

anchorage within the vicinity of the exposed underwater pipeline.

A letter to KWPC of November 29, 2005, signed by the Chief, Prevention Division, Seventh Coast Guard District, USCG states:

"The pipeline is submerged in a shallow area that is transited solely by recreational vessels and surrounding waters restrict the size of vessels that can transit the Fleming Key Cut. Due to the surrounding water depths, vessels would run aground before contacting the pipeline. Furthermore, covering the pipeline with the appropriate amount of fill would reduce water depth further. Based on the above factors, I have determined the exposed section of pipeline does not pose danger to navigation that requires USCG action under existing statutory authorities."

Special Permit Findings

PHMSA finds that granting this special permit is not inconsistent with pipeline safety and will provide a level of safety equal to or greater than reburial of the exposed underwater pipeline segment. We do so because the special permit analysis shows the following:

(1) The alternate pipeline marking method proposed by KWPC, and agreed to by the USCG, will provide for three pipeline markers in lieu of one pipeline marker and will provide adequate warning to passing boats in Fleming Channel.

(2) The alternate pipeline marking method proposed by KWPC, and agreed to by the USCG, will avoid the navigational hazard that would be created by placing a single marker above the center of the exposed underwater pipeline segment.

(3) The underwater exposed pipeline segment is in a shallow channel where it is unlikely to be struck by a commercial fishing vessel or gear from a commercial fishing vessel.

(4) The underwater exposed pipeline segment is in a shallow channel restricted area where the U.S. Navy enforces a prohibition against anchoring.

(5) The USCG states the surrounding water depths would cause vessels to run aground before contacting the underwater exposed pipeline segment.

(6) PHMSA is granting this special permit subject to conditions and limitations to ensure KWPC employs an alternate marking method to provide a level of safety equal to or greater than a marker placed above the center of the exposed underwater pipeline segment.

(7) PHMSA is granting this special permit subject to conditions and limitations to ensure KWPC employs alternative actions to provide a level of safety equal to or greater than reburial

of the exposed underwater pipeline segment.

Special Permit Grant

PHMSA grants a special permit of compliance from 49 CFR 195.413(c)(2) and 95.413(c)(3) to KWPC for 200 feet of the KWPC pipeline from station 0+00 to station 2+00 as shown in Figure 4 of the KWPC special permit request dated January 10, 2006.

Special Permit Conditions

PHMSA grants this special permit with the following conditions:

(1) KWPC will place signs on the shoreline of Key West and Fleming Key, immediately adjacent to the exposed underwater pipeline segment with the following information:

WARNING Restricted Area Transit
Only No Stopping or Anchoring Within
100 Yards of Shore Underwater Utility
33 CFR 334.610

(2) KWPC will place a similar sign on the west side of the road bridge linking Key West to Fleming Key.

(3) In addition to the 5-year inspections performed under KWPC's procedures for inspections of underwater segments in the Gulf of Mexico in waters less than 15 feet deep, KWPC will inspect the exposed underwater pipeline segment on an annual basis to confirm that there has been no material change in the condition of the exposed underwater pipeline segment.

(4) KWPC will notify the Director, PHMSA Southern Region within 30 days, in writing, of any

a. material change in condition of the exposed underwater pipeline segment found during any annual or 5-year inspection;

b. any reportable or non-reportable leaks or incidents on the KWPC pipeline, which impact the exposed underwater pipeline segment; and

c. mergers, acquisitions, transfer of assets or other events affecting the regulatory responsibility of the company operating the KWPC pipeline.

Special Permit Limitations

PHMSA has the sole authority to make all determinations on whether KWPC has complied with the specified conditions. Should KWPC fail to comply with any conditions of this special permit, or should PHMSA determine this special permit is no longer appropriate or that this special permit is inconsistent with pipeline safety, PHMSA may revoke this special permit and require KWPC to comply with the regulatory requirements of 49 CFR 195.413(c)(2) and 195.413(c)(3).

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60118(c)(1) and 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 6, 2008.

Jeffrey D. Wiese,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
[FR Doc. E8-2533 Filed 2-11-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 35095]

The Alaska Railroad Corporation—Petition for Exemption To Construct and Operate a Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, AK

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of Availability of the Draft Scope of Study for the Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of Scoping Meetings; and Request for Comments on Draft Scope.

