



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

May 29, 2015

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34075 – Six County Association of Governments Petition for Construction and Operation Exemption Rail Line between Levan and Salina, Utah;
Issuance of Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Reader:

The Six County Association of Governments (SCAOG or the Applicant) filed a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 United States Code 10502 for authority to construct and operate 43.2 miles of new single-track rail line in Sanpete, Sevier, and Juab Counties, Utah. This new line would connect the Union Pacific Railroad mainline about 16 miles south of Nephi, near Juab, Utah, to a proposed coal transfer terminal facility about 0.5 mile southwest of Salina, Utah.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is pleased to provide you with the enclosed Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This Final EIS was prepared by OEA in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Board is the lead agency for preparing this Final EIS, while BLM and USACE are cooperating agencies. The proposed project considered in this Final EIS involves decisions by the Board, BLM, and USACE. The Board is the agency responsible for granting authority for the construction and operation of the proposed rail line. BLM is responsible for administering right-of-way grants across public land. USACE is responsible for granting Clean Water Act Section 404 permits.

This Final EIS reflects OEA's independent analysis and the results of consultation with agencies, elected officials, organizations, and members of the public, as well as careful consideration of all comments received. This Final EIS contains detailed responses to comments received on the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS and recommendations for environmentally preferable alternatives for the Board to consider if the Board grants final approval of the project.

This Final EIS sets forth OEA's final recommended measures for mitigating potential environmental impacts. OEA recommends that the Board impose the 74 voluntary mitigation measures that the Applicant developed and the 37 additional recommended mitigation measures that OEA developed during the EIS process (see Chapter 2, Final Recommended Conditions/Mitigation, of this Final EIS).

Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement

This Final EIS is organized and formatted in a manner that is consistent with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1503.4. It is organized to clearly and concisely provide information about the project and the analysis that was conducted in the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS. This Final EIS is intended to be read in conjunction with the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS, which provide more-detailed information about the Proposed Action and Alternatives to agency decision-makers and the public.

OEA has distributed this Final EIS to all parties of record, including key governmental agencies and other appropriate entities. The entire document is available on the Board's website at www.stb.dot.gov, under the links "Environmental Matters" and then "Key Cases," and on the project website at www.sixcountyutahrail.com. OEA has also made this Final EIS available for review at:

- Richfield Public Library, 83 E. Center Street
- Salina Public Library, 90 W. Main Street
- Nephi Public Library, 21 East 100 North
- Gunnison Civic Library, 38 W. Center Street

Next Steps

Issuance of this Final EIS completes the Board's environmental review process. The Board will now make a final decision on the project. In making its final decision, the Board will consider the entire record on the transportation merits as well as the entire environmental record, including all public comments; the Draft, Supplemental, and Final EISs; and OEA's final recommended mitigation measures.

OEA anticipates that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will publish the notice of availability of this Final EIS in the Federal Register on May 29, 2015.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental review process. If you would like additional information about the environmental review process, please contact OEA's Project Manager for this project, Phillis Johnson-Ball, at (202) 245-0304.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis