORPORATE & TRANSPORTATION LAW  
Admitted in FL & CO

January 28, 2014

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. FD 35756, *Hartwell Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – Elbert County, GA*

Dear Ms. Brown:

CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") supports the Petition for Exemption (the "Petition") filed by Hartwell Railroad Company ("Hartwell") to construct and operate a 1,360-foot rail line connecting the lines of Hartwell and CSXT in Elberton, Elbert County, GA (the "Line") in order to effect the direct interchange of traffic between Hartwell and CSXT. Once the connection to CSXT is constructed, shippers and receivers served by Hartwell will be able to more directly reach locations on CSXT's line.

As demonstrated in the Petition, the construction and operation of the Line by Hartwell is not inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity. The Petition supports a conclusion that: (1) regulation is not necessary to carry out the rail transportation policy of 49 U.S.C. § 10101; and (2) either: (a) the transaction is of limited scope, or (b) regulation is not necessary to protect shippers from the abuse of market power.

CSXT requests the Board to grant the Petition filed by Hartwell.

Sincerely yours,

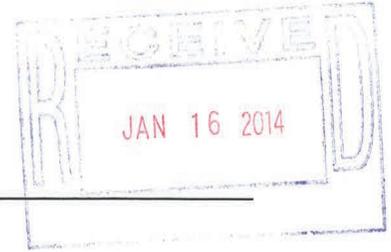
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Patelli".

John P. Patelli

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601



January 9, 2014

Kevin Starnier  
Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
449 Eisenhower Boulevard, Suite 300  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

**Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35756, Hartwell Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – In Elbert County, Georgia; Preliminary Consultation**

Dear Mr. Starnier:

This letter is in reference to your request for information on the possible impacts the proposed railroad construction may have on land use, conservation, water quality and other general environmental concerns that may be of interest to our agency. The following outlines our concerns with the proposed project with regards to farmland protection, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed dams and project easements.

Farmland Protection

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is intended to minimize the impact federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land uses, but not water or urban built-up land. It should be noted that the FPPA does not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private or nonfederal land or, in any way, affect the property rights of owners.

NRCS uses a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system to establish a farmland conversion impact rating score on proposed sites of federally funded and assisted projects. This score is used as an indicator for the project sponsor to consider alternative sites if the potential adverse impacts on the farmland exceed the recommended allowable level. It is our understanding that the proposed project involves federal funds or assistance, and thus could be subject to this assessment. However, this project is completely contained within a U.S. Census Bureau designated urban area (Elberton, GA 26362) and is thus exempt from this assessment. You need take no further action for FPPA purposes.

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Starner  
Page 2

NRCS Watershed Dams

More than 50 years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was authorized by Congress to help local communities with flood control and watershed protection through the Watershed Program (PL-534 Flood Control Act of 1944 and PL-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act). As a result, local communities, with NRCS assistance, have constructed over 11,000 dams in 47 states since 1948. These dams were originally constructed for protection of farmlands from flooding impacts. In 2000, PL-566 was amended to provide NRCS authorization to assist communities with rehabilitation of their aging dams. The legislation authorizes NRCS to work with local communities and watershed project sponsors to address public health and safety concerns and potential environmental impacts of aging dams.

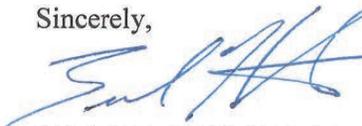
We have reviewed our records and have determined that that there are no PL566 structures downstream or in the vicinity of the proposed project.

NRCS Easements

NRCS easements relate to our Wetland Reserve Program and the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program. We have reviewed our records and have determined that there are no such easements within the vicinity of the proposed project that would be impacted.

