

APPENDIX H: AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE & PUBLIC COMMENTS



Federal Railroad
Administration

Port Bienville Railroad Environmental Impact Statement

Agency Coordination &
Public Involvement Plan



Port Bienville Railroad

Agency Coordination & Public Involvement Plan

1. Purpose of Coordination Plan

This document provides a framework for the agency, stakeholder, and public involvement activities that will be undertaken during the Port Bienville Railroad Phase 1 Feasibility Study and Phase 2 Environmental Documentation. Coordination with interested parties was initiated during the Phase 1 Feasibility Study, and the information collected and parties reached during that phase will be carried forward in the process to the Phase 2 Environmental Documentation outreach activities. In anticipation of Phase 2, this Coordination Plan addresses requirements outlined in SAFETEA-LU Section 6002.

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires that lead agencies establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation and comment during the environmental review process. The purpose of this Coordination Plan is to define the process by which the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Hancock County Ports and Harbor Commission (HCPHC), will communicate information about the Port Bienville Railroad Feasibility Study and appropriate environmental documentation to the public, stakeholders, and agencies. The Plan also identifies how input will be solicited and considered.

The Coordination Plan integrates the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements in order to reduce delay in the environmental review process. This Plan has been prepared in collaboration with the MDOT and FRA for the completion of the Port Bienville Railroad Project through Hancock and Pearl River Counties in the State of Mississippi.

This Coordination Plan will:

- Describe the early coordination efforts conducted during Phase 1;
- Identify potential cooperating and participating agencies to be involved in agency coordination (Phase 2);
- Establish the timing and form of agency involvement in defining the project's purpose and need and study area, the range of alternatives to be investigated and methodologies, as well reviewing documents (Phase 2);
- Establish the timing and form of public involvement in defining the project's purpose and need and study area and the range of alternatives to be investigated, providing input on issues of concern and environmental features, and commenting on the findings presented (Phase 2); and
- Describe the communication methods that will be implemented to inform stakeholders and the public about the project (Phase 2).

The Coordination Plan will be updated periodically to reflect any changes to the project schedule and other items that typically require updating over the course of the project.

The Plan will be divided into two major sections, the involvement of agencies and the involvement of stakeholders and the general public. Each of these sections will identify the activities that will occur during Phase 2 of the Project. Agencies are defined as any local, state or federal government body that has authority in the decision making process. A stakeholder is defined as a group, organization or business that has a stake or major interest in the project. The public is defined as individuals that live or work within in the study area or may be impacted by the project.

2. Project Description

MDOT conducted a Feasibility Study and is pursuing the appropriate Environmental Documentation for the location of a new railroad line to connect the Port of Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park (Port), Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County.

The ultimate goal is to identify feasible alternatives and to obtain an approved environmental document for the preferred location of this proposed rail line. This project includes two phases. The first phase, Phase 1, determined the feasibility of constructing and operating the rail line, reasonable alternative corridors for consideration, and the economic benefits including potential funding sources. This was through a Class of Action Recommendation Memo submitted to FRA. The second phase, Phase 2, will include the preparation of an environmental impact statement based on the known existing conditions to determine potential human and natural environment impacts of the project.

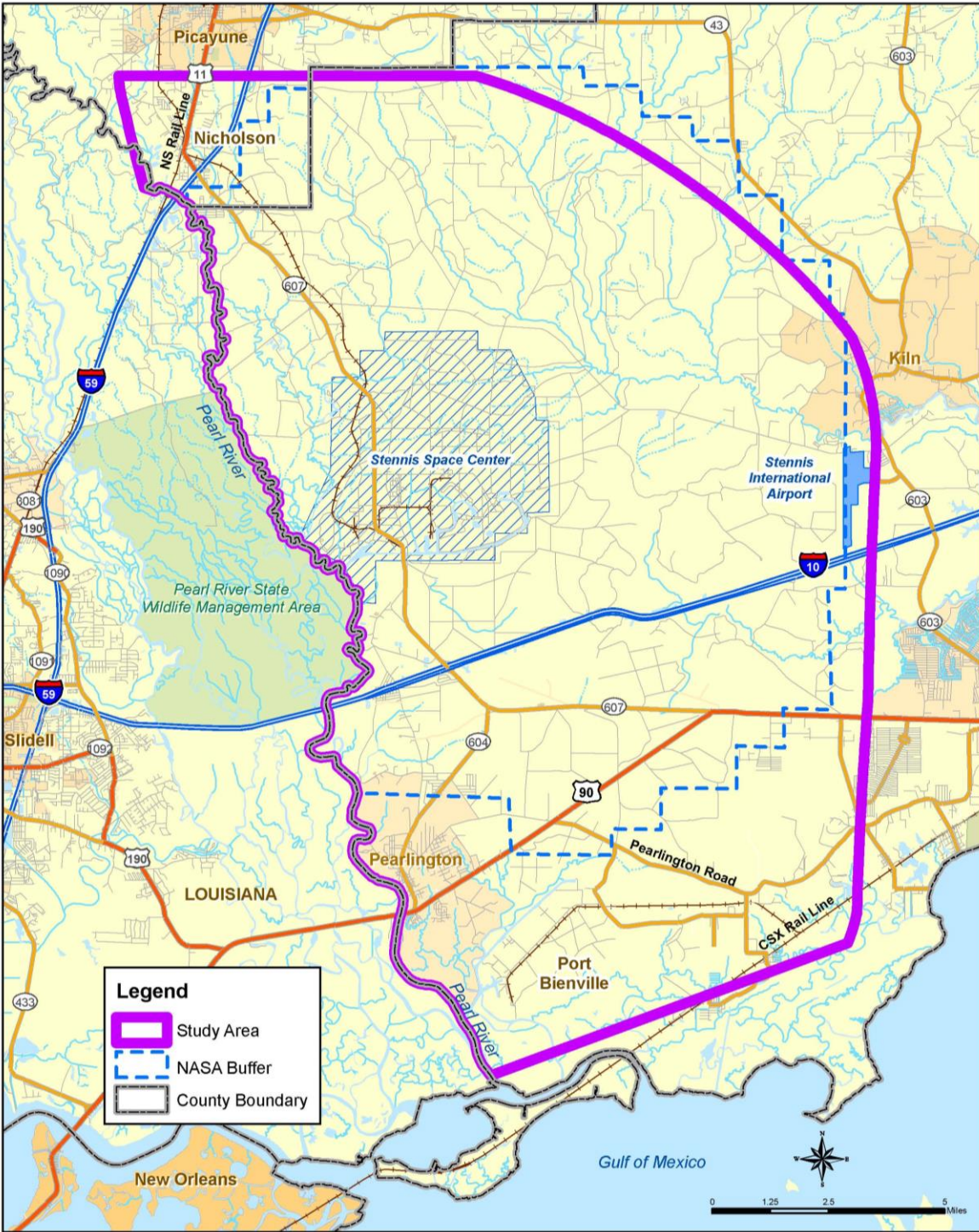
There are three guiding principles for this Project:

- First, that any plan to locate the railroad must provide positive benefits for the Port, the Railroads, and the counties involved.
- Secondly, the railroad location corridor must be compatible with the county's natural and human environment.
- Finally, the MDOT anticipates a high degree of community and stakeholder involvement and participation throughout the process. The MDOT and the CDM Smith Team will be proactively engaged to ensure effective stakeholder involvement during the course of this study.

2.1 Study Area

The Project Study Area, in general, encompasses a portion of Hancock and Pearl River Counties. The project study area is generally bounded by Nicholson to the north, Port Bienville Industrial Park to the south, the Pearl River to the west, and Stennis International Airport and Kiln to the east, representing a study area of approximately 180 sq. mi. The proposed railway corridor is expected not to exceed a length of 30 mi. A map of the project study area is provided in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1. Project Study Area



3. Agency Involvement (Phase 2)

3.1 Agency Roles and Responsibilities

FRA will be the lead federal agency for this project. As lead federal agency in the Section 6002 process, FRA is responsible for making certain decisions specified in Section 6002. In addition, FRA has an overall responsibility for facilitating the expeditious completion of the environmental review process, reviewing and accepting the environmental document, and ensuring MDOT complies with all requirements. MDOT, in cooperation with HCPHC as project sponsor, will act as Joint Lead Agency for this project.

As outlined in the SAFETEA-LU Section 6002 Environmental Review Process Checklist and in cooperation with FRA, this Plan is intended to define the process by which FRA shall communicate information about the project to the lead, cooperating, participating and other agencies. The plan will identify early coordination efforts, identify cooperating and participating agencies, and establish the timing and form for agency involvement in defining the project's purpose and need, as well as the alternatives to be investigated. The following provides a description of agency involvement.

In addition to FRA, the study team for this project consists of MDOT, HCPHC, FHWA, and the consultant team of CDM Smith and HDR. For more information about the study team coordination, see Section 7.

Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating Agencies are any federal agency other than the lead agency that has discretionary authority over the proposed action, jurisdiction by law, or special expertise with respect to the environmental impacts expected to result from the proposed project. Federal agencies with jurisdiction by law (with permitting or land transfer authority) are required to be invited to be Cooperating Agencies for an EIS.

Invitations to be a cooperating agency will be sent following the scoping meeting. If at any point new information reveals the need to request another agency to serve as a Cooperating Agency, FRA will issue that federal agency an invitation. MDOT will issue requests to non-federal agencies. A list of potential cooperating agencies is provided in Appendix A (*Note: Appendix A is a work-in-progress and will be finalized as the project evolves*).

Participating Agencies (coordination through MDOT)

Participating agencies are those that may have an interest in the project and is afforded an opportunity for involvement in the development of the proposed project. Participating agencies may also provide access to information integral to understanding and assessing the potential impacts and benefits of the project.

MDOT will formally invite participating agencies to participate in the environmental review of the project. Invitations to be a participating agency will be sent at the beginning of Phase 2. A list of proposed participating agencies is provided in Appendix A.

3.2 Scoping

At the beginning of Phase 2, an invitation to an agency scoping meeting will be sent to federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise and/or federal, state, tribal, regional, and local government agencies with an interest in the proposal or study area. The letters will include a Project Summary, Project Location Map, and background information from Phase 1 of the project, including the Feasibility Study.

The format of the agency scoping meeting will be a general meeting with presentation of project information. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the project scope, needs and objectives; review

the Phase 1 Feasibility Study, including the corridors that were identified; gather pertinent information and identify issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EIS; discuss agency roles and responsibilities discuss the next steps in the EIS process. ***The scoping meeting was held on August 19, 2015.***

A separate meeting with the American Indian Tribal representatives will be held if determined to be necessary.

3.3 Agency Coordination Meetings

In addition to scoping, two additional agency coordination meetings will be held during the development of the project at key project milestones. These meetings will provide opportunities provide agencies with project updates and allow agencies to provide input on these coordination points.

3.3.1 Coordination Points

Cooperating and participating agencies have legal and general governmental obligations to work cooperatively to improve the environmental review process.

The intent of coordination points is to set a deadline for agency input in order to move the project study forward. These coordination points do not require concurrence or total agreement between agencies. If there is not concurrence, the lead and cooperating agencies will take information into account when project decisions are being made.

The cooperating and participating agencies identified in Appendix A will at a minimum be participating at the following four coordination points in the environmental review process during Phase 2:

- Scoping Meeting;
- Agency Coordination Meeting #1;
- Review of the environmental document; and
- Agency Coordination Meeting #2.

The process for coordination associated with each of the major milestones (coordination points) for this project are listed in **Table 1** and **Table 2** below.

Table 1. Coordination Points, Information Requirements and Responsibilities

COORDINATION POINT	INFORMATION OUT FROM LEAD AGENCIES	INFORMATION IN (INPUT)	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR INPUT
Scoping Meeting	Provide a project overview and results of Phase 1 to the agencies, stakeholders, and public. Discuss how corridors were identified and evaluated in Phase 1 with the agency.	Comments on the issues and concerns in the study area. Comments on draft purpose and need.	All cooperating and participating agencies and the public.
Agency Coordination Meeting #1	Review of the range of corridors, refinement and identification of reasonable alternatives to carry into the EIS.	Comments on potential alternatives and issues of concern.	All participating and cooperating agencies and the public.

Table 1. Coordination Points, Information Requirements and Responsibilities

COORDINATION POINT	INFORMATION OUT FROM LEAD AGENCIES	INFORMATION IN (INPUT)	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR INPUT
	Provide agencies and the public with purpose and need statement;	Comments on Purpose and Need and issues of concern. <i>(Note: 30-day Comment Period for Participating and Cooperating Agencies and Public)</i>	All cooperating and participating agencies and the public.
	Impact Assessment Methodologies - Provide agencies opportunity to collaborate on the development and review of the methodologies and level of detail required for the analysis of reasonable alternatives.	Collaboration and input through the development of methodologies, and comments on proposed methodologies.	All participating and cooperating agencies.
Review of the environmental document.	Circulate of the document to agencies.	Comments on the environmental document.	Cooperating agencies and potentially all participating.
Agency Coordination Meeting #2	Preferred Alternative: Provide agencies and the public with the identified preferred alternative	Comments on the preferred alternative.	All cooperating and agencies and participating the public.

Table 2. How Lead Agencies Will Make Information Available

Coordination Point	Cooperating/Participating Agencies	Public
Purpose and Need	Discuss needs for the project at Phase 1 scoping meeting; provide draft purpose and need statement at Phase 2 scoping meeting.	Provide draft purpose and need statement at Phase 2 scoping meeting.
Range of Alternatives	Discuss AART corridor identification and evaluation during Phase 1; present range of alternatives identified in Phase 1 at Phase 2 scoping agency meeting.	Provide reasonable alternatives at public information meeting.
Impact assessment methodologies Level of detail required for analysis of alternatives	Circulate applicable impact assessment methodologies with agencies via individual meetings or email correspondence; present methodologies via regularly scheduled coordination meetings.	None
Review of the environmental document.	Circulate document to cooperating agencies.	Circulate document to libraries within the study area and make EIS available at public hearing.
Preferred Alternative	Present preferred alternative to agencies at agency coordination meetings	Present preferred alternative to public via the environmental document

4. Additional Coordination Activities

4.1 Section 106 Consulting Party Coordination

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires the FRA and MDOT, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officers, to identify potential consulting parties and to invite them to participate in the Section 106 process.

FRA may use its procedures for public involvement under NEPA to satisfy the NHPA Section 106 requirements for public involvement as well, providing they offer adequate opportunities for public involvement. The NHPA requires the federal agency or its designee to seek the participation and consider the opinions on interested and appropriate parties throughout the Section 106 process including the identification and evaluation of cultural resources potentially affected by the project, the evaluation of project effects to historic properties, and the development of appropriate mitigation plans as needed. This involvement is referred to as consultation. MDOT shall consider the nature of the project and the kinds of historic properties potentially affected to identify the appropriate individuals, organizations, and entities with whom FRA will consult. Because MDOT considers Section 106 requirements early in the NEPA process, compliance with both statues will be coordinated throughout the project.

The project team will contact the Mississippi SHPO during the early phase of the project development process for any guidance or information to avoid any known archeological sites in the study area. A completed Request for Cultural Resources Assessment form will be submitted to the Mississippi SHPO at the Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Mississippi SHPO has 30 days to review the project.

4.2 Tribal Consultation

FRA will be responsible for all coordination with all federally recognized Native American Tribes. As the lead federal agency, FRA initiated government-to-government consultation by letter with the federally recognized Native American tribes in Mississippi listed below:

- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Chickasaw Nation
- Jena Band of Choctaw
- Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana, Inc.
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Muscogee Creek Nation

Tribal consultation will occur at the four coordination points identified in Section 3.3.1. FRA will be responsible for coordination with all the federally recognized Native American Tribes for this project.

5. Public Involvement Activities

The public will be provided opportunities to provide specific input on the purpose and need, the EIS, and the preferred alternative. A project specific plan for public input has been developed below which outlines the opportunities to be provided to the public to be involved in the project development process and describes strategies for encouraging public input, as required by NEPA.

5.1 Key Messages

There are several key messages that will be emphasized and communicated to stakeholders and the public throughout the study. These messages are intended to support the goals of the Public Involvement Plan:

- The study is an objective process to help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve the rail transportation needs of Port Bienville and the area.
- Before a project can be constructed, the FRA requires the completion of an environmental study.
- The feasibility study was completed in February 2013. The environmental study is expected to be complete in the fall of 2017.
- Funding sources for construction have yet to be identified.
- MDOT and FRA encourage the public's participation and will actively seek out and engage all who may be affected.
- The public has a voice in the decision-making process and MDOT will listen to and consider all input.

5.2 Public Scoping Meeting

A formal public scoping meeting will be held early on in Phase 2 to inform the public about the environmental study, identify any issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EIS, and solicit input on the draft project purpose and need.

5.3 Public Meetings

Up to two public meetings will be conducted during Phase 2. A second public meeting will be held to inform the public about study milestones and achievements and provide an opportunity to comment on the range of reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS.

The public meetings will be an open house format to allow attendees to review exhibits, discuss issues with project personnel one-on-one, and to provide written and oral comments. Short presentations at the public meetings may be provided by the project team.

Notices will be sent to public officials, elected officials, property owners, and other key stakeholders giving notification of each meeting/hearing. FRA will also notify members of the public who have requested to be notified of any public involvement activities through.

MDOT will publish print advertisements and notices in the local media to reach as broad a spectrum of the community in the study area as possible. The following is a list of local newspapers that will be used to disseminate information to the public: *The Sun Herald* (Biloxi); *The Sea Coast Echo* (Bay Saint Louis) and *The Picayune Item* (Picayune). Each ad will consist of a quarter-page ad.

Meeting notices and advertisements will also be published on the www.gomdot.com website.

5.4 Public Hearing

Upon issuance of the Draft EIS, a public hearing will be held to receive comments the project and the document. The public hearing will be an open-house format to allow attendees to review exhibits, discuss issues with project personnel one-on-one, and to provide written and oral comments. The open house portion of the hearing will be followed by a formal presentation with the opportunity for the public to make oral comments. A court reporter will be available at the hearing to transcribe comments that individuals may want to give orally. The study team will prepare an official transcript of the public hearing.

Notices will be sent to public officials, elected officials, property owners, and other key stakeholders giving notification of each meeting/hearing. Print advertisements and notices will also be published in the local media to reach as broad a spectrum of the community in the study area as possible.

5.5 Key Stakeholder Meetings

The Project Team will be available to conduct briefings, interviews, and/or small group meetings with local officials, key community leaders, community/civic groups, business groups, or other interested parties or organizations. These activities will also be used as opportunities to disseminate information about the project, solicit public input on the study issues and corridor needs, answer questions, and present findings.

The Project Team will work with local officials, schools, churches, and various other entities to facilitate involvement from residents and other stakeholders in the project area in settings that are accessible and comfortable.

During Phase 2, key stakeholders will continue to be engaged to provide feedback and comments that will be used during major coordination and decision making milestones.

A list of key stakeholders and full contact information is provided in Appendix A.

6. Communications Protocol

6.1 Media Relations

MDOT will handle all contact with the media during the project. During Phase 2, public involvement will be coordinated through Sedrick Durr, who is responsible for outreach within MDOT's Environmental Division. Project updates may be provided to the media at major project milestones. Notices of public meetings and hearings will be advertised in local media outlets. Advertisements must be published in the newspaper at least 14 days prior to any public meeting.

FRA Public Affairs will speak on behalf of FRA on project related issues.

6.2 Project Factsheets

Project fact sheets will be developed, during Phase 2, to be distributed during outreach efforts and public meetings. The fact sheets will be published both in print and posted to MDOT's website for distribution in the study area.

6.3 Project Website Content

MDOT's website, www.gomdot.com, will be updated with project information, contact information, purpose and need of the project, study area maps, public meeting announcements, and other project information as needed. Sensitive data that is protected by federal and state regulations will not be accessible. FRA will maintain a website for the EIS. It will be updated by FRA periodically and will serve as a repository for the

Notice of Intent, Draft EIS, Final EIS, and Record of Decision (ROD). FRA will also publicize public meetings and provide general project information on the website.

6.4 Project Database

A project database and mailing list of interested parties was developed at the initiation of the feasibility study and it will be maintained throughout the project. It will be designed to allow for targeted mailings and updating information, if necessary. This database will be designed to allow for innovative means for communicating with the public, and allowing for citizens to decide to receive project information electronically or by paper mail. The database is located in Appendix A. It is expected that this will be a dynamic database and be updated regularly as additional Stakeholders are identified.

7. Study Team Coordination

The study team consists of MDOT, HCPHC, FRA, FHWA, and the consultant team of CDM Smith and HDR. Through the development of the Phase 2 and the EIS, the study team will conduct status meetings via conference calls every three weeks.

In addition, the study team will meet at key milestones during project development, including: designation of reasonable/build alternatives to be evaluated in the DEIS, review of the Administrative DEIS, and selection of a preferred alternative. These meetings may be conducted via conference call, webinar or in person.

Appendix A: List of Agencies and Stakeholders

Table A.1. Agencies and Stakeholders for the Port Bienville Railroad Feasibility Study

AGENCY NAME	CONTACT PERSON TITLE PHONE	ADDRESS E-MAIL	PROPOSED ROLE
CSX Transportation	John Sanford Manager Industrial Development (205) 943-4771	500 Beacon Parkway W. Birmingham, AL 35209 john_sanford@csx.com	Stakeholder
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4	Kenneth Dean EPA MDOT Liaison (678) 628-2079 (MS) (404) 562-9900 (GA)	6578 Dogwood View Pkwy, Ste. A Jackson, MS 39213 dean.william-kenneth@epa.gov	Stakeholder
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Claiborne Barnwell Project Development Team Leader (601) 965-4217	100 West Capitol Street, Suite 1062 Jackson, MS 39269 claiborne.barnwell@dot.gov	Cooperating Agency
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	Catherine Dobbs Environmental Specialist (202) 493-6347 John Winkle Grants Manager (202) 493-6067 Melissa Hatcher Environmental Protection Specialist (202) 493-6075	U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Ave SE Washington, DC 20590 Catherine.Dobbs@dot.gov john.winkle@dot.gov melissa.hatcher@dot.gov	Federal Lead Agency
Gulf Coast Business Council	Jack Norris President (228) 897-2020	11975-D Seaway Road Gulfport, MS 39503 jnorris@msgqcbc.org	Stakeholder
Gulf Regional Planning Commission	Elaine Wilkinson Executive Director (228) 864-1167	1232 Pass Road Gulfport, MS 39501 egw@grpc.com	Participating Agency
Hancock County Board of Supervisors (HCBOS)	Lisa Cowan President (228) 467-0172	854 Highway 90, Suite A Bay St. Louis, MS 39520	Participating Agency or Stakeholder
Hancock County Chamber of Commerce	Tish Williams Executive Director (228) 467-9048	111 Court Street Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 tish@hancockchamber.org	Stakeholder
Hancock County Ports & Harbor Commission (HCPHC)	Steve Landry Port Director (228) 533-0212 Janet Sacks Finance Director (228) 467-9231 Ashley Edwards (228) 223-1423	P.O. Box 2267 Bay St. Louis, MS 39521 slandry@hcphc.ms jsacks@hcphc.ms aedwards@hcphc.ms	Project Sponsor or Stakeholder

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AGENCY NAME	CONTACT PERSON TITLE PHONE	ADDRESS E-MAIL	PROPOSED ROLE
Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH)	H.T. Holmes Director (601) 576-6850 Pam Lieb (601) 576-6945 Greg Williamson Review and Compliance Officer 601-576-6538	P.O. Box 571 Jackson, MS 39205 hholmest@mdah.state.ms.us plieb@mdah.state.ms.us gwilliamson@mdah.state.ms.us	Participating Agency
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)	Trudy Fisher Executive Director (601) 961-5171 Florence Watson Branch Chief Water Quality Certification Section (601) 961-5614 Leah Drinnon Carrie Barefoot (601) 961-5171	P.O. Box 2261 Jackson, MS 39225 tfisher@mdeq.ms.gov P.O. Box 2249 Jackson, MS 39225 florence_watson@deg.state.ms.us leah_drinnon@deg.state.ms.us cabarefoot@envirocomp.net	Participating Agency
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR)	Dr. William W. Walker Executive Director (228) 374-5000 Willa Brantley Director Bureau of Wetlands Permitting (228) 523-4108	1141 Bayview Avenue Biloxi, MS 39530 bill.walker@dmr.ms.gov willa.brantley@dmr.ms.gov	Participating Agency
Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT)	Jeff Ely State Planning Engineer (601) 359-7667 Kim Thurman Environmental Division (601) 359-7922 Rhea Vincent Environmental Project Manager (601)359-7920 Sedrick Durr Environmental Division (601) 359-7920	PO Box 1850 Jackson, Ms 39215-1850 401 N. West Street Jackson, MS 39201 jely@mdot.state.ms.us kthurman@mdot.state.ms.us vincent@mdot.ms.gov sdurr@mdot.ms.gov	Joint Lead Agency or Project Sponsor
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Dr. Sam Polles Executive Director (601) 432-2400 Andy Sanderson Conservation Resources Biologist (601) 576-6064 Maya Rao Chief, Air Division 601-961-5242	1505 Eastover Drive Jackson, MS 39211 spolles@mdwfp.state.ms.us 2148 Riverside Drive Jackson, MS 39202 phillip.sanderson@mmns.state.ms.us & P. O. Box 2261 Jackson, MS 39225 maya_rao@deg.state.ms.us	Participating Agency

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AGENCY NAME	CONTACT PERSON TITLE PHONE	ADDRESS E-MAIL	PROPOSED ROLE
Mississippi Development Authority (MDA)	Brent Christensen Executive Director (601) 359-3449	PO Box 849 Jackson, Mississippi 39205	Stakeholder
Mississippi Enterprise for Technology, Stennis Space Center	Charles E. Beasley President & CEO (228) 688-3144	Building 1103, Suite 140 Stennis Space Center, MS 39259	Stakeholder
NASA, John C. Stennis Space Center	Patrick Scheuermann Director Tim Pierce Center Services Facility Planning & Utilization Division, NASA (228) 326-6532 Bo Clarke, P.E, Env Officer Center Operations Directorate (228) 342-4706	Center Operations Directorate Stennis Space Center, MS 39259 mark.v.glorioso@nasa.gov david.k.lorance@nasa.gov	Cooperating agency
NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office	Rick Hartman Habitat Conversation Division (225) 389-0508 Ext. 202 or 203	Baton Rouge, LA richard.hartman@noaa.gov	Cooperating Agency
Norfolk Southern	Mike Grimm Manager Industrial Development Direct Line (205) 451-4749 Fax (205) 451-4751	mike.grim@nscorp.com	Stakeholder
Partners for Pearl River County	(601) 749-4919	P.O. Box 278 Picayune, MS 39466 partners@partners.ms	Stakeholder
Pearl River Basin Development District	(601) 354-6301	P. O. Box 5332 Jackson, MS 39296	Stakeholder
Pearl River County Board of Supervisors (PRCBOS)	J. Patrick Lee President (601) 403-2300	200 South Main St. Poplarville, Ms. 39470	Participating Agency or Stakeholder
Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District	Leslie Newcomb Executive Director (228) 868-2311	9229 Highway 49 Gulfport, MS 39503	Stakeholder
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service	James Curtis Acting State Conservationist (601) 965-5205 Delaney Johnson (601)965-5205	100 W. Capitol Street Suite 1321, Federal Building Jackson, MS 39269 James.curtis2@ms.usda.gov Delaney.johnson@ms.usda.gov	Cooperating Agency
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NEPA Program, Office of Policy and Management	Ntale Kajumba (404) 562-9620	Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsythe St., SW Atlanta, GA kajumba.ntal@epa.gov	Stakeholder

Table A.1. Agencies and Stakeholders for the Port Bienville Railroad Feasibility Study

AGENCY NAME	CONTACT PERSON TITLE PHONE	ADDRESS E-MAIL	PROPOSED ROLE
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 4	David Felder Highway Projects Biologist MDOT Liaison (601) 321-1131 (601) 965-4900 Amy Carson (601) 321-1130	6578 Dogwood View Pkwy, Ste. A Jackson, MS 39213 david.felder@fws.gov amy.commens-carson@fws.gov	Cooperating Agency
USACE Mobile District	Charles Allred (601) 631-5546	Charles.r.allred@usace.army.mil P.O. Box 2288 Mobile, AL 36628	Cooperating Agency
USACE Vicksburg District	Anthony Lobred Project Manager Permit Compliance MDOT Liaison (601) 631-5470	4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183 anthony.r.lobred@usace.army.mil	Cooperating Agency
Federal Aviation Administration(FAA)	Jonathan Linquist (601) 664-9893	PO Box 20636 Atlanta, Ga 30320 Jonathan.linquist@faa.gov	Participating Agency
Wetlands Solutions <i>(Mitigation Bank in Study Area)</i>	(228) 575-7747	14231 Seaway Road, Suite 7007 Gulfport, MS 39503	Stakeholder

Note: This list will be revised and expanded as the project progresses.

Other Interested Parties

- Property owners
- Homeowners groups/neighborhood associations
- Business associations
- Churches
- Citizens groups



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class 1 rail service. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FRA is the lead federal agency and the MDOT has agreed to serve as the co-lead state agency. Your and other federal agencies will likely have other regulatory approvals for the final proposed action.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the lead agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the EIS. Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have interest in the proposed project due the requirements of various environmental regulations. Furthermore, FRA and MDOT invite the participation of the Surface Transportation Board as a Cooperating Agency in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS, in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the Lead Agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the third-party EIS. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Participate in coordination meetings.
2. Provide meaningful input on refining the purpose and need, determining range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
3. Identify issues, concerns and any studies that the third-party EIS should address and assist the agency in determining appropriate mitigation strategies
4. Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document.

Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the Surface Transportation Board to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Kurt Readus, State Conservationist
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 West Capitol Street, Suite 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

FEB 3 2016
FRA

Dear Mr. Readus:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class 1 rail service. Dual Class 1 rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FRA is the lead federal agency and the MDOT has agreed to serve as the co-lead state agency. Your and other federal agencies will likely have other regulatory approvals for the final proposed action.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the lead agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the EIS. Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have interest in the proposed project due the requirements of various environmental regulations. Furthermore, FRA and MDOT invite the participation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Cooperating Agency in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS, in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the Lead Agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the third-party EIS. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Participate in coordination meetings.
2. Provide meaningful input on refining the purpose and need, determining range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
3. Identify issues, concerns and any studies that the third-party EIS should address and assist the agency in determining appropriate mitigation strategies
4. Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document.

Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the Natural Resources Conservation Service to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,



David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

Mark Thompson, Director
Habitat Conversation Division
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
3500 Delwood Beach Road
Panama City, FL 32408

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class 1 rail service. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

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Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "V".

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

Mr. John Bailey Jr.
John C. Stennis Space Center
Mail Code EA00
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

Dear Mr. Bailey:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class I rail service. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

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4. Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document.

Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

Dennis Roberts, Southern Region Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
P.O. Box 20636
Atlanta, GA 30320

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class I rail service. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

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As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the Lead Agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the third-party EIS. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

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4. Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document.

Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the Federal Aviation Administration to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

Claiborne Barnwell, Project Development Team Leader
Federal Highway Administration
100 West Capitol Street, Suite 1062
Jackson, MS 39269

Dear Mr. Barnwell:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class 1 rail service. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FRA is the lead federal agency and the MDOT has agreed to serve as the co-lead state agency. Your and other federal agencies will likely have other regulatory approvals for the final proposed action.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the lead agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the EIS. Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have interest in the proposed project due the requirements of various environmental regulations. Furthermore, FRA and MDOT invite the participation of the Federal Highway Administration as a Cooperating Agency in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS, in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the Lead Agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the third-party EIS. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

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4. Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document.

Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the Federal Highway Administration to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,



David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

Stephen Ricks, Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Dear Mr. Ricks:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class 1 rail service. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

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Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

cc: Amy Commens-Carson, Highway Projects Biologist



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

David M. Frank, Chief
Bridge Administration Branch
U.S. Coast Guard
Hale Boggs Bldg., 501 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Mr. Frank:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

The proposed action will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad, located in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class 1 rail service. Dual Class 1 rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to this region that require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricane disasters that have significantly affected local economies. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015 and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

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- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
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- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,



David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 3 2016

Jennifer Mallard, Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183

Dear Ms. Mallard:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi.

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Once again, FRA and MDOT are inviting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

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- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Melissa Hatcher at Melissa.hatcher@dot.gov or 202-493-6075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Valenstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

cc: Anthony Lobred, Project Manager, Permit Compliance



*SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis*

March 8, 2016

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

In response to your letter dated February 3, 2016, the Surface Transportation Board, which has jurisdiction over entry and exit licensing of freight railroads, accepts your invitation to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Freight Railroad Project. We understand the EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the construction of a new 24-mile freight rail line connecting the Port Bienville Shortline Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock County to the Norfolk Southern main line in Nichols, Mississippi. We also understand that at this stage in project planning, an applicant has not been identified. Because the proposed project is likely to require Board authority, we look forward to cooperating with the Federal Railroad Administration and the Mississippi Department of Transportation to prepare appropriate environmental analyses that will satisfy the requirements of all three agencies.

Under the relevant regulations of both the President's Council on Environmental Quality and the Board's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Office of Environmental Analysis will review the EIS and provide information and comments to ensure the Board's compliance with NEPA and other environmental statutes. Our contact person will be Jeff Irwin, Environmental Protection Specialist in the Office of Environmental Analysis. He can be reached at 202-245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you and the Mississippi Department of Transportation on this NEPA review.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Cc: Rhea Vincent, Environmental Division, Mississippi Department of Transportation



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

March 14, 2016

F/SER46:RH:jk

225/389-0508

Mr. David Valenstein, Chief
Environmental and Corridor Planning Division
Federal Railroad Administration
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received your letter dated February 3, 2016, requesting our participation as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Port Bienville Project. The project consists of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols, Mississippi. The Federal Railroad Administration and Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) are federal and local sponsors overseeing EIS preparation.

Staff of NMFS have participated in one conference call to date on this project. Portions of the proposed new railroad are located in coastal areas in Mississippi having tidally influenced wetlands and waterbottoms categorized as essential fish habitat under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Such tidally influenced habitats are supportive of a variety of economically important marine fishery species under management by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Given the potential impacts to NMFS-trust resources which could result from project implementation, we agree to serve as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS for the Port Bienville railroad project. It should be noted that due to staffing and travel constraints, our participation in the preparation of the EIS may be limited to our review and comment on draft National Environmental Policy Act documents, teleconferences, and occasional travel to meetings.

We appreciate your invitation to serve as a cooperating agency on the EIS for the Port Bienville project. Richard Hartman in our Baton Rouge office should be your primary point of contact. His email address is Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov and his phone number is (225) 389-0508, extension 203.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division



c:

F/SER, Silverman
F/SER4, Dale
F/SER46, Swafford
FRA, DOT, Hatcher
Files



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
Phone: (601)965-4900 Fax: (601)965-4340

February 19, 2016

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2016-CPA-068

Mr. David Valenstein
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

Thank you for your letter from February 3, 2015, inviting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to become a cooperating agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared by the Federal Railroad Administration and the Mississippi Department of Transportation for the proposed Port of Bienville Railroad Project in Hancock and Pearl River counties, Mississippi. Our comments are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711), and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

The Service looks forward to being a cooperating agency for the Port Bienville Railroad Project and providing our expertise on trust fish and wildlife resources, federal listed candidate, threatened, and endangered species, and wetlands.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Carson in our office at amy_commens-carson@fws.gov or (601) 321-1130.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Ricks
Field Supervisor
Mississippi Field Office

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850
Telephone (601) 359-7001
FAX (601) 359-7110
GoMDOT.com



Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/Administration
Willie Huff
Director, Office of Enforcement
Charles R. Carr
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning

July 29, 2016

Mr. Gary Rikard
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Post Office Box 20305
Jackson, Mississippi 39289

Dear Mr. Rikard:

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency in the Port Bienville
Rail Study and Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The proposed Project would include the construction of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line in order to connect the Port Bienville Railroad (PBRR) in Hancock County with the Norfolk Southern (NS) railroad in Pearl River County.

The proposed railroad connection would provide the Port with access to two Class 1 rail services. The PBRR currently has a single connection with the CSX railroad, an east/west rail line. The connection to the NS railroad, a north/south rail line, would provide the PBRR with dual Class I rail access and would help Hancock County, Pearl River County, and the Stennis Space Center attract new industries and encourage economic growth and investment opportunities to help recover from the recent hurricane disasters. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015, and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

We are requesting that your agency be a participating agency pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) [Public Law 109-59, 8/10/2005]. We believe that your agency may have an interest in this transportation project. This designation would not imply that your agency supports the proposed project.

Pursuant to Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, social, or economic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Section 6002 is intended

Mr. Gary Rikard

July 29, 2016

Page 2

to ensure that agencies are fully engaged in the scoping of the project and have influence in the decisions regarding alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the NEPA analysis. Your agency's potential role as a participating agency in the development of the above project includes the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

- 1) Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
- 2) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- 3) Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

We ask that you respond to MDOT in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation no more than 30-days from the date of this letter. If you should choose to decline the invitation, please state your reason for doing so. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline an invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state that the agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

We look forward to your response to our request for your agency to be a participating agency and to working with you on this transportation project. The favor of a reply is requested by September 1, 2016. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact Adam Johnson at ajohnson@mdot.ms.gov or 601-359-7920.

Sincerely,



Ms. Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT:abj

cc: Ms. Florance Bass, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Michael T. McGuire, Project Manager, CDM Smith

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850
Telephone (601) 359-7001
FAX (601) 359-7110
GoMDOT.com



Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/Administration
Willie Huff
Director, Office of Enforcement
Charles R. Carr
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning

July 29, 2016

Ms. Katherine Blount
State Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Post Office Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Ms. Blount:

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency in the Port Bienville
Rail Study and Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The proposed Project would include the construction of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line in order to connect the Port Bienville Railroad (PBRR) in Hancock County with the Norfolk Southern (NS) railroad in Pearl River County.

The proposed railroad connection would provide the Port with access to two Class 1 rail services. The PBRR currently has a single connection with the CSX railroad, an east/west rail line. The connection to the NS railroad, a north/south rail line, would provide the PBRR with dual Class I rail access and would help Hancock County, Pearl River County, and the Stennis Space Center attract new industries and encourage economic growth and investment opportunities to help recover from the recent hurricane disasters. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015, and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

We are requesting that your agency be a participating agency pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) [Public Law 109-59, 8/10/2005]. We believe that your agency may have an interest in this transportation project. This designation would not imply that your agency supports the proposed project.

Pursuant to Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, social, or economic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Section 6002 is intended

Ms. Katherine Blount

July 29, 2016

Page 2

to ensure that agencies are fully engaged in the scoping of the project and have influence in the decisions regarding alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the NEPA analysis. Your agency's potential role as a participating agency in the development of the above project includes the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

- 1) Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
- 2) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- 3) Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

We ask that you respond to MDOT in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation no more than 30-days from the date of this letter. If you should choose to decline the invitation, please state your reason for doing so. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline an invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state that the agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

We look forward to your response to our request for your agency to be a participating agency and to working with you on this transportation project. The favor of a reply is requested by September 1, 2016. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact Adam Johnson at ajohnson@mdot.ms.gov or 601-359-7920.

Sincerely,



Ms. Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT:abj

cc: Mr. Jim Woodrick, Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Mr. Michael T. McGuire, Project Manager, CDM Smith

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850
Telephone (601) 359-7001
FAX (601) 359-7110
GoMDOT.com



Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/Administration
Willie Huff
Director, Office of Enforcement
Charles R. Carr
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning

July 29, 2016

Mr. Jamie Miller
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Dear Mr. Miller:

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency in the Port Bienville
Rail Study and Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The proposed Project would include the construction of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line in order to connect the Port Bienville Railroad (PBRR) in Hancock County with the Norfolk Southern (NS) railroad in Pearl River County.

The proposed railroad connection would provide the Port with access to two Class 1 rail services. The PBRR currently has a single connection with the CSX railroad, an east/west rail line. The connection to the NS railroad, a north/south rail line, would provide the PBRR with dual Class I rail access and would help Hancock County, Pearl River County, and the Stennis Space Center attract new industries and encourage economic growth and investment opportunities to help recover from the recent hurricane disasters. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015, and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

We are requesting that your agency be a participating agency pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) [Public Law 109-59, 8/10/2005]. We believe that your agency may have an interest in this transportation project. This designation would not imply that your agency supports the proposed project.

Pursuant to Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, social, or economic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Section 6002 is intended

Mr. Jamie Miller

July 29, 2016

Page 2

to ensure that agencies are fully engaged in the scoping of the project and have influence in the decisions regarding alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the NEPA analysis. Your agency's potential role as a participating agency in the development of the above project includes the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

- 1) Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
- 2) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- 3) Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

We ask that you respond to MDOT in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation no more than 30-days from the date of this letter. If you should choose to decline the invitation, please state your reason for doing so. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline an invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state that the agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

We look forward to your response to our request for your agency to be a participating agency and to working with you on this transportation project. The favor of a reply is requested by September 1, 2016. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact Adam Johnson at ajohnson@mdot.ms.gov or 601-359-7920.

Sincerely,



Ms. Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT:abj

cc: Ms. Willa Brantley, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Mr. Michael T. McGuire, Project Manager, CDM Smith

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850
Telephone (601) 359-7001
FAX (601) 359-7110
GoMDOT.com



Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/Administration
Willie Huff
Director, Office of Enforcement
Charles R. Carr
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning

July 29, 2016

Dr. Sam Polles
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Dear Dr. Polles:

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency in the Port Bienville
Rail Study and Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The proposed Project would include the construction of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line in order to connect the Port Bienville Railroad (PBRR) in Hancock County with the Norfolk Southern (NS) railroad in Pearl River County.

The proposed railroad connection would provide the Port with access to two Class 1 rail services. The PBRR currently has a single connection with the CSX railroad, an east/west rail line. The connection to the NS railroad, a north/south rail line, would provide the PBRR with dual Class I rail access and would help Hancock County, Pearl River County, and the Stennis Space Center attract new industries and encourage economic growth and investment opportunities to help recover from the recent hurricane disasters. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015, and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

We are requesting that your agency be a participating agency pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) [Public Law 109-59, 8/10/2005]. We believe that your agency may have an interest in this transportation project. This designation would not imply that your agency supports the proposed project.

Pursuant to Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, social, or economic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Section 6002 is intended

to ensure that agencies are fully engaged in the scoping of the project and have influence in the decisions regarding alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the NEPA analysis. Your agency's potential role as a participating agency in the development of the above project includes the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

- 1) Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
- 2) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- 3) Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

We ask that you respond to MDOT in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation no more than 30-days from the date of this letter. If you should choose to decline the invitation, please state your reason for doing so. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline an invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state that the agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

We look forward to your response to our request for your agency to be a participating agency and to working with you on this transportation project. The favor of a reply is requested by September 1, 2016. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact Adam Johnson at ajohnson@mdot.ms.gov or 601-359-7920.

Sincerely,



Ms. Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT:abj

cc: Mr. Andy Sanderson, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
Mr. Michael T. McGuire, Project Manager, CDM Smith

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850
Telephone (601) 359-7001
FAX (601) 359-7110
GoMDOT.com



Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/Administration
Willie Huff
Director, Office of Enforcement
Charles R. Carr
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning

October 24, 2016

Mr. William Kenneth Dean
EPA-MDOT Liaison
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
6578 Dogwood View Parkway
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

Dear Mr. Dean:

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency in the Port Bienville
Rail Study and Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a co-lead agency has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. The proposed Project would include the construction of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line in order to connect the Port Bienville Railroad (PBRR) in Hancock County with the Norfolk Southern (NS) railroad in Pearl River County.

The proposed railroad connection would provide the Port with access to two Class I rail services. The PBRR currently has a single connection with the CSX railroad, an east/west rail line. The connection to the NS railroad, a north/south rail line, would provide the PBRR with dual Class I rail access and would help Hancock County, Pearl River County, and the Stennis Space Center attract new industries and encourage economic growth and investment opportunities to help recover from the recent hurricane disasters. Additional information on the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2015, and on the project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0798>.

We are requesting that your agency be a participating agency pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) [Public Law 109-59, 8/10/2005]. We believe that your agency may have an interest in this transportation project. This designation would not imply that your agency supports the proposed project.

Pursuant to Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, social, or economic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Section 6002 is intended

Mr. William Kenneth Dean

October 24, 2016

Page 2

to ensure that agencies are fully engaged in the scoping of the project and have influence in the decisions regarding alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the NEPA analysis. Your agency's potential role as a participating agency in the development of the above project includes the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

- 1) Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
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- 3) Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

We ask that you respond to MDOT in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation no more than 30-days from the date of this letter. If you should choose to decline the invitation, please state your reason for doing so. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline an invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state that the agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

We look forward to your response to our request for your agency to be a participating agency and to working with you on this transportation project. The favor of a reply is requested by September 1, 2016. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact Adam Johnson at ajohnson@mdot.ms.gov or 601-359-7920.

Sincerely,



Ms. Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT:abj

cc: Mr. Michael T. McGuire, Project Manager, CDM Smith



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

August 12, 2016

Ms. Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator
MS Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

RE: DMR-170042; Port Bienville Rail Study and EIS

Dear Ms. Thurman:

The Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to insure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has received and hereby accepts your invitation to be a participating agency in the Port Bienville Rail Study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It appears the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project will include activities that are regulated by this office as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including construction through or over wetlands, canals, or bayous.

We ask that impacts to wetlands be avoided and minimized wherever possible. Crossing of creeks or bayous by bridging is preferable to more invasive installation methods as are temporary impacts with wetland restoration following line installation. Routes should be designed to avoid impacts to wetlands where practicable and to minimize impacts where unavoidable. Department staff will be available throughout the EIS process to identify issues of concern with the proposed project's potential Coastal Wetlands impacts. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project and to participate in the EIS process.

For more information, questions concerning this correspondence, or for scheduling purposes, contact me at the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at (228) 523-4108 or willa.brantley@dmr.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Willa J. Brantley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Willa J. Brantley
Bureau Director, Wetlands Permitting

cc: Mr. Adam Johnson, MDOT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

November 8, 2016

Ms. Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-7110

SUBJECT: Participating Agency Request for the Port Bienville Rail Study and
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Thurman:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received your letter dated October 24, 2016, inviting the EPA to become a participating agency with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project. In accordance with the request, the EPA accepts your invitation to become a participating agency for this project. We will endeavor to participate in project activities in the manner suggested in your letter.

The EPA's participating agency status and level of involvement does not, however, preclude our independent review and comment responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, or our authorities under the Clean Water Act. Similarly, our participating agency involvement does not imply that the EPA will necessarily concur with all aspects of the EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the MDOT as a participating agency on this important project. Please contact Mr. William Kenneth Dean, as our primary agency representative for this project, at (404) 562-9378 or dean.william-kenneth@epa.gov if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris A. Militscher".

Christopher A. Militscher
Chief, NEPA Program Office
Resource Conservation and Restoration Division

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, MS 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Stephen Ricks, Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Ricks:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlington, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Amy Carson, Highway Projects Biologist, USFWS
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 | Jackson, MS 39215-1850 | Telephone (601) 359-7001 | FAX (601) 359-7110 | GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Jennifer Mallard, Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Ms. Mallard:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Mr. Anthony Lobred, Project Manager, Permit Compliance, USACE
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Transportation: The Driving Force of a Strong Economy

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, MS 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

David M. Frank, Chief, Bridge Administration Branch
U.S. Coast Guard
Hale Boggs Bldg., 501 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Frank:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, MS 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Heinz Mueller
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Mueller:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Mr. Kenneth Dean, EPA-MDOT Liason
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Transportation: The Driving Force of a Strong Economy

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

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July 28, 2015

Kurt Readus, State Conservationist
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 West Capitol Street, Suite 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Readus:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

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July 28, 2015

Katherine Blount, State Historic Preservation Officer
Miss. Department of Archives and History
P. O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Ms. Blount:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Mr. Greg Williamson, Review and Compliance Officer, MDEQ
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, MS 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Gary Rikard, Executive Director
Miss. Department of Environmental Quality
P. O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Rikard:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlington, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 | Jackson, MS 39215-1850 | Telephone (601) 359-7001 | FAX (601) 359-7110 | GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Jamie Miller, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rhea Vincent with the MDOT Environmental Division at telephone number (601) 359-7920. You may also provide any comments via email at environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us. We look forward to meeting with you and/or members of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Willa Brantley, Director of Wetlands Permitting, DMR
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

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July 28, 2015

Sam Polles, Executive Director
Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Dr. Polles:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

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Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Mr. Andy Anderson, Conservation Resources Biologist, MDWFP
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
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Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
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July 28, 2015

Elaine Wilkinson, Executive Director
Gulf Regional Planning Commission
1232 Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39501

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Ms. Wilkinson:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

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Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, MS 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Dennis Roberts, Southern Region Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
P.O. Box 20636
Atlanta, GA 30320

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

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Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Jonathan Linquist, Jackson Airports District Office
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, MS 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Mr. John Bailey Jr.
John C. Stennis Space Center
Mail Code EA00
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Bailey:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

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Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

Mark C. McConnell
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

Charles R. Carr
Director
Office of Intermodal Planning



Lisa M. Hancock
Deputy Executive Director/
Administration

Willie Huff
Director
Office of Enforcement

Melinda L. McGrath
Executive Director

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, MS 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / GoMDOT.com

July 28, 2015

Mark Thompson, Director, Habitat Conversation Division
NOAA
3500 Delwood Beach Road
Panama City, FL 32408

Subject: Resource Agency Scoping Meeting – Port Bienville, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is currently initiating efforts to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to provide a project that would connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County with the southern mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Pearl River County. As part of our diligence to assess feasible and prudent solutions, we respectfully request your participation during this environmental process which includes a scoping meeting to discuss any concerns your agency may have for the project and/or the project's study area. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of MDOT's Administration Building located at 401 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. Additionally, the scoping process will continue with a public meeting from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Port Bienville Training Facility, 3060 Port & Harbor Drive, Pearlinton, MS.

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Sincerely,

Kim Thurman
Environmental Division Administrator

KDT/SVD: tbs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Winkle, Project Team Leader, Federal Railroad Administration
cc: Ms. Amy Mood, Asst. Chief Engineer – PreConstruction
cc: Mr. Kelly Castleberry, District VI Engineer

PORT BIENVILLE SCOPING MEETING (JACKSON, MS)
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015 2 PM
 (PLEASE PRINT)



NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE / E-MAIL
• Jennifer Pearson	CDM Smith	803.251.2191 pearsonjl@cdmsmith.com
• Kevin Keller	HDR	913-638-2571 Kevin.Keller@hdrinc.com
• Sedrick Durr	MDOT Environmental	601 359 7920 sdurr@mdot.ms.gov
• William Kenneth Dean	EPA Region 4	404-562-9378 dean.william-kenneth@epa.gov
• Tim PIERCE	NASA	228-326-6532 timothy.i.pierce@NASA.gov
• Bo CLARKE	NASA	228-342-4706 ANDREW.L.CLARKE@NASA.GOV
• STEPHEN LANDRY	HCPHC	228-533-0212 slandry@hcephc.ms
• Tony Lobred	USACE Vicksburg District	601 631 5470 anthony.R.Lobred@USACE.army.mil
• Felicity Arcement	Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission	(228) 493.1633 farcement@hcephc.ms

PORT BIENVILLE SCOPING MEETING (JACKSON, MS)
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015 2 PM
 (PLEASE PRINT)



NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE / E-MAIL
• Ashley Edwards	Hancock County Port & Harbor Comm.	(228) 223-1423 aedwards@hcephc.ms
• Amy Carson	US Fish and Wildlife Service	601-321-1130 Amy-Commens-Carson@fws.gov
• Andy Sanderson	MDWFP	601-576-6046 phillip.sanderson@mississippi.state.ms.us
• Leah Drinnon	MDEQ	Leah-Drinnon@deg.state.ms.us
• Carrie Barefoot	MDEQ	601-961-5171 cabarefoot@envirocomp.net
• Jonathan Linguist	FAA	601 664 9893 jonathan.linguist@faa.gov
• Claiborne Barnwell	FHWA	601.965.4217 claiborne.barnwell@dot.gov
• JOHN UNDERWOOD	MDOT - ENVIRONMENTAL	601-359-1476 junderwood@mdot.ms.gov
• R. CHAD WALLACE	" "	601 359 7920 rcwallace@mdot.ms.gov



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS**

Sam Polles, Ph.D.
Executive Director

September 26, 2016

Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1850

Re: Port Bienville Railroad Environmental Impact Statement
Hancock County, Mississippi

R# 12656

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to your request for information dated August 8, 2016, we have searched our database for occurrences of state or federally listed species and species of special concern that occur within 2 miles of the site of the proposed project. Please find our concerns and recommendations below.

The following species of concern may occur within 2 miles of the proposed project area:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED	STATE	STATE RANK
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Gulf Sturgeon	LT	LE	S1
<i>Agalinis aphylla</i>	Coastal Plain False-foxglove			S3
<i>Agalinis oligophylla</i>	Ridge-stem False-foxglove			S2
<i>Alophia drummondii</i>	Pinewoods-lily			S1
<i>Amaranthus australis</i>	Southern Amaranth			S1
<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	Mottled Duck			S2B,S4N
<i>Atractosteus spatula</i>	Alligator Gar			S2

<i>Bufo nebulifer</i>	Gulf Coast Toad			S3
<i>Calopogon barbatus</i>	Bearded Grass-pink			S2
<i>Celithemis amanda</i>	Amanda's Pennant			S2
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	LE,LT	LE	S2N
<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	Southeastern Snowy Plover		LE	S2
<i>Chasmanthium ornithorhynchum</i>	Bird-bill Spikegrass			S1S2
<i>Cirsium lecontei</i>	Leconte's Thistle			S2
<i>Cleistes bifaria</i>	Spreading Pogonia			S3
<i>Coreopsis nudata</i>	Georgia Tickseed			S1S2
<i>Crystallaria asprella</i>	Crystal Darter		LE	S1
<i>Cyperus articulatus</i>	Jointed Flatsedge			S1
<i>Dalea carnea var. gracilis</i>	Pine Barrens Prairie Clover			S2S3
<i>Desmodium tenuifolium</i>	Slim-leaf Tick-trefoil			S2
<i>Dichanthelium wrightianum</i>	Wright's Witchgrass			S1S2
<i>Eleocharis elongata</i>	Slim Spike-rush			S1
<i>Enallagma pollutum</i>	Florida Bluet			S2
<i>Epidendrum conopseum</i>	Green-fly Orchid			S2S3
<i>Eryngium aquaticum</i>	Marsh Eryngo			S1
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	White Ibis			S2B,S3N
<i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>	Rainbow Snake			S2
<i>Fundulus jenkinsi</i>	Saltmarsh Topminnow	SC		S3
<i>Georgia Tickseed</i>	Coreopsis nudata			S1S2
<i>Gomphus hodgesi</i>	Hodges' Clubtail			S2
<i>Gomphus hybridus</i>	Cocoa Clubtail			S3
<i>Gomphus modestus</i>	Gulf Coast Clubtail			S3
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	LT	LE	S2
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle			S2B,S2N
<i>Heterandria formosa</i>	Least Killifish			S3
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	Brilliant Hibiscus			S1S2
<i>Ictiobus niger</i>	Black Buffalo			S3
<i>Ilex amelanchier</i>	Juneberry Holly			S3
<i>Juniperus virginiana var. silicicola</i>	Southern Red Cedar			S2
<i>Lachnocaulon digynum</i>	Pineland Bogbutton			S2S3
<i>Lilaeopsis carolinensis</i>	Carolina Lilaeopsis			S2
<i>Macranthera flammaea</i>	Flame Flower			S3
<i>Malaclemys terrapin pileata</i>	Mississippi Diamondback Terrapin			S2
<i>Melanthium virginicum</i>	Virginia Bunchflower			S3
<i>Mollusk reef</i>	Oyster			S3
<i>Nerodia clarkii clarkii</i>	Gulf Salt Marsh Snake			S2
<i>Notropis chalybaeus</i>	Ironcolor Shiner		LE	S1

<i>Panicum nudicaule</i>	Naked-stemmed Panic Grass			S2S3
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis</i>	Eastern Brown Pelican			S1N
<i>Pinguicula primuliflora</i>	Southern Butterwort			S3
<i>Pleurobema beadleianum</i>	Mississippi Pigtoe			S3
<i>Polygala hookeri</i>	Hooker's Milkwort			S2
<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	Paddlefish			S3
<i>Pseudotriton montanus</i>	Mud Salamander			S2
<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	Smooth-lipped Eulophia			S1
<i>Pteronotropis welaka</i>	Bluenose Shiner			S3
<i>Pycnanthemum setosum</i>	Awned Mountain-mint			S1
<i>Rana heckscheri</i>	River Frog			S1
<i>Regina rigida sinicola</i>	Gulf Crayfish Snake			S3
<i>Rhynchospora curtissii</i>	Curtiss's Beakrush			S1
<i>Rhynchospora decurrens</i>	Swamp-forest Beakrush			S1
<i>Rhynchospora macra</i>	Large Beakrush			S2S3
<i>Rhynchospora stenophylla</i>	Chapman Beakrush			S1S2
<i>Ruellia noctiflora</i>	Night-flowering Ruellia			S2
<i>Ruellia pedunculata ssp. Pinetorum</i>	Pine Barren Ruellia			S2S3
<i>Sageretia minutiflora</i>	Tiny-leaved Buckthorn			S2
<i>Scleria reticularis</i>	Reticulated Nutrush			S1
<i>Somatochlora provocans</i>	Treetop Emerald			S2
<i>Syngonanthus flavidulus</i>	Yellow Pipewort			S2
<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	Royal Tern			S1B,S4N
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Common Barn-owl			S3
<i>Utricularia purpurea</i>	Purple Bladderwort			S2
<i>Xyris scabrifolia</i>	Harper's Yellow-eyed Grass			S3

State Rank

S1 — Critically imperiled in Mississippi because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S2 — Imperiled in Mississippi because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S3 — Rare or uncommon in Mississippi (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences).

State and Federal Status

LE Endangered — A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

LT Threatened — A species likely to become endangered in foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Based on information provided, we conclude that if best management practices are properly implemented, monitored, and maintained (particularly measures to prevent, or at least, minimize negative impacts to water quality), the proposed project likely poses no threat to listed species or their habitats.

Recommendations:

We recommend that best management practices be properly implemented, monitored, and maintained for compliance, specifically measures that will prevent suspended silt and

contaminants from leaving the site in stormwater run-off as this may negatively affect water quality and habitat conditions within nearby streams and waterbodies.

In addition, portions of this project site are underlain by hydric soils and may be designated wetlands. If this project is approved, we ask that serious consideration be given to the cumulative impacts of wetland disturbance and elimination, and that appropriate, in-kind mitigation be provided.

Portions of this project site are located in suitable habitat for the federally threatened and state endangered Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). There are also documented occurrences of gopher tortoises near the proposed project site. **Therefore, we recommend that gopher tortoise burrow surveys be conducted within twenty feet of the project site (particularly in well-drained sandy substrates). If tortoise burrows are found, the following individuals should be contacted:** Kathy Shelton (kathys@mdwfp.state.ms.us) with the MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks and Matt Hinderliter (601-321-1132) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There are known Bald Eagle nesting territories in the vicinity of the proposed project. One of these is within the proposed project boundaries. While bald eagles are no longer considered threatened or endangered, they are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and guidelines concerning their protection can be found here:

http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html, and for information regarding the life history of Bald Eagles, please visit the following website:

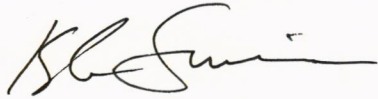
http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/baea_nhstry_snstvtvty.html. For information regarding bald or golden eagles, or other bird species that could be impacted, please contact Nick Winstead, MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (601-576-6064).

The state and federally endangered Piping Plover and state endangered Southeastern Snowy Plover have also been documented utilizing areas near the proposed project. The project as proposed should have no direct impact on these species; however, any modification or addition to the project that may adversely affect these areas could potentially impact the plovers. We ask that consideration be given to this should the project be modified.

Gulf Sturgeon are a federally threatened, state endangered fish species known to inhabit the vicinity. They are intimately tied to substrates by their diet which consists entirely of benthic organisms, and could potentially be impacted due to this relationship. Potential impacts need to be considered and further examined prior to the proposed renovation and expansion. If negative impacts such as reduction in prey availability are imminent for Gulf Sturgeon, mitigation efforts need to be made accordingly.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide any additional information, resources, or assistance that will help minimize negative impacts to the species and/or ecological communities identified in this review. We are happy to work with you to ensure that our state's precious natural heritage is conserved and preserved for future Mississippians.

Sincerely,



Kyle Swanier, Conservation Biologist
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
(601) 576-6047

The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) has compiled a database that is the most complete source of information about Mississippi's rare, threatened, and endangered plants, animals, and ecological communities. The quantity and quality of data collected by MNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In many cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; most natural areas in Mississippi have not been thoroughly surveyed and new occurrences of plant and animal species are often discovered. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known to the MNHP at the time of the request and cannot always be considered a definitive statement on the presence, absence or condition of biological elements on a particular site.

Staff Sign In

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET
 PORT BIENVILE RESOURCE AGENCY MEETING
 (JACKSON, MS)
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 2:00-4:00 P.M.



NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE / E-MAIL
• Meko McGinn	CDM Smith	(803) 758-4548 mcginn@cdm
• William Kenneth Dean	US EPA	404-562-9378 dean.william-kenneth@epa.gov
• Amy Carson	US FWS	601-321-1130 amy-commens-carson@fws.gov
• JOHN UNDERWOOD	MDOT - ENVIRONMENTAL	601-359-1476 junderwood@mdot.ms.us
• PAMELA LIEB	MDAH - SHPO	601-576-6945 plieb@mdah.ms.gov
• Florence Bass	MDEQ	601-961-5614 fbass@mdeq.ms.gov
• David Abbott	MDAH - SHPO	601-576-6940 dabbott@mdah.ms.gov
• Leah Drinnon	MDEQ	601-961-5520 ldrinnon@mdeq.ms.gov
• Jennifer Pearson	CDM Smith	803-251-2191 jpearson@cdmsmith.com

Staff Sign In

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET
PORT BIENVILE RESOURCE AGENCY MEETING
(JACKSON, MS)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 2:00-4:00 P.M.



NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE / E-MAIL
• Gabe Faggand (phone)		
District		
• Kelly Castleberry (phone)		
District 6 Engineer		
• Melina Ziegler		
CDM Smith		
• Adam Johnson		
Environmental Division		
• Tony Cobred		
USACE Vicksburg		
• Kristi Hall		
USACE - Vicksburg		
• Spencer Robinson		
Planning		
• Kim Thurman		
MDOT (EMV)		
•		

Staff Sign In

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET
PORT BIENVILLE RESOURCE AGENCY MEETING
(JACKSON, MS)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 2:00-4:00 P.M.



NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE / E-MAIL
• R. CHAD WALLACE	MDOT	
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U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable B. Cheryl Smith, Chief
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342-0014

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Chief Smith,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

As the lead federal agency, FRA is contacting you to initiate Government-to-Government consultation, as the designated point of contact for your tribe, regarding the undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii). We are available for formal consultations by telephone and other means. We also invite you to inform FRA of any areas of concern you may have in the project area. A map of the study area is enclosed. Additional project information can be found at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0715> and <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>.

Through consultation, we hope to incorporate into the cultural resources survey process your concerns for locations of traditional or cultural significance and provide an opportunity for participation in the continuing process to identify cultural resources, effects of the project on significant resources, and resolution of any adverse effects of the project which may result from the undertaking.

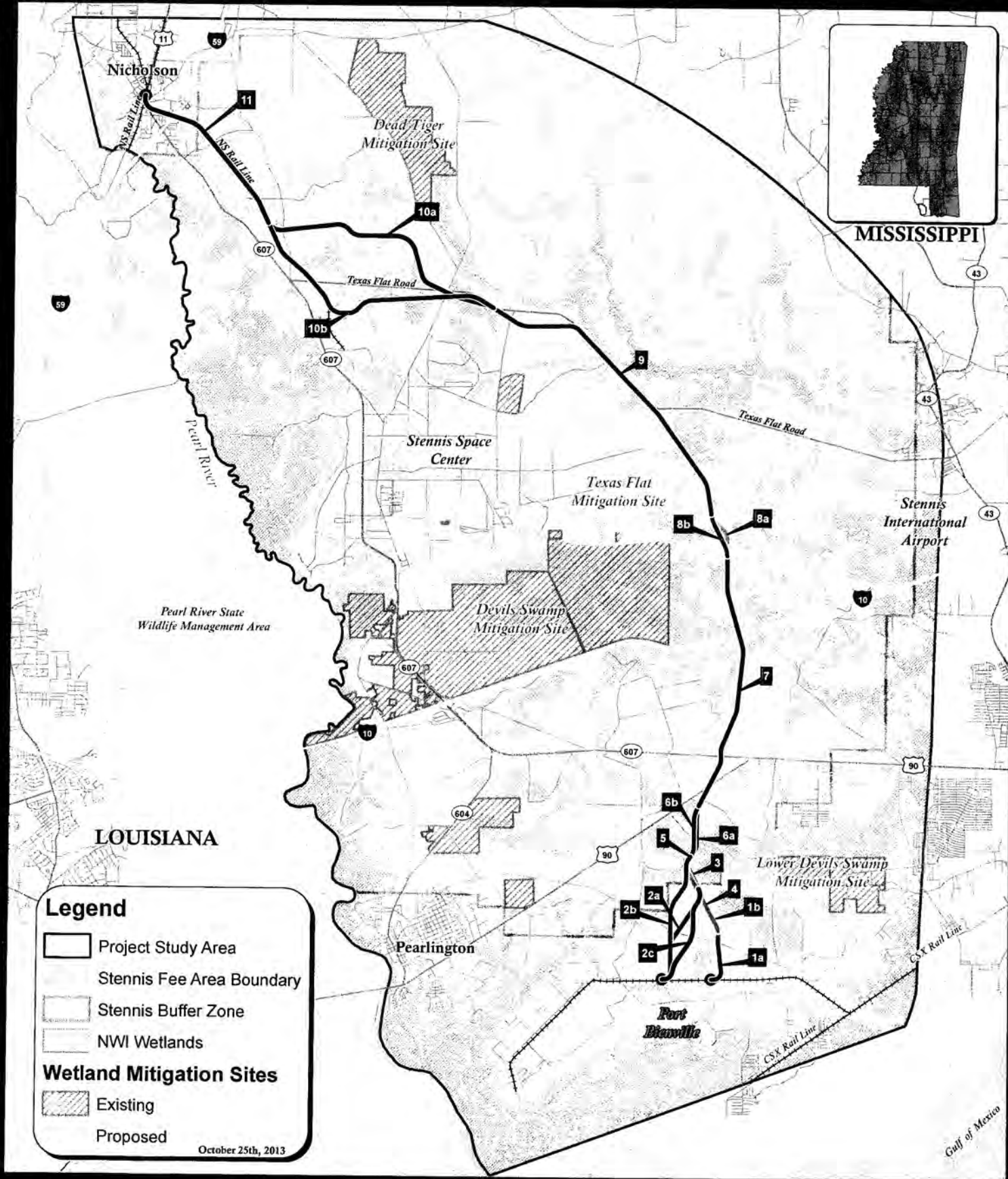
Melissa Hatcher of my staff will be the FRA contact for this project. She can be reached at (202) 493-6075 or by email at melissa.hatcher@dot.gov. FRA is committed to ensuring that you are kept informed as the project progresses and new information will be provided to you as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands

Wetland Mitigation Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013

Federal Railroad Administration
 Hancock County Development Commission

MDOT
 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Port Bienville
 Reasonable Alternatives*



CDM Smith / HDR



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Alina J. Shively
Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Shively,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

As the lead federal agency, FRA is contacting you to initiate Government-to-Government consultation, as the designated point of contact for your tribe, regarding the undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii). We are available for formal consultations by telephone and other means. We also invite you to inform FRA of any areas of concern you may have in the project area. A map of the study area is enclosed. Additional project information can be found at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0715> and <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>.

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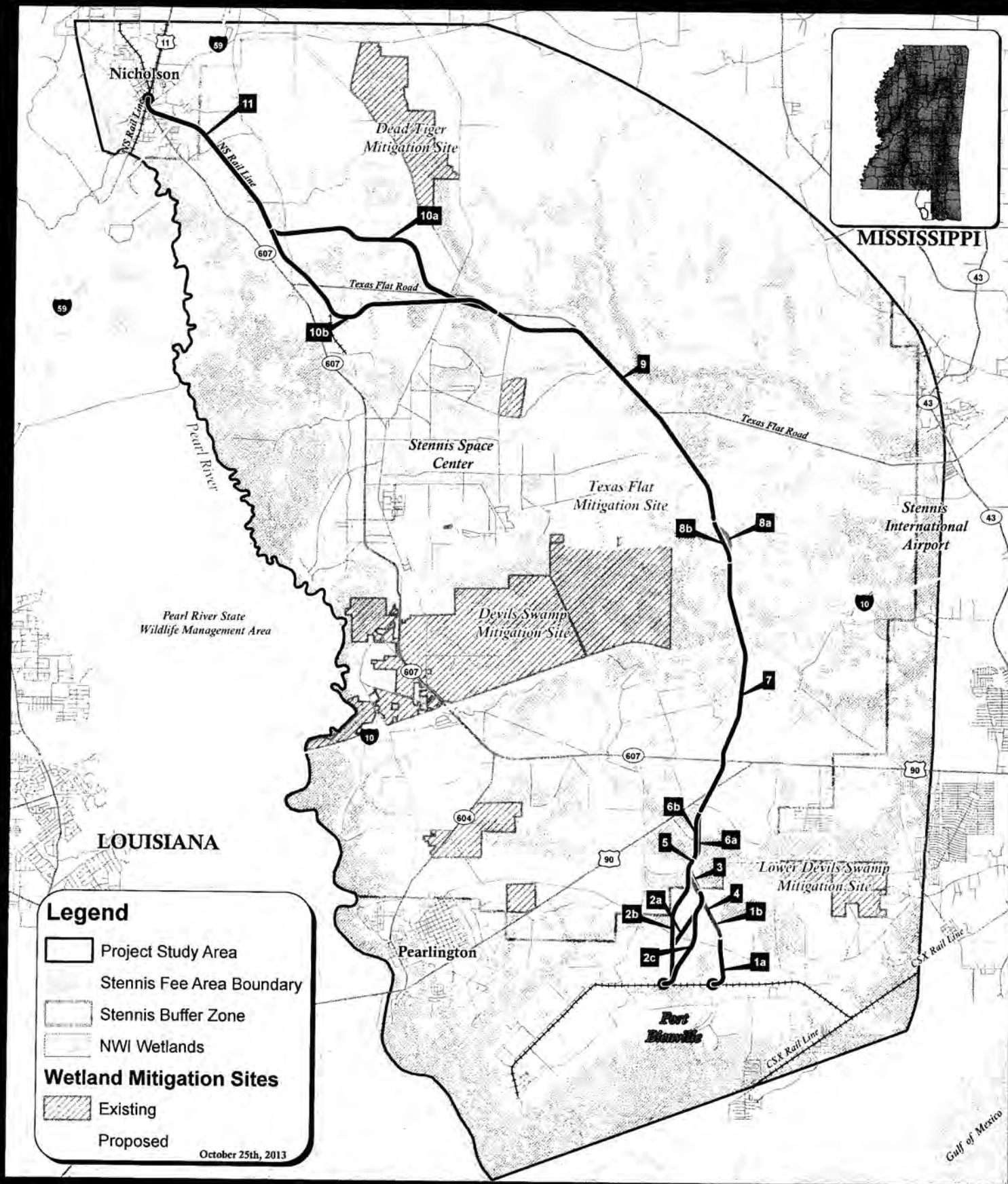
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Sincerely,

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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands

Wetland Mitigation Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013

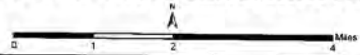


Federal Railroad Administration



Hancock County Development Commission

Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives





U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Ken Carleton
Tribal Archaeologist
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6257
Choctaw, MS 39350

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Mr. Carleton,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

As the lead federal agency, FRA is contacting you to initiate Government-to-Government consultation, as the designated point of contact for your tribe, regarding the undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii). We are available for formal consultations by telephone and other means. We also invite you to inform FRA of any areas of concern you may have in the project area. A map of the study area is enclosed. Additional project information can be found at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0715> and <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>.

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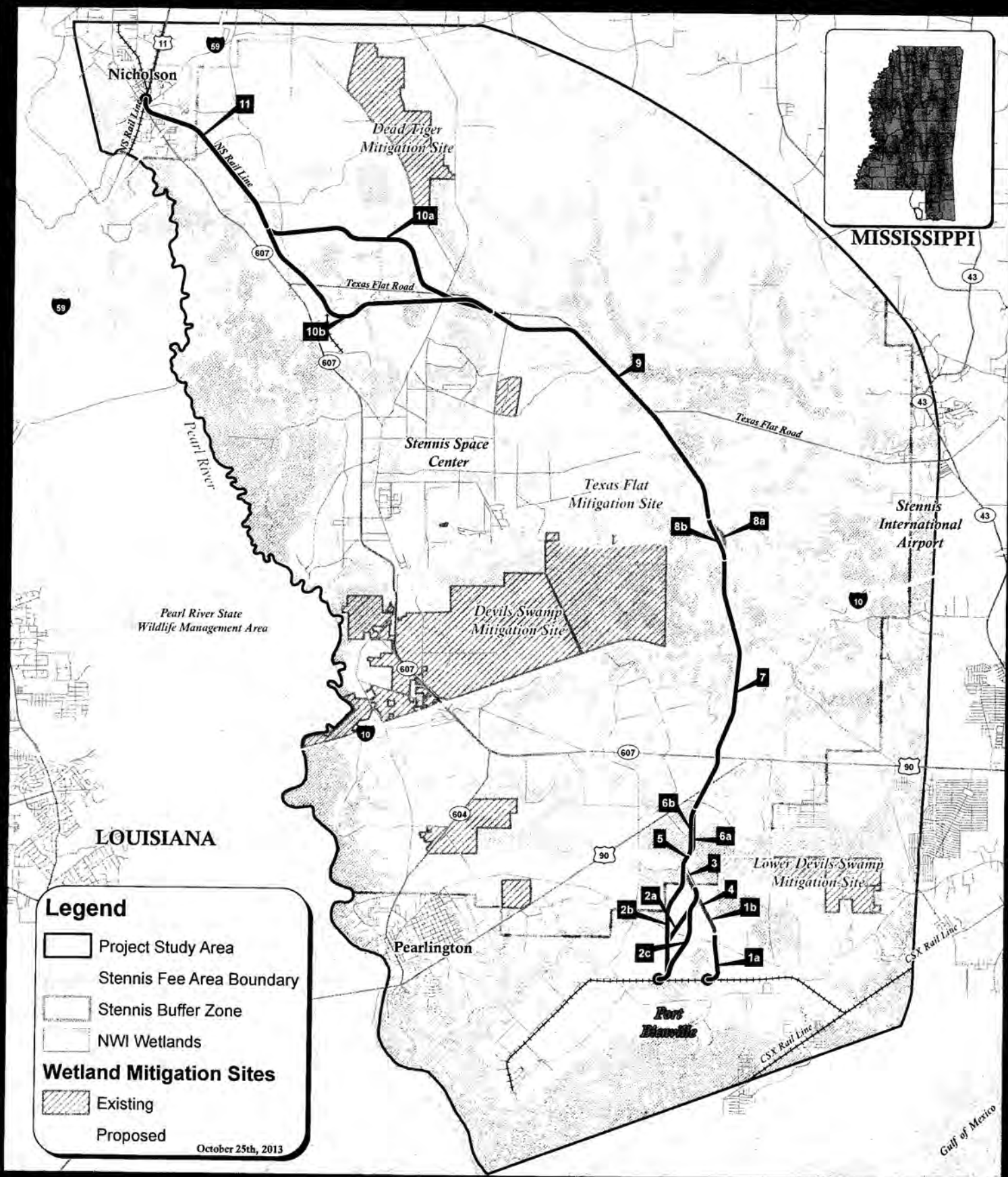
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Sincerely,

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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure

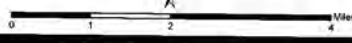


MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA



Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives





U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dr. Ian Thompson
Tribal Archaeologist
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74720

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Dr. Thompson,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

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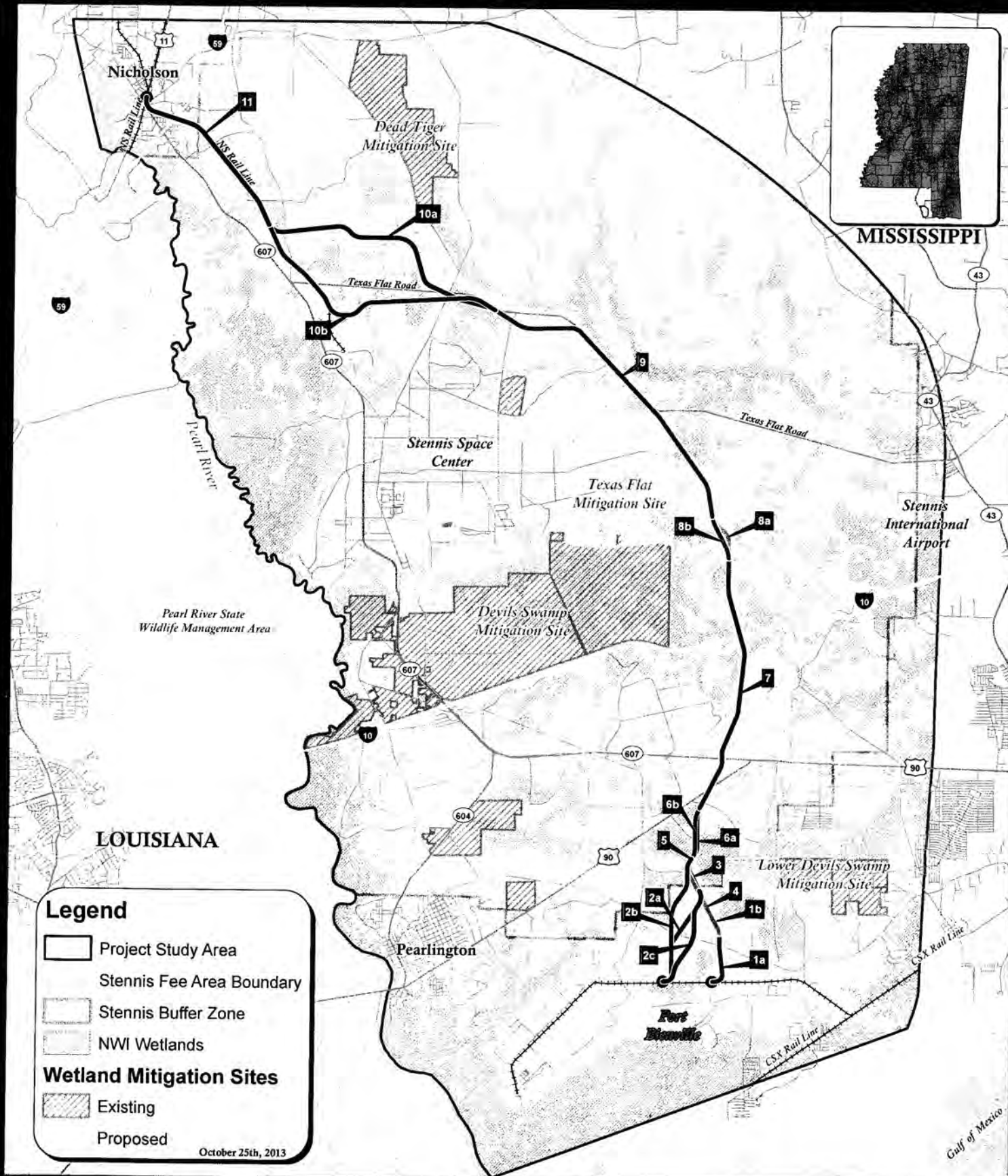
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Sincerely,

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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands

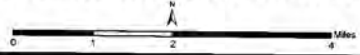
Wetland Mitigation Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013



*Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives*





U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Earl J. Barbry, Jr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana, Inc.
P.O. Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Mr. Barbry,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

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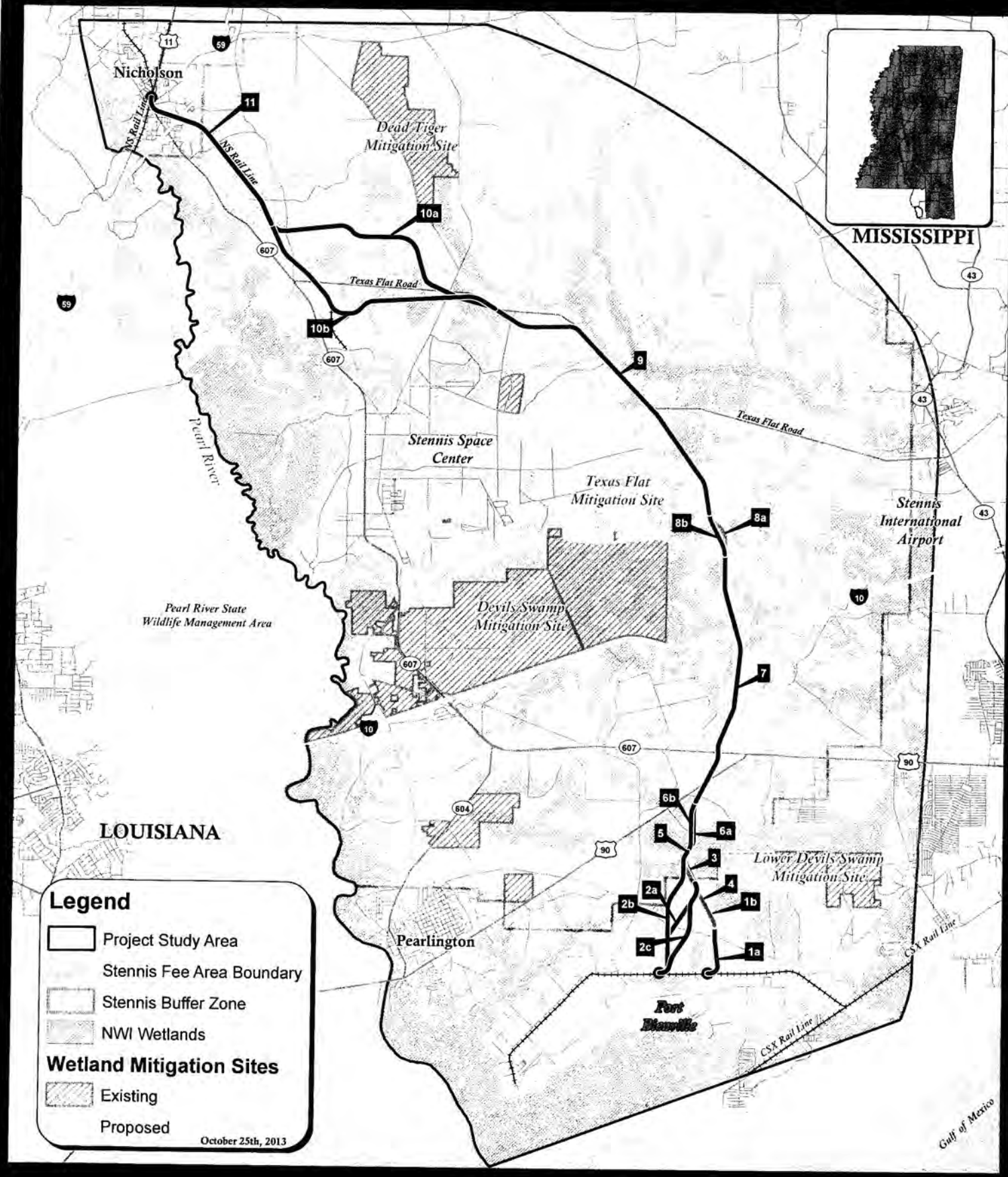
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

Gulf of Mexico



Federal Railroad Administration

Hancock County Development Commission



Port Bienville Reasonable Alternatives





U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Babette Bordelon
Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana, Inc.
P.O. Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Bordelon,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

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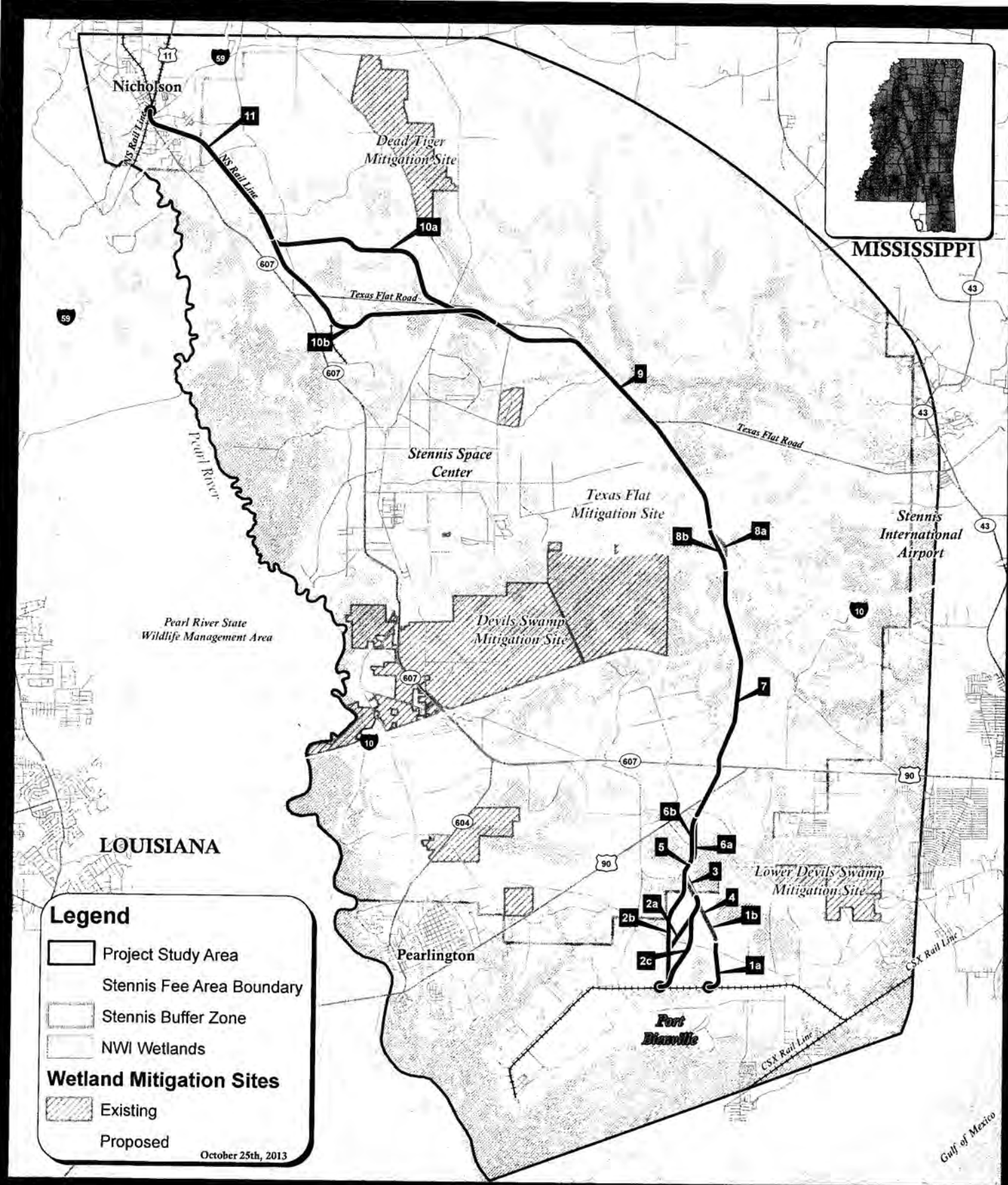
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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands

Wetland Mitigation Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013



Federal Railroad Administration

Hancock County Development Commission



Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives





U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Everett Bandy
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma (O-Gah-Pah)
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363-0765

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Mr. Bandy,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

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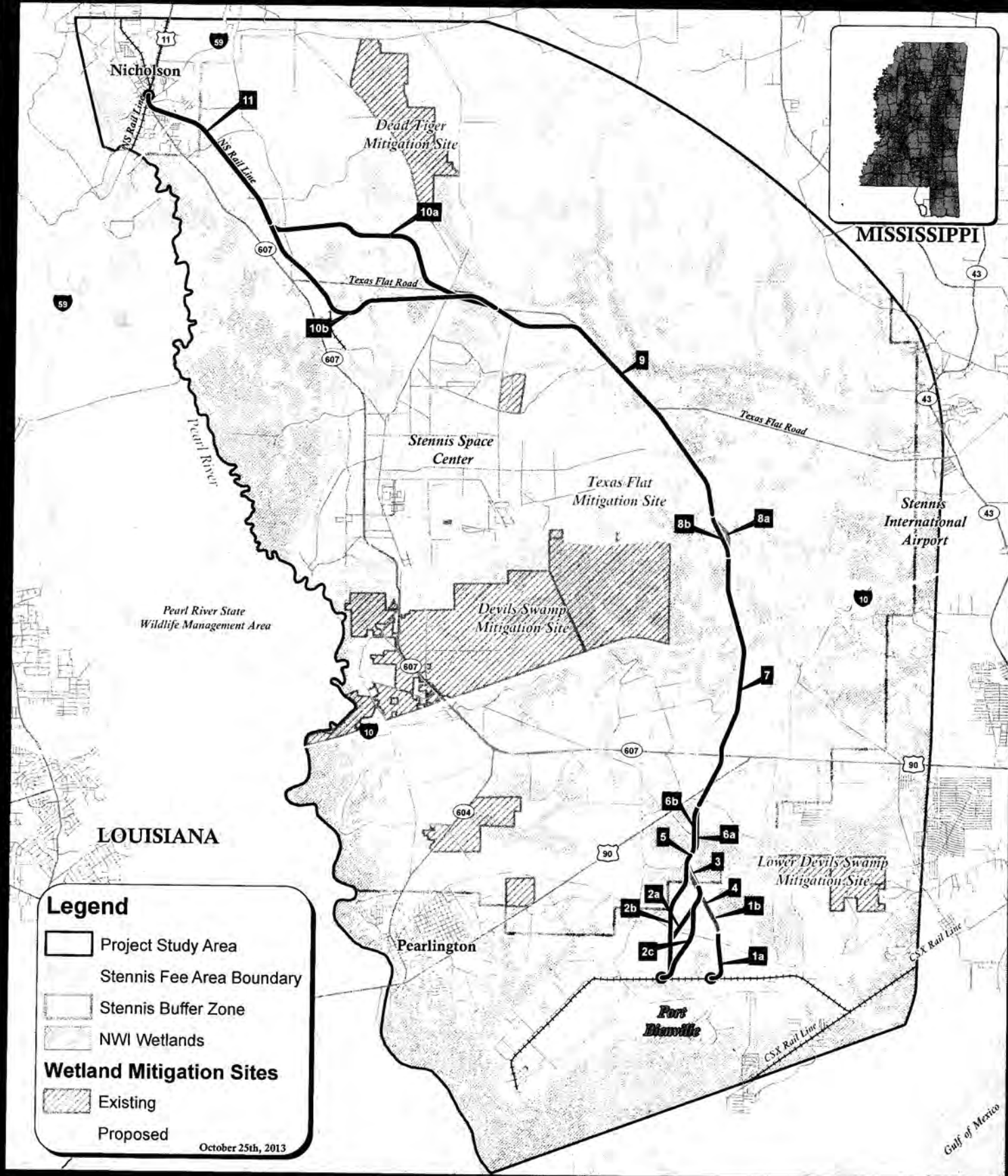
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Sincerely,

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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands
- Wetland Mitigation Sites**
- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013

Federal Railroad Administration

Hancock County Development Commission

MDOT
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives

0 1 2 Miles

CDM Smith / HDR



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Jean Ann Lambert
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma (O-Gah-Pah)
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Lambert,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

As the lead federal agency, FRA is contacting you to initiate Government-to-Government consultation, as the designated point of contact for your tribe, regarding the undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii). We are available for formal consultations by telephone and other means. We also invite you to inform FRA of any areas of concern you may have in the project area. A map of the study area is enclosed. Additional project information can be found at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0715> and <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>.

Through consultation, we hope to incorporate into the cultural resources survey process your concerns for locations of traditional or cultural significance and provide an opportunity for participation in the continuing process to identify cultural resources, effects of the project on significant resources, and resolution of any adverse effects of the project which may result from the undertaking.

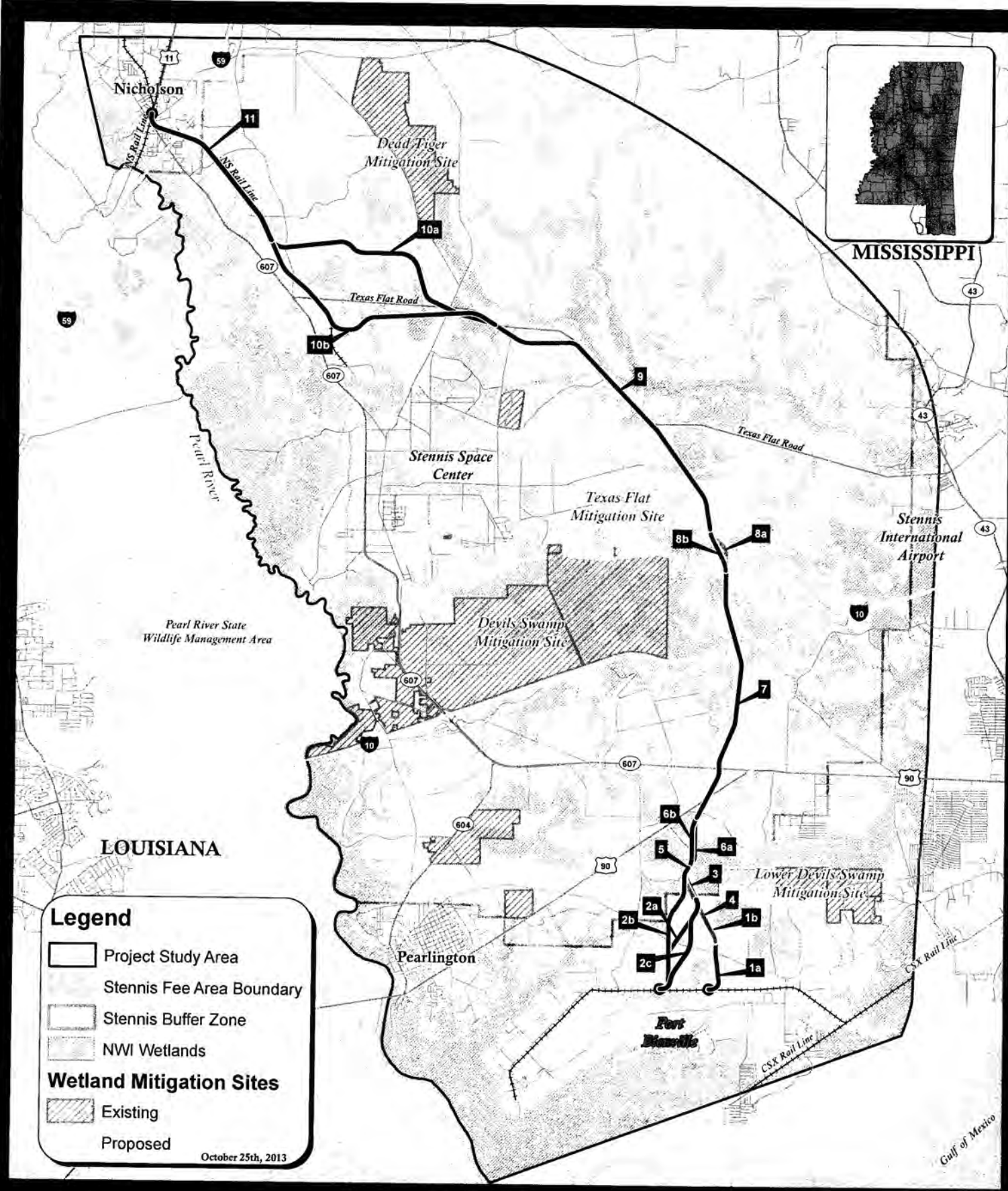
Melissa Hatcher of my staff will be the FRA contact for this project. She can be reached at (202) 493-6075 or by email at melissa.hatcher@dot.gov. FRA is committed to ensuring that you are kept informed as the project progresses and new information will be provided to you as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands

Wetland Mitigation Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013

Federal Railroad Administration

Hancock County Development Commission

MDOT
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives

0 1 2 4 Miles

CDM Smith / HDR



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Bryant Celestine
Historical Preservation Clerk
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, Texas 77351

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Mr. Celestine,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

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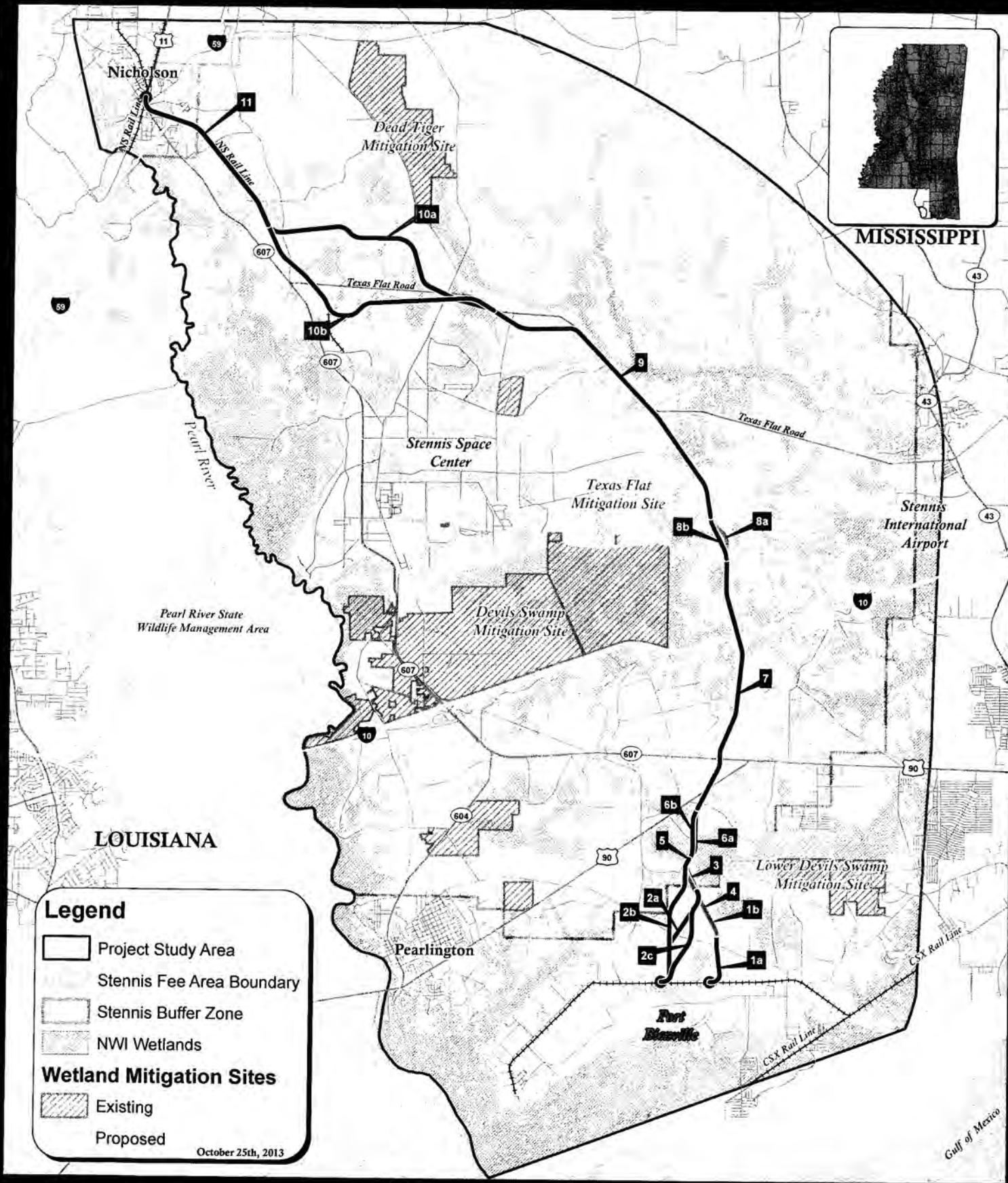
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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands

Wetland Mitigation Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

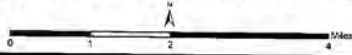
October 25th, 2013

Federal Railroad Administration

Hancock County Development Commission

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives



CDM Smith / HDR

Gulf of Mexico



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Johnnie Jacobs
Historic Preservation Manager
Muscogee Creek Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Jacobs,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

As the lead federal agency, FRA is contacting you to initiate Government-to-Government consultation, as the designated point of contact for your tribe, regarding the undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii). We are available for formal consultations by telephone and other means. We also invite you to inform FRA of any areas of concern you may have in the project area. A map of the study area is enclosed. Additional project information can be found at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0715> and <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>.

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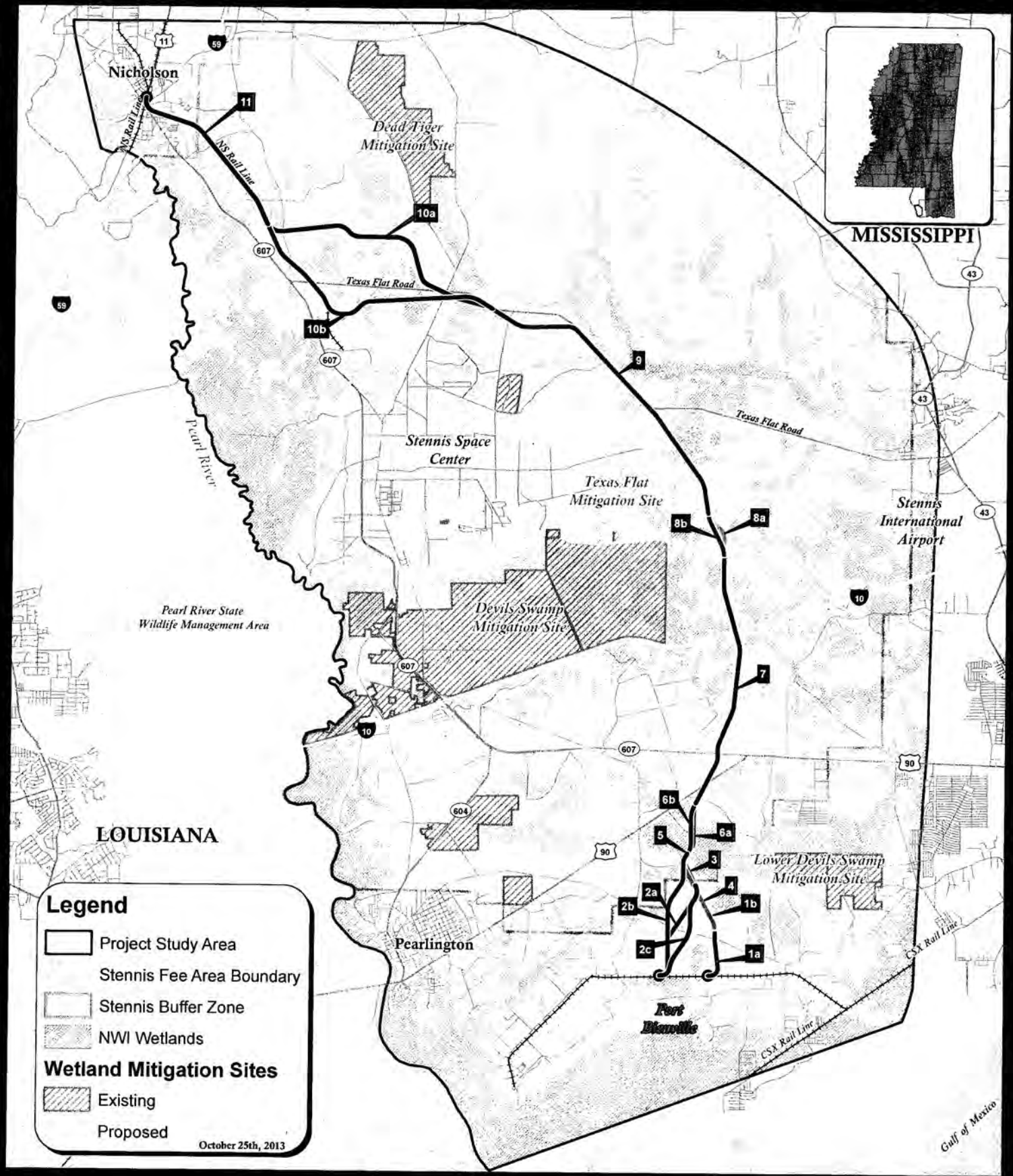
Melissa Hatcher of my staff will be the FRA contact for this project. She can be reached at (202) 493-6075 or by email at melissa.hatcher@dot.gov. FRA is committed to ensuring that you are kept informed as the project progresses and new information will be provided to you as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
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- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013

Federal Railroad Administration

Hancock County Development Commission

MDOT
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives

0 1 2 4 Miles

CDM Smith / **HDR**



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Johnnie Jacobs
Historic Preservation Manager
Muscogee Creek Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Jacobs,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a project-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under a grant to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for proposed new freight rail service on the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad from the Port Bienville Industrial Park in Hancock, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi. The Port Bienville Railroad Project is composed of approximately 24 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class I rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region that require this level of rail service. MDOT and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission are investigating potential route alternatives in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Potential project effects to any cultural resources will be evaluated by FRA, MDOT, and other consulting parties as part of the environmental process.

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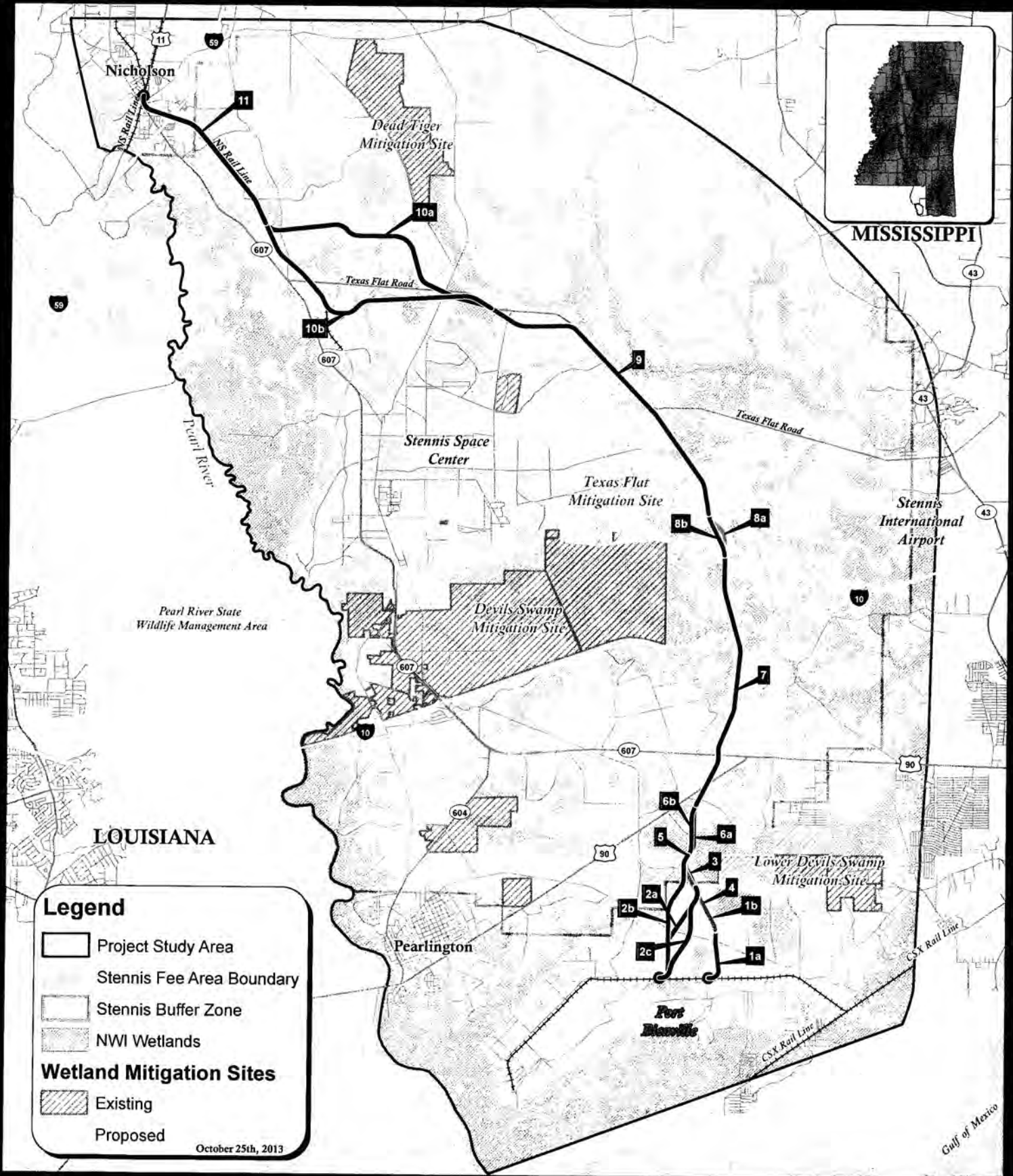
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David Valenstein
Chief, Environmental and Corridor Planning Division

Enclosure



Legend

- Project Study Area
- Stennis Fee Area Boundary
- Stennis Buffer Zone
- NWI Wetlands

Wetland Mitigation Sites

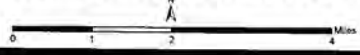
- Existing
- Proposed

October 25th, 2013

Federal Railroad Administration
 Hancock County Development Commission

MDOT
 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Port Bienville
Reasonable Alternatives



CDM Smith / HDR



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

371 State Park Road SE • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1000

August 27, 2015

Federal Railroad Administration
Attn: Melissa Hatcher
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Hatcher:

On behalf of Mikko Colabe III Clem Sylestine and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, our appreciation is expressed on your efforts to consult us regarding the Port Bienville Railroad proposal in Hancock County.

Our Tribe maintains ancestral associations within the state of Mississippi despite the absence of written records to completely identify Tribal activities, villages, trails, or burial sites. However, it is our objective to ensure significances of American Indian ancestry, especially of Alabama-Coushatta origin, are administered with the utmost considerations.

Upon review of your July 16, 2015 submission, immediate impacts to cultural assets of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas could not be completely ascertained in conjunction with this proposal. The proposed location in Hancock County includes migratory routes utilized by ancestral members of the Alibamu and Koasati Tribes. We would appreciate further information upon availability regarding cultural resource investigations as a result of this proposal.

Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Celestine".

Bryant J. Celestine
Historic Preservation Officer

Belvin, Michael L.

From: melissa.hatcher@dot.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:13 AM
To: vincent@mdot.state.ms.us
Cc: junderwood@mdot.ms.gov; McGuire, Michael T
Subject: FW: Section 106 Consultation for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Good morning Rhea,

I received the below response from the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians.

Thanks,
Melissa

Melissa Hatcher
Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Railroad Administration
(202) 493-6075

From: Alina Shively [mailto:ashively@jenachoctaw.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:08 AM
To: Hatcher, Melissa (FRA)
Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Hatcher:

Regarding the above-mentioned project, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' THPO hereby requests Cultural Resources Survey information for the entire project location. Information may be sent via the contact information below. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alina J. Shively
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342
(318) 992-1205
ashively@jenachoctaw.org

Belvin, Michael L.

From: Underwood, John <junderwood@mdot.ms.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 2:33 PM
To: Vincent, Rhea; McGuire, Michael T; melissa.hatcher@dot.gov
Cc: Thurman, Kim
Subject: FW: Port Bienville Railroad Project-US DOT

FYI

John R. Underwood, M.A., RPA
MDOT Chief Archaeologist
Environmental Division
P.O. Box 1850, Mail Code 87-01/AR
Jackson, MS 39215
Office: 601-359-1476
Fax: 601-359-1910
Cell: 769-257-1569
junderwood@mdot.ms.gov

From: Section106 [mailto:Section106@mcn-nsn.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 1:24 PM
To: Underwood, John
Subject: RE: Port Bienville Railroad Project-US DOT

Mr. Underwood,

Thank you for contacting the Muscogee (Creek) Nation concerning the Port Bienville Railroad Project Study in Hancock County, Mississippi. This project is located within our historic area of interest and is of importance to us. After reviewing the material provided, including the new shapefiles and the revised field methodology, it has been determined that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has no objections to the proposed project. It should be noted that the southern part of the line does run through a portion of our trail of tears route. We request that if any cultural material or human remains are encountered during the field investigations, which includes ground disturbance, construction, or demolition, we are notified. Also, if there are any additional updates, we ask to be informed of these. Should further information or comment be needed, please do not hesitate to contact me at (918) 732-7852 or by email at lwendt@mcn-nsn.gov.

Thank you,
LeeAnne Wendt

LeeAnne Wendt
Historic and Cultural Preservation Department, Tribal Archaeologist
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580 | Okmulgee, OK 74447
T 918.732.7852
F 918.758.0649
lwendt@mcn-nsn.gov

<http://www.mcn-nsn.gov/>

Federal and state agencies, museums, and consulting partners, as of October 1, 2015 please send all Section 106 project notices as well as all NAGPRA notices to our new section106@mcn-nsn.gov. Notices concerning these projects will no longer be sent to individual staff member's emails. We will be accepting and responding using the new Section 106 email. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 918-732-7733.

From: Underwood, John [<mailto:junderwood@mdot.ms.gov>]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 2:12 PM
To: 'ashively@jenachoctaw.org'; 'chief@jenachoctaw.org'; 'bbordelon@tunica.org'; Bryant J. Celestine (celestine.bryant@actribe.org); 'HPO@chickasaw.net'; earlii@tunica.org; ithompson@choctawnation.com; 'jlambert@quapawtribe.com'; 'Carleton, Ken'; Section106; 'section106@quapawtribe.com'
Cc: Thurman, Kim; Vincent, Rhea; Gray, Bruce; melissa.hatcher@dot.gov; meguiremt@cdmsmith.com
Subject: Port Bienville Railroad Project-US DOT

Good afternoon,

Attached is information regarding alternative locations associated with the Port Bienville Railroad Project Study in Hancock County, MS. The attached zip file contains shape files of the alignments that are in the beginning stages of being subjected to cultural resources survey. Also attached is the cultural resources survey field methodology.

Please contact myself (see contact information highlighted below) or 601-359-7920 if anyone has any questions.

John
John R. Underwood, M.A., RPA
MDOT Chief Archaeologist
Environmental Division
P.O. Box 1850, Mail Code 87-01/AR
Jackson, MS 39215
Office: 601-359-1476
Fax: 601-359-1910
Cell: 769-257-1569
junderwood@mdot.ms.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE This e-mail and any files or attachments may contain confidential and privileged information.

If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender at the above e-mail address and delete it and all copies from your system.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE This e-mail and any files or attachments may contain confidential and privileged information.

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THE
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

GEORGE TIGER
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

LOUIS HICKS
SECOND CHIEF

September 25, 2015

Melissa Hatcher
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Initiation of Government-to-Government Consultation with Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.2©(2)(ii) for the Port Bienville Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Hatcher,

Thank you for contacting the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Office concerning the above referenced project.

After reviewing the material provided, it has been determined that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation would like to request additional information for this project before giving concurrence. We would like any information on the studies conducted for the cultural resources. Our area of interest are the trails that are present in this area.

Should further information or comment be needed, please do not hesitate to contact me at (918) 732-7639 or by email at jjacobs@mcn-nsn.gov.

Thank you,

Corain Lowe-Zepeda
TCNS Coordinator
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Cultural Preservation Department
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447



3200 Windy Hill Rd, S.E.
Suite 210 West
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

October 19, 2016

Mr. Delaney Johnson, State Soil Scientist
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
McCoy Federal Building
100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

Regarding: Port Bienville Railroad project in Hancock and Pearl River Counties

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is in the early stages of project development for the above referenced project. This proposed project is a new location railroad corridor, most of which lies within the Stennis Space Center Acoustical Buffer. The enclosed figure shows the project location and provides some additional project information. The total project length is 24 miles. The concept design for the project is being used to develop the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

The project will be impacting farmland and undeveloped land in the region. In compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act we are submitting Form AD-1006 with the project information added. Please advise us regarding the farmland conversion impact of the proposed project. Also, please advise us of any known project area conditions of special concern. With your assistance, we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the project alignment and design.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at malonetv@cdmsmith.com or (770) 899-2124.

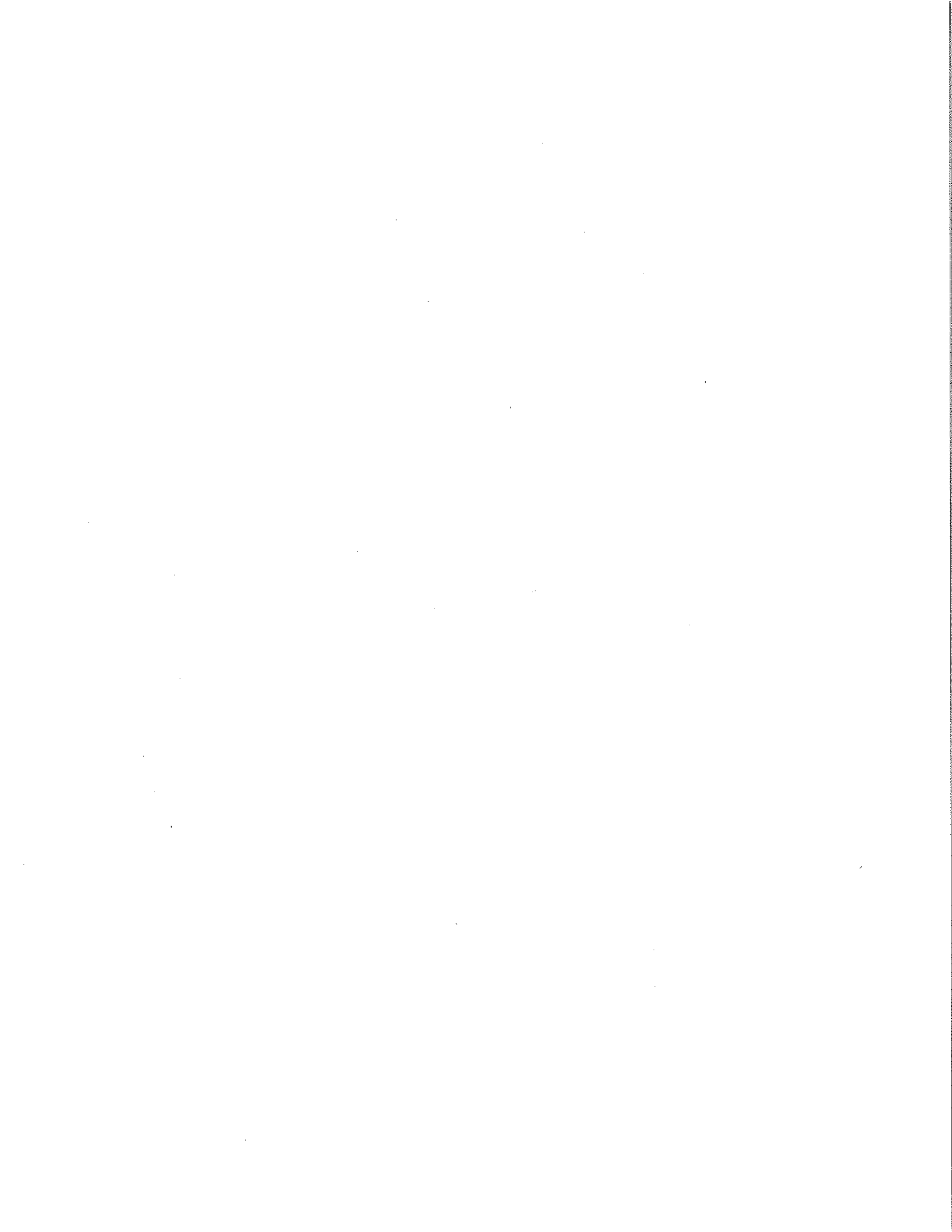
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

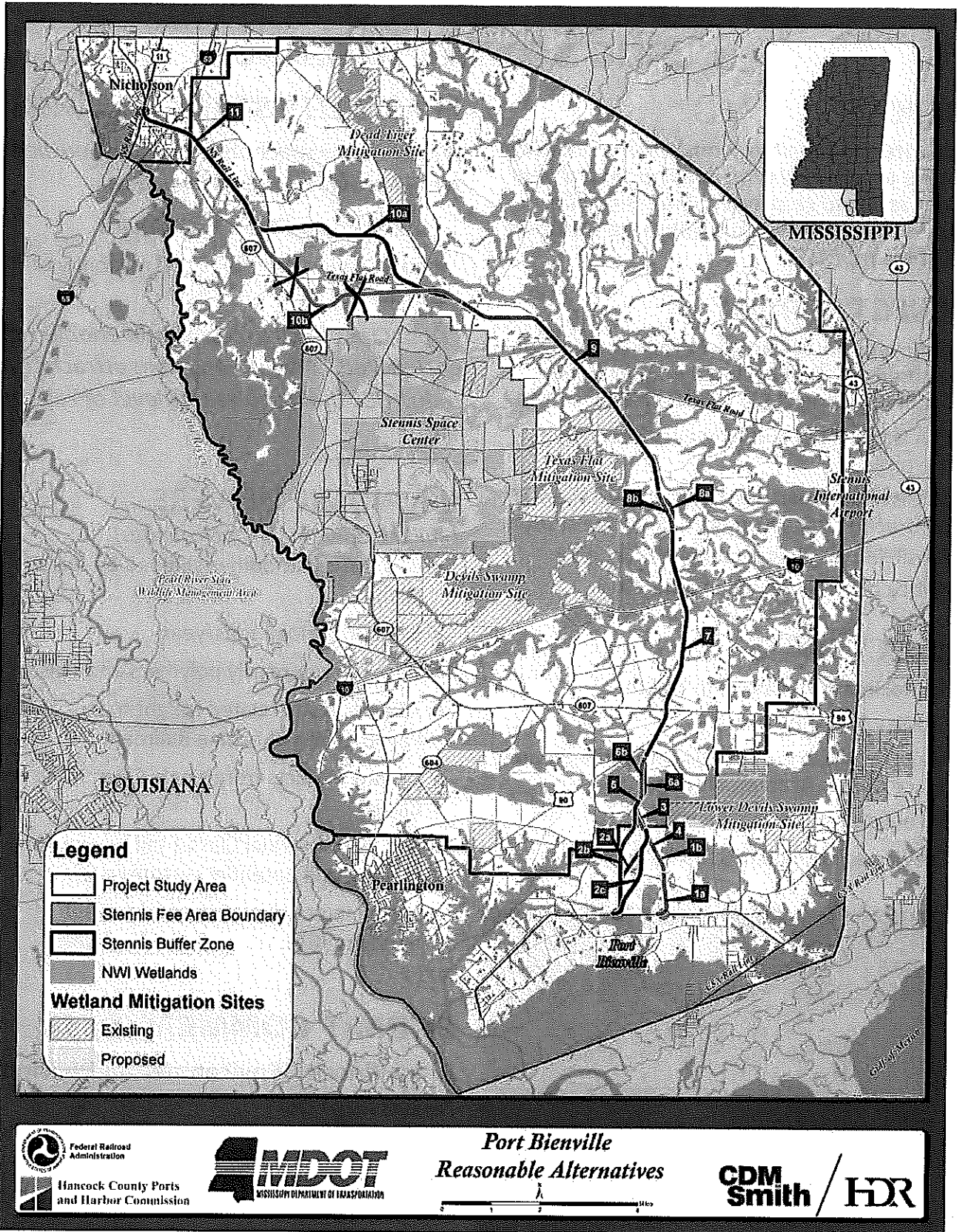
Terri Malone
Principal Planner

Enclosures





PROPOSED RAIL SEGMENTS IDENTIFIED IN FEASIBILITY STUDY



ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFO:

Port Bienville Rail Feasibility Study <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>

PORT BIENVILLE RAIL STUDY ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

PURPOSE

“Evaluate the feasibility and environmental impacts associated with constructing a new freight railroad to connect Port Bienville Industrial Park to Norfolk Southern Railroad in Nicholson, MS”

PROJECT HISTORY

- Hancock County Ports & Harbor Commission secured a Federal Railroad Administration Grant for the Port Bienville Rail Study in 2007
- FRA is the lead Federal Agency overseeing the project
- Mississippi Department of Transportation is Contracting Agency and manages the study
- Feasibility Study was completed in 2013
- Notice of Intent issued in June 2015

PROJECT FACTS

- Approximately 24 miles in length
- Crosses over I-10 and I-59
- Majority of the project lies within the Stennis Space Center Acoustical Buffer
- No building impacts anticipated
- Cost is approximately \$100 million



FEASIBILITY STUDY FINDINGS

A new rail connection to Norfolk Southern would provide existing business:

- Access to dual Class 1 rail service
- Improved transit times and reliability of deliveries

“Dual Class 1 rail access would enable Hancock & Pearl River Counties to attract new industries that require this level of rail service”

ECONOMIC DRIVERS

(Rail transport in the two counties)

- Value of commodities shipped by rail: \$1 billion
- 543,000 carload tons/year
- Goods are primarily polymers and plastics
- 70% of plastic-related freight moves through Port Bienville Shortline Railroad
- Service impacts from single Class 1 Rail Carrier
- The need for Dual Class 1 rail service for existing and potential customers
- Expansion of client base and market opportunities.

SUBMIT COMMENTS TO:

Rhea Vincent, Environmental Division
Mississippi DOT
PO Box 1850
Jackson, Ms 39215-1850
601-359-7920
environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request	10-18-16
Name of Project	Port Biverville Railroad	Federal Agency Involved	FRA and DOD-USACE
Proposed Land Use	New Transportation Corridor	County and State	Hancock J Pearl River

PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS	Person Completing Form: T. Malone	Country: Mississippi
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %		
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
	287			
	0			
C. Total Acres In Site	287			

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion
Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>	Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use	(15)				
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use	(10)				
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed	(20)				
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government	(20)				
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area	(15)				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services	(15)				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	(10)				
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland	(10)				
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services	(5)				
10. On-Farm Investments	(20)				
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	(10)				
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	(10)				
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0	0	0	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	0	0	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
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Reason For Selection:

Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:	Date:
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STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map, or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

(For Federal Agency)

Part I: When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

Part III: When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

Part VI: Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

Part VII: In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$$

For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

December 12, 2014

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2013-1-210-E1

Mr. Rhea Vincent
MS Department of Transportation
401 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Dear Mr. Vincent:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information in your electronic mail dated November 12, 2014, regarding the Port of Bienville Project (Project No. 105494 FRA-0023-00(003)) in Hancock and Pearl River counties, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

According to your electronic mail, the information the Service is providing in this letter will be used to assess impacts of the proposed project on federally listed species. Included is a list of species that may occur within the entire project study area, not just in the areas identified in proposed alignment segments. The Service has interpreted the segments you sent as the proposed new alignment routes and alternative routes for the new and upgraded railroad; if this assumption is inaccurate, please submit further information that includes a key or a description of the information provided in your maps to our office.

Please include in future project assessments all aspects of construction including an evaluation of areas that will provide fill for the construction of the rail line. If fill for the project will be obtained from areas outside the location of the proposed project study area, then please contact our office with additional location and project information so that we may provide a revised species list.

The following federally listed species may occur in the project study area:

Louisiana Black Bear

The federally listed threatened Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) occurs primarily in bottomland hardwood and floodplain forests along the Mississippi River and the southern part of the state. Although the bear is capable of surviving under a range of habitat types, some necessary habitat requirements include hard mast, soft mast, escape cover, denning sites, forested corridors, and limited human access. Forest management practices, agricultural,

commercial and industrial development, and highways can cause adverse impacts to bear habitat by increasing human disturbance, fragmenting forests, and removing den trees.

Bald Eagle

Although the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species as of August 8, 2007, it continues to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Bald eagles nest in Mississippi from December through mid-May in mature trees (e.g., bald cypress, sycamore, willow, etc.) near fresh to intermediate marshes or open water. Nest sites typically include at least one perch with a clear view of the water or area where the eagles usually forage. Bald eagles are vulnerable to disturbance during courtship, nest building, egg laying, incubation, and brooding. The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations regarding how to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute "disturbance," which is prohibited by the BGEPA. A copy of the NBEM Guidelines is available at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/BaldEagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>

Gulf Sturgeon

The threatened Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi*) is found in the Pearl, Leaf, and Pascagoula Rivers. Gulf sturgeons are primitive, anadromous fish that annually migrate from the Gulf of Mexico into freshwater streams to spawn. Subadults and adults spend eight to nine months each year in rivers. Although Gulf sturgeon activity is not well documented, the species has been found in the upper reaches of the Pearl, Leaf, Strong, Bouie, and Chickasawhay Rivers as far north as the Jackson metropolitan area. Adult and subadult holding areas have been identified in the Pascagoula River. The decline of the Gulf sturgeon is primarily due to limited access to migration routes and historic spawning areas, habitat modification, and water quality degradation.

Gopher Tortoise

The threatened gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) occupies a wide range of upland habitat types. The general physical and biotic features thought to characterize suitable tortoise habitat are: presence of well-drained, sandy soils, which allow easy burrowing; an abundance of diverse herbaceous ground cover; and an open canopy and sparse shrub cover, which allows sunlight to reach the ground floor. The gopher tortoise digs burrows for shelter, and groups of tortoises dig burrows in the same location, forming a colony. Some of the major threats to the species are habitat degradation (often attributed to fire suppression) and habitat fragmentation (often attributed to urbanization and agricultural/silvicultural conversion), which can result in forage reduction, direct human impacts, and reproductive isolation.

Ringed Map Turtle

The threatened ringed map turtle (*Graptemys oculifera*) is found in the Pearl River. It prefers river stretches with moderate currents, abundant basking sites, and sand bars for nesting. Stream modification in the Pearl River, such as flood control and urban development, has significantly contributed to the decline of the species. Water quality degradation has also posed a serious problem for the turtle.

Inflated Heelsplitter

The threatened inflated heelsplitter mussel (*Potamilus inflatus*) is found in the lower Pearl River, Noxubee, and Tombigbee watersheds. It inhabits areas with moderate to swift currents, and prefers riffle or shoal areas with stable bottoms composed of sandy gravel or firm mud gravel and cobble. Work activities that increase sedimentation and water turbidity, or alter channel geometry or flow could have adverse impacts on this species.

Louisiana Quillwort

The endangered plant Louisiana quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*) is a nonflowering grass-like plant that lives in water or in very wet habitats. Mature plants are six to ten inches long, mostly evergreen, with spore-bearing structures below ground. Surveys need to be conducted during the appropriate field season when the plants are visible, typically November into May. Timing varies depending upon rainfall, as plants completely dieback and are not visible when the intermittent streams, which are habitat for this species, have dried-up. Threats include activities that increase stream sedimentation, reduce stream flow, and reduce the overstory canopy cover.

According to information in the feasibility study you sent to our office on November 25, 2014, the proposed project will include several stream crossings and will impact several hundred acres of wetlands. These areas may provide suitable habitat for the federally endangered Louisiana quillwort. Additionally, wetlands provide important habitat for many migratory birds which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712).

The Service looks forward to working with you throughout the project development. Please feel free to contact our office if you require additional information at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Carson of our office, telephone: (601) 321-1130.

Sincerely,



for Stephen M. Ricks
Field Supervisor
MS Field Office

PORT BIENVILLE RAIL STUDY ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

PURPOSE

“Evaluate the feasibility and environmental impacts associated with constructing a new freight railroad to connect Port Bienville Industrial Park to Norfolk Southern Railroad in Nicholson, MS”

PROJECT HISTORY

- Hancock County Ports & Harbor Commission secured a Federal Railroad Administration Grant for the Port Bienville Rail Study in 2007
- FRA is the lead Federal Agency overseeing the project
- Mississippi Department of Transportation is Contracting Agency and manages the study
- Feasibility Study was completed in 2013
- Notice of Intent issued in June 2015

PROJECT FACTS

- Approximately 24 miles in length
- Crosses over I-10 and I-59
- Majority of the project lies within the Stennis Space Center Acoustical Buffer
- No building impacts anticipated
- Cost is approximately \$100 million



FEASIBILITY STUDY FINDINGS

A new rail connection to Norfolk Southern would provide existing business:

- Access to dual Class 1 rail service
- Improved transit times and reliability of deliveries

“Dual Class 1 rail access would enable Hancock & Pearl River Counties to attract new industries that require this level of rail service”

ECONOMIC DRIVