

E1-16210  
CP



Suzanne\_Audet@fws.gov  
12/11/2008 02:33 PM

To Christa.Dean@stb.dot.gov  
cc Martha.Wiley@hdrinc.com, PhinneE@WSDOT.WA.GOV,  
WOODA@WSDOT.WA.GOV, Bob\_Newman@fws.gov  
bcc

Subject Re: Follow Up on August 28, 2008 Request for Information  
and Concurrence STB Finance Docket No. 34936, Rail Line  
Construction and Operation in Grant County, WA

Christa,

If your agency concluded that the subject project would have "No effect" on listed species, there is no requirement for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, nor do the sec. 7 consultation regs. specifically provide for Service concurrence for such agency determinations. Also, due to workload and staffing shortages, we will not be commenting on the Preliminary EA. If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Suzanne

Suzanne Audet  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Section 7 and Recovery Programs Branch Chief  
Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office  
11103 E. Montgomery Drive  
Spokane, WA 99206  
Email: suzanne\_audet@fws.gov  
Phone: (509) 893-8002; FAX (509) 891-6748

Christa.Dean@stb.  
dot.gov

12/11/2008 09:54  
AM

Suzanne\_Audet@fws.gov

PhinneE@WSDOT.WA.GOV,  
WOODA@WSDOT.WA.GOV,  
Martha.Wiley@hdrinc.com

To

cc

Subject

Follow Up on August 28, 2008  
Request for Information and  
Concurrence STB Finance Docket No.  
34936, Rail Line Construction and  
Operation in Grant County, WA

Dear Ms. Audet:

I am writing to follow up on an August 28, 2008 letter that was sent to

your agency from the Surface Transportation Board. In that letter, we sent additional information regarding a proposed rail line construction and operation project in Grant County, Washington. We also stated that, based on our own independent review, we have determined that the proposed project would have no effect on Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.

The Surface Transportation Board and the Washington Department of Transportation mailed copies of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment for this project on November 8, 2008, and the comment period ended on December 8, 2008. Would you let me know if the USFWS is planning to submit comments on this proposed rail project? We are also awaiting word from the USFWS on whether it concurs with our determination that the proposed construction and operation of rail line segments, as well as the alternatives, are not likely to adversely affect Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.

Thank you,  
Christa Dean

Christa L. Dean, Attorney  
Surface Transportation Board  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
202.245.0299