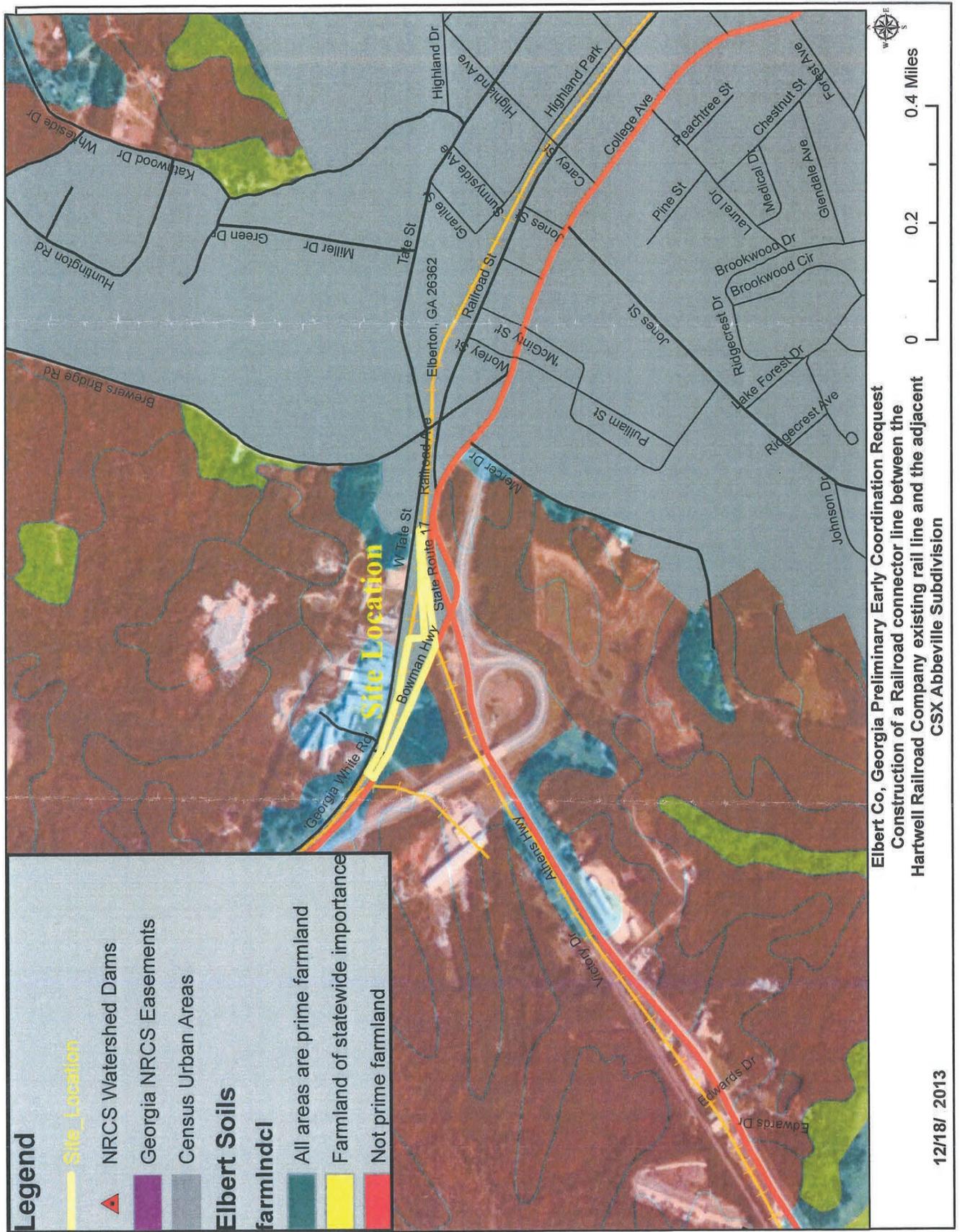
NRCS appreciates this opportunity to comment. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact Dan Wallace of my staff at (706) 546-2272 or [dan.wallace@ga.usda.gov](mailto:dan.wallace@ga.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

 **Acting for**

JAMES E. TILLMAN, SR.  
State Conservationist

cc: Jack Lewis, Assistant State Conservationist(FO), NRCS, Athens, GA  
Scotty Palmer, District Conservationist, NRCS, Hartwell, GA  
Jim Lathem, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS, Athens, GA  
Dan Wallace, State Resource Inventory Coordinator, NRCS, Athens, GA





MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DAN FORSTER  
DIRECTOR

December 27, 2013

Kevin Starner  
Project Manager  
Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
449 Eisenhower Boulevard, Suite 300  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

**Subject: Known occurrences of natural communities, plants and animals of highest priority conservation status on or near STB Finance Docket No. 35756, Hartwell Railroad Company, Elbert County, Georgia**

Dear Mr. Starner:

This is in response to your request of December 13, 2013. According to our records, within a three-mile radius of the project site, there are the following Natural Heritage Database occurrences:

GA *Notropis scepticus* (Sandbar Shiner) approx. 2.0 mi. NE of site in Beaverdam Creek  
GA *Sedum pusillum* (Granite Stonecrop) approx. 2.5 mi. SE of site  
Savannah River Lakes [DOD/COE] approx. 2.5 mi. NE of site

\* Entries above preceded by "US" indicates species with federal status in Georgia (Protected or Candidate). Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected; "GA" indicates Georgia protected species.

**Recommendations:**

We have no records of high priority species or habitats within the project area. Since this project is in an urban setting, it is not likely to negatively impact rare species or habitats.

We are concerned about streams and other habitats that could be impacted by the proposed rail improvement project. We recommend that stringent erosion control practices be used during construction activities and that vegetation is re-established on disturbed areas as quickly as possible. Silt fences and other erosion control devices should be inspected and maintained until soil is stabilized by vegetation. Please use natural vegetation and grading techniques (e.g. vegetated swales, turn-offs, vegetated buffer strips) that will ensure that the road or ROW does not serve as a conduit for storm water or pollutants into the water during or after construction. These measures will help protect water quality in the vicinity of the project as well as in downstream areas.

NONGAME CONSERVATION SECTION  
2065 U.S. HIGHWAY 278 S.E. | SOCIAL CIRCLE, GEORGIA 30025-4743  
770.918.6411 | FAX 706.557.3033 | WWW.GEORGIAWILDLIFE.COM

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COORDINATOR

Please send all future correspondence to Anna Yellin, Environmental Review Coordinator. Email correspondence is preferred. I can be contacted at [anna.yellin@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:anna.yellin@dnr.state.ga.us) or 706-557-3283.

### Disclaimer:

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Nongame Conservation Section comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the Nongame Conservation Section can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. **Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.**

If you know of populations of highest priority species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/1376>) or by contacting our office. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Anna Yellin  
Environmental Review Coordinator

### Data Available on the Nongame Conservation Section Website

- Georgia protected plant and animal profiles are available on our website. These accounts cover basics like descriptions and life history, as well as threats, management recommendations and conservation status. Visit <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/2721>.
- Rare species and natural community information can be viewed by Quarter Quad, County and HUC8 Watershed. To access this information, please visit our GA Rare Species and Natural Community Information page at: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern?cat=conservation>.
- Downloadable files of rare species and natural community data by quarter quad and county are also available. They can be downloaded from: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/1370>.
- cc: Victoria Rutson

IR 14680

EI # 20393  
FD 35756



Hartwell RR - Phone Call from Georgia DNR today  
Starner, Kevin

to:  
Diana.Wood, mwilliams  
01/30/2014 04:00 PM

Hide Details

From: "Starner, Kevin" <KStarner@skellyloy.com>

To: <Diana.Wood@stb.dot.gov>, <mwilliams@williamslegalsolutions.com>

History: This message has been replied to.

1 Attachment



image001.gif

Diana/Matt,

Just wanted to let you both know that I received a phone call today from a gentleman from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (i.e., Georgia State Parks). He called to inform me that he received our agency consultation letter and that he has no concerns or comments on our project. As such, he does not plan to issue a written response. He would prefer that his lack of response be interpreted by the STB as meaning that his agency has no concerns or issues with the project.

Kevin



**Kevin Starner, CEP**  
Environmental Project Manager  
Skelly and Loy Inc.,  
Engineers - Environmental  
Consultants

449 Eisenhower Boulevard  
Suite 300  
Harrisburg, PA 17111-2302  
E-mail:  
[kstarner@skellyloy.com](mailto:kstarner@skellyloy.com)  
[www.skellyloy.com](http://www.skellyloy.com)

Phone: 717-232-0593  
800-892-6532  
Fax: 717-232-1799

file:///C:/Users/woodd/AppData/Local/Temp/notes46C7D0/~web0142.htm

1/31/2014



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

January 16, 2014

Victoria Rutson, Director  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC 20423  
**Attn: Diana Wood, OES Project Manager**

**RE: STB 35756: Hartwell Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption  
Elbert County, Georgia  
HP-131217-002**

Dear Ms. Rutson,

Concerning the above referenced project, and based on recent conversations with the Surface Transportation Board, HPD offers the following recommendations to assist the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of the construction and operation of approximately 1,400 feet of connecting track between the Hartwell Railroad Line and the adjacent CSX Abbeville Line. Based on the information provided, HPD concurs that no archaeological resources that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by the proposed undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), due to previous disturbances. Concerning historic properties, HPD concurs that both the Hartwell Railroad Line and the CSX Railroad Line are eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for transportation and commerce. HPD concurs that the subject project, as proposed, will have **no adverse effect** to the rail lines within the project's area of potential effect, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

However, it is HPD's determination that the Century Granite Company is eligible to the NRHP under criteria A for industry. Therefore, HPD finds that the subject project, as proposed, constitutes an **adverse effect** to historic properties located within the subject project's area of potential effect (APE), as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(2).

When an adverse effect on a historic property is found, the federal agency must notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer on ways to mitigate adverse effects to historic properties. HPD would also like to make it clear that this determination of adverse effect is not the end of the review process. We will work with the federal agency and other consulting parties to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to address the adverse effects of this undertaking.

We look forward to working with you as this project progresses. Please refer to project number **HP-131217-002** in any future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 404-291-7627 or [david.crass@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:david.crass@dnr.state.ga.us) or Karen Anderson-Cordova, Environmental Review Program Manager at 404-651-6461 or [karen.anderson-cordova@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:karen.anderson-cordova@dnr.state.ga.us)

V/r,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Crass".

Dr. David Crass  
Division Director,  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DC:kac

Cc: Kevin Starnier, Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
Burke Walker, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

254 WASHINGTON STREET, SW | GROUND LEVEL | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
404.656.2840 | FAX 404.657.1368 | WWW.GASHPO.ORG



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

January 9, 2014

Victoria Rutson, Director  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC 20423  
**Attn: Diana Wood, OES Project Manager**

**RE: STB 35756: Hartwell Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption  
Elbert County, Georgia  
HP-131217-002**

Dear Ms. Rutson,

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received information submitted concerning the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of the construction and operation of approximately 1,400 feet of connecting track between the Hartwell Railroad Line and the adjacent CSX Abbeville Line. Based on the information provided, HPD concurs that no archaeological resources that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by the proposed undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), due to previous disturbances. Concerning historic properties, HPD concurs that both the Hartwell Railroad Line and the CSX Railroad Line are eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for transportation and commerce. HPD concurs that the subject project, as proposed, will have **no adverse effect** to the rail lines within the project's area of potential effect, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

However, HPD is unable to concur with STB's determination the Century Granite Company is not eligible to the NRHP without additional information. Since Elbert County is considered the "Granite Capital of the World" and one-third of the nation's granite monuments come from Elbert, it is HPD's opinion that the Century Granite Company could potentially be eligible for listing in the NRHP. **HPD requests the following information in order to evaluate the proposed project:**

- Information regarding the history of the Century Granite Company, placed in the context of Elbert County, nearby Elberton, and other granite companies in the area
- Photographs, keyed to a map, and other documentation of the existing buildings to show the integrity of the site
- Site plan including location of the new track to be laid

We look forward to reviewing the requested information and working with you as this project progresses. Please refer to project number **HP-131217-002** in any further correspondence regarding this undertaking. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Dixon, Environmental Review Specialist, at (404) 651-6546 or Jennifer.dixon@dnr.state.ga.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Anderson-Cordova".

Karen Anderson-Cordova  
Program Manager  
Environmental Review and Preservation Planning

KAC:jad

Cc: Kevin Starner, Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
Burke Walker, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

254 WASHINGTON STREET, SW | GROUND LEVEL | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
404.656.2840 | FAX 404.657.1368 | WWW.GASHPO.ORG



February 5, 2014

Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Hartwell Railroad Company is seeking to establish an interchange with CSX Transportation in Elberton, GA under Docket Number FD 35756. The establishment of this interchange track will reinstate service which was lost with Norfolk Southern Corporation's abandonment of two miles of track in Elberton in 1995. The establishment of this interchange track will greatly enhance local business' access to both east coast Class I railroads and the resultant economic benefit. This area of Georgia has only minimal infrastructure and access to this additional rail service will provide tremendous benefit to this economically struggling region.

In particular, it will give our existing industries, and potential new industries, access to another Class I railroad's direct points without the undue burden and cost of using two Class I railroads for delivery. This will result in improved transit times as well as creating a more competitive economic environment. Access to vendors and customers in new markets that have been cost prohibitive in the past due to transportation will be a direct benefit. During the last 40 of 48 months the unemployment rate in Franklin County, Georgia, has been a double digit percentage. This CSX connection will give us a greater opportunity to attract new companies and create new jobs.

We strongly support the approval of Hartwell Railroad Company's Petition for construction of this interchange under the above docket number. The benefit will not only help our communities and our region, it will improve the transportation infrastructure as the United States economy moves forward. Since rail maintains its infrastructure, it will aid in getting trucks off of the highways, which are already in need of significant improvements. We see nothing but a Win-Win for everyone with your approval of this Petition, and we ask for your most careful consideration and approval.

Sincerely,

*Lyn Brumby Allen*

Lyn Brumby Allen  
Director of Economic Development

**"Where You Want To Invest"**

OFFICE: 706-384-5112 | FAX: 706-384-3204  
P.O. BOX 151 | 165 ATHENS STREET | CARNESVILLE, GEORGIA 30521  
WWW.FRANKLIN-COUNTY.COM | IBA@FRANKLIN-COUNTY.COM

**A RESOLUTION**

Expressing support for the construction of an interchange between CSX Transportation, Inc. and the Hartwell Railroad Company in Elbert County, Georgia.

**WHEREAS**, The Hartwell Railroad Company is currently operating and serving customers in Elbert County, Georgia:

**WHEREAS**, CSX Transportation, Inc. is currently operating in Elbert County, Georgia;

**WHEREAS**, these two railroads do not currently connect to one another;

**WHEREAS**, The Hartwell Railroad Company is proposing to construct and operate approximately 1,400 feet of track to allow it to connect with CSX Transportation, Inc. in Elbert County, Georgia;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this project is to provide a workable connection between The Hartwell Railroad Company and CSX Transportation, Inc. for increased mobility and to provide economic shipping competitiveness for its existing and future customers, including those citizens of Elbert County;

**WHEREAS**, the need for the project is the current lack of connectivity between these two active railroads;

**WHEREAS**, the project must be approved by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board before it is allowed to proceed;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** that the members of this body express their support for the proposed connection between The Hartwell Railroad Company and CSX Transportation, Inc. and commend this project for approval by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, The Hartwell Railroad Company and CSX Transportation, Inc.

Adopted and approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.

ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: Russell T. Lyon  
Russell T. Lyon, Chairman

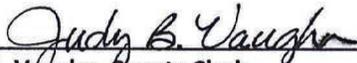
Attest: Judy B. Vaughn  
Judy B. Vaughn, County Clerk

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY**

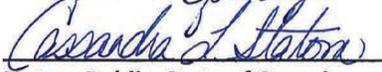
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the reproduction of records attached to this Certificate are true and accurate copies of the records of the Elbert County Board of Commissioners, the originals of which are on file at the Elbert County Board of Commissioner's Clerk's Office, located at 45 Forest Avenue, Elberton, Georgia 30635. Said records are made and kept in the regular and ordinary course of business.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am the person responsible for maintaining and controlling these records, and/or the appointed designee responsible for the release of these records.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy B. Vaughn, County Clerk  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed to and sworn before me  
this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Georgia

My Commission Expires: 11/28/2015

Cassandra L Statom  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
Elbert County, GEORGIA  
My Commission Expires 11-28-2015

# Elbert

## We're always on.

Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton and Bowman, Georgia

January 9, 2014

Mr. Kevin Starner  
Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
449 Eisenhower Boulevard, Suite 300  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 3576, Hartwell Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – In Elbert County, Georgia; Preliminary Consultation

Dear Mr. Starner:

I am writing this letter in response to your request for comments on the Hartwell Railroad Company's petition requesting authority to construct and operate approximately 1,400 feet of connecting track between its existing rail line and the adjacent CSX Abbeville Subdivision. Speaking on behalf of the Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman, I offer our support of this project. Not only are we supportive of the rail line connection, but we are also willing to work with the Hartwell Railroad Company and CSX to ensure that this project is completed.

Elbert County's distance from an interstate is a serious disadvantage and serves as a major challenge in our economic development efforts. Being that logistics and transportation is one of the top factors in site selection decisions, having this connection would allow us to compete for additional projects from which we would have previously been eliminated. Additionally, this collaboration between the Hartwell Railroad Company and CSX would greatly benefit the existing industries in Elbert County and the Northeast Georgia region. Our economic base in Elbert County is the granite quarrying and manufacturing industry, and this rail connection would enable our existing companies to reduce freight costs and to expand into additional markets.

Project managers and industry leaders contend that rail access is becoming increasingly attractive to companies in their importing and exporting of goods. As fuel prices fluctuate, shipping by truck is not always cost-effective and efficient. For the reasons articulated in this letter, the Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman is supportive of this effort by the Hartwell Railroad to improve rail access to existing and prospective industries in our region.

PO Box 63  
Elberton, GA 30635

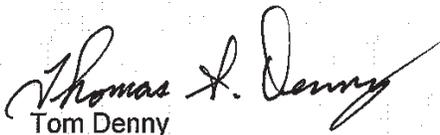
The Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman does not administer permits or approvals. However, the scope of this project may fall within the permitting jurisdiction of the City of Elberton and Elbert County Code Enforcement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 706-213-7600.

Best Regards,

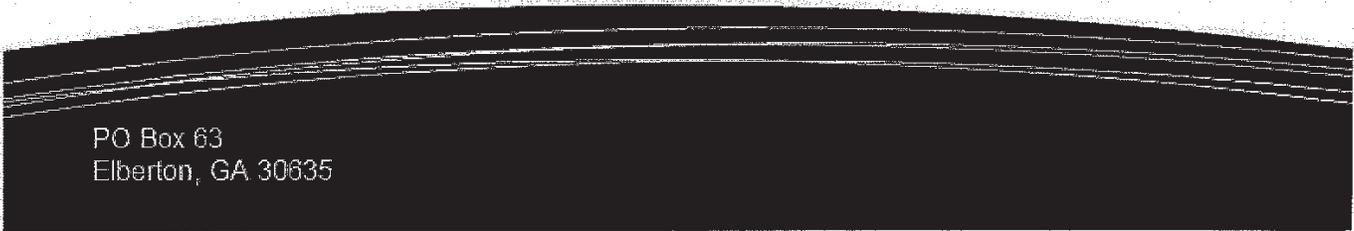


Beth Eavenson  
Executive Director  
Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman



Tom Denny  
Chairman  
Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman

cc: Mr. Bennie Ray Anderson, Hartwell Railroad Company



PO Box 63  
Elberton, GA 30635