SUMMARY: The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) plans to file a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 for authority to construct and operate approximately 30 to 45 miles of new rail line connecting the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Port MacKenzie (or Port) in south-central Alaska to a point on the ARRC main line between Wasilla and north of Willow, Alaska. The proposed Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (or Project) would provide freight services between the Port and Interior Alaska and would support the Port's continuing development as an intermodal and bulk material resources export and import facility. The Port is owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) and MSB is a co-sponsor of the Project. Because the construction and operation of this Project has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to notify individuals and agencies interested in or affected by the proposed Project of the decision to prepare an EIS. SEA will hold public scoping meetings as part of the NEPA process associated with the development of the EIS. Additionally, as part of the scoping process, SEA has developed a draft Scope of Study for the

EIS for review and comment. Public meeting dates and locations, along with the draft Scope of Study, are provided herein.

Dates and Locations: The public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

- March 3, 2008, 5–8 p.m. at Knik Elementary School, 6350 West Hollywood, Wasilla, AK.
- March 4, 2008, 5–8 p.m. at Big Lake Elementary School, 3808 South Big Lake Road, Big Lake, AK.
- March 5, 2008, 5–8 p.m. at Willow Area Community Center, Mile 70 Parks Highway, Willow, AK.
- March 6, 2008, 5–8 p.m. at Houston Middle School, 12801 W. Hawk Lane, Houston, AK.
- March 10, 2008, 5–8 p.m., at Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex, 1001 S. Mack Drive, Wasilla, AK.
- March 11, 2008, 5–8 p.m. at Anchorage Senior Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

The scoping meetings will be held in an informal workshop format during which interested persons may ask questions about the proposed Project and the Board's environmental review process, and advise SEA staff about potential environmental effects of the Project. No formal presentations will be made by agency representatives. SEA staff will be available to answer questions and receive comments individually.

The meeting locations comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*). Persons that need special accommodations should telephone SEA's toll-free number for the Project at 1-888-257-7560.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the draft Scope of Study, alternative routes for the proposed rail line, and other environmental issues and concerns by March 21, 2008, to assure full consideration during the scoping process. SEA will issue a final Scope of Study after the close of the scoping comment period.

Summary of the Board's

Environmental Review Process: The NEPA process is intended to assist the Board and the public in identifying and assessing the potential environmental consequences of a proposed action before a decision on the proposed action is made. SEA is responsible for ensuring that the Board complies with NEPA and related environmental statutes. The first stage of the EIS process is scoping. Scoping is an open process for determining the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. As part of the scoping process, SEA has

developed, and has made available in this notice, a draft Scope of Study for the EIS. Concurrently, scoping meetings will be held to provide further opportunities for public involvement and input during the scoping process. In addition to the Scope of Study, interested parties are also encouraged to comment on potential routes for the proposed Project. SEA is currently considering eight alternative routes that have been identified by MSB and ARRC. At the conclusion of the scoping and comment period, SEA will issue a final Scope of Study for the EIS.

After issuing the final Scope of Study, SEA will prepare a Draft EIS for the Project. The Draft EIS will address the environmental issues and concerns identified during the scoping process. It will also contain SEA's preliminary recommendations for environmental mitigation measures. The Draft EIS will be made available upon its completion for review and comment by the public, government agencies, and other interested parties. SEA will prepare a Final EIS that considers comments on the Draft EIS. In reaching its decision in this case, the Board will take into account the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all environmental comments that are received.

SEA has recently invited several agencies to participate in this EIS process as cooperating agencies on the basis of their special expertise or jurisdiction by law. These agencies include: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District; Alaska Department of Natural Resources; and U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration.

Filing Environmental Comments: Comments submitted by mail should be addressed to: David Navecky, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, Attention: Environmental Filing, STB Finance Docket No. 35095.

Comments may also be filed electronically on the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, by clicking on the "E-FILING" link.

Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35095 in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board.

Comments are due by March 21, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Navecky, Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423, or call SEA's toll-free number for the Project at 1-888-257-7560. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service

(FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. The Web site for the Board is <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Project specific information on the Board's Web site may be found by placing your cursor on the "Environmental Matters" button, then clicking on the "Key Cases" button in the drop down menu.

Draft Scope of Study for the EIS

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Project is to establish a rail link between the Port and the ARRC rail system, providing Port customers and shippers with rail transportation between the Port and Interior Alaska. The Port is a deepwater facility on the north side of Knik Arm in upper Cook Inlet, located in south-central Alaska. Presently, the only surface mode of freight transport available to the Port is trucking. The construction of a rail line would satisfy the need for an additional mode of transportation for the movement of bulk materials, intermodal containers, and other freight to and from the Port.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed rail line would extend approximately 30 to 45 miles, depending on the route selected, from the Port to ARRC's existing main line between Wasilla and north of Willow. Other major elements of the proposed Project would include a 200-foot-wide right-of-way; crossings of local roads, streams, trails, and utility corridors; sidings; and ancillary facilities. The anticipated train traffic would be two trains daily on average, with one train per day traveling in each direction. The EIS will analyze the potential impacts of alternative routes and a no-action alternative.

The reasonable and feasible alternatives that will be evaluated in the EIS are: (1) Construction and operation of the proposed rail line along several alternative alignments, (2) other route alternatives that might be identified during the scoping process, and (3) the no-action alternative.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Proposed New Construction

Analysis in the EIS will address the proposed activities associated with the construction and operation of new rail facilities and their potential environmental impacts, as appropriate.

Impact Categories

The EIS will analyze potential direct and indirect impacts for each alternative of the proposed construction and operation of new rail facilities on the human and natural environment, or in

the case of the no-action, of the lack of these activities. Impact areas addressed will include the categories of land use, recreation, biological resources, water resources including wetlands and other waters of the U.S., navigation, geology and soils, air quality, noise, energy resources, socioeconomics as they relate to physical changes in the environment, safety, grade crossing delay, cultural and historic resources, and environmental justice. Other categories of impacts may also be included as a result of comments received during the scoping process or the draft EIS. The EIS will include a discussion of each of these categories as they currently exist in the Project area and will address the potential direct and indirect impacts of each alternative on each category as described below:

1. Safety

The EIS will:

- a. Describe existing road/rail grade crossing safety and analyze the potential for an increase in accidents related to the new rail operations, as appropriate.
- b. Describe existing rail operations and analyze the potential for increased probability of train accidents, as appropriate.
- c. Evaluate the potential for disruption and delays to the movement of emergency vehicles.
- d. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts to safety, as appropriate.

2. Land Use

The EIS will:

- a. Evaluate potential impacts of each alternative on existing land use patterns within the Project area and identify those land uses that would be potentially impacted by new rail line construction.
- b. Analyze the potential impacts associated with each alternative to land uses identified within the Project area. Such potential impacts may include incompatibility with existing land use and conversion of land to railroad use.
- c. Determine if the proposed rail line is consistent with Alaska's coastal management program.
- d. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential impacts to land use, as appropriate.

3. Recreation

The EIS will:

- a. Evaluate existing conditions and the potential impacts of the alternatives, including the various new rail line construction alignments and their operation, on recreational trails and other opportunities provided in the Project area.

b. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts on recreational opportunities, as appropriate.

4. Biological Resources

The EIS will:

- a. Evaluate the existing biological resources within the Project area, including vegetative communities, wildlife, anadromous and other fisheries, wetlands, and Federal and state threatened or endangered species and the potential impacts to these resources resulting from each alternative.
- b. Describe any wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, national or state parks, forests, or grasslands and evaluate the potential impacts to these resources resulting from each alternative.
- c. Propose mitigative measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for potential impacts to biological resources, as appropriate.

5. Water Resources

The EIS will:

- a. Describe the existing surface water and groundwater resources within the Project area, including lakes, rivers, streams, stock ponds, wetlands, and floodplains and analyze the potential impacts on these resources resulting from each alternative.

b. Describe the permitting requirements for the various alternatives with regard to wetlands, stream and river crossings, water quality, floodplains, and erosion control.

c. Propose mitigative measures to avoid, minimize or compensate for potential Project impacts to water resources, as appropriate.

6. Navigation

The EIS will:

- a. Identify existing navigable waterways within the Project area and analyze the potential impacts on navigability resulting from each alternative.
- b. Describe the permitting requirements for the various alternatives with regards to navigation.
- c. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential impacts to navigation, as appropriate.

7. Geology and Soils

The EIS will:

- a. Describe the geology, soils and seismic conditions found within the Project area, including unique or problematic geologic formations or soils, prime farmland, and hydric soils, and analyze the potential impacts on these resources resulting from the various alternatives for construction and operation of a new rail line.

b. Evaluate potential measures employed to avoid or construct through unique or problematic geologic formations or soils.

c. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts to geology and soils, as appropriate.

8. Air Quality

The EIS will:

- a. Evaluate rail operation air emissions, if the alternative would affect a Class I or non-attainment or maintenance area as designated under the Clean Air Act.

b. Describe the potential air quality impact resulting from new rail line construction activities.

c. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts to air quality, as appropriate.

9. Noise

The EIS will:

- a. Describe the potential noise impacts during new rail line construction.

b. Describe the potential noise impacts of new rail line operation.

c. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts to sensitive noise receptors, as appropriate.

10. Energy Resources

The EIS will:

- a. Describe and evaluate the potential impact of the new rail line on the distribution of energy resources in the Project area for each alternative, including petroleum and gas pipelines and overhead electric transmission lines.

b. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts to energy resources, as appropriate.

11. Socioeconomics

The EIS will:

- a. Analyze the effects of a potential influx of construction workers and the potential increase in demand for local services interrelated with natural or physical environmental effects.

b. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project adverse impacts to social and economic resources, as appropriate.

12. Transportation Systems

The EIS will:

- a. Evaluate the potential impacts of each alternative, including new rail line construction and operation, on the existing transportation network in the Project area, including vehicular delays at grade crossings.

b. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts to transportation systems, as appropriate.

13. Cultural and Historic Resources

The EIS will:

a. Analyze the potential impacts to historic structures or districts previously recorded and determined potentially eligible, eligible, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places within or immediately adjacent to the right-of-way for the proposed rail alignments.

b. Evaluate the potential impacts of each alternative to archaeological sites previously recorded and either listed as unevaluated or determined potentially eligible, eligible, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places within the right-of-way for the alternative rail alignments and the no-action alternative.

c. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts to cultural and historic resources, as appropriate.

14. Environmental Justice

The EIS will:

a. Evaluate the potential impacts of each alternative, including construction and operation of the rail lines, on local and regional minority populations and low-income populations.

b. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential Project impacts on environmental justice issues, as appropriate.

15. Cumulative Impacts

The EIS will address the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Anne K. Quinlan,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Agency Information Collection Activities; Renewal Without Change of a Current Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In order to comply with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FinCEN intends to submit the information collection addressed in this notice for a three-year extension of approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB Control Number 1506-0043 currently covers the information collection addressed in this notice. Prior to submission of the extension request, FinCEN is soliciting comment on those information collections in 31 CFR 103.177, Prohibition on correspondent accounts for foreign shell banks; records concerning owners of foreign banks and agents for service of legal process.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 14, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by 1506-0043, by any of the following methods:

- Federal e-rulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: regcomments@fincen.gov. Include OMB Control Number 1506-0043 in the subject line of the message.

- Mail: Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, P.O. Box 39, Vienna, VA 22183. Include OMB Control Number 1506-0043 in the body of the text.

Instructions: It is preferable for comments to be submitted by electronic mail. Please submit comments by one method only. All submissions received must include the agency name and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number for this rulemaking. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.fincen.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Inspection of comments: Comments may be inspected, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., in the FinCEN reading room in Vienna, VA. Persons wishing to inspect the comments submitted must request an appointment with the Disclosure Officer by telephoning (703) 905-5034 (Not a toll free call).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FinCEN Regulatory helpline at (800) 949-2732 and select Option 6.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bank Secrecy Act ("BSA"), Titles I and II of Public Law 91-508, as amended, codified at 12 U.S.C. 1829(b), 12 U.S.C. 1951-1959, and 31 U.S.C. *et seq.*, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, *inter alia*, to issue regulations requiring records and reports that are determined to have a high degree of usefulness in criminal, tax and regulatory matters.

Title III of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, Public Law 107-56, included certain amendments to the anti-money laundering provisions of Title II of the BSA, 31 U.S.C. 5311 *et seq.*, which are intended to aid in the prevention, detection and prosecution of international money laundering and terrorist financing. Regulations implementing Title II of the BSA appear at 31 CFR part 103. The authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to administer Title II of the BSA has been delegated to the Director of FinCEN. The information collected and retained under the regulation addressed in this notice assist federal, state, and local law enforcement as well as regulatory authorities in the identification, investigation and prosecution of money laundering and other matters. In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), and its implementing regulations, the following information is presented concerning the information collection below.

Title: Correspondent Accounts for Foreign Shell Banks; Recordkeeping and Termination of Correspondent Accounts for Foreign Banks (31 CFR 103.177).

OMB Number: 1506-0043.¹

Abstract: Covered financial institutions are prohibited from maintaining correspondent accounts for foreign shell banks (31 CFR 103.177(a)(1)). Covered financial institutions that maintain correspondent accounts for foreign banks must maintain records of owner(s) of the foreign bank and the names and address of a person residing in the United States who is authorized to accept service of legal process for the foreign bank (31 CFR 103.177(a)(2)). Covered financial institutions may satisfy these requirements by using the sample certification and re-certification forms contained in Appendices A and B of 31 CFR 103. Records of documents relied upon by a financial institution for purposes of 31 CFR 103.177 must be maintained for at least five years after the date that the financial institution no longer maintains a correspondent account for such foreign bank (31 CFR 103.177(e)).

Current Action: There is no change to the existing regulations.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or for-profit institutions, and non-profit institutions.

Burden: The estimated average annual reporting burden associated with

¹ This collection was formerly assigned OMB Control number 1505-0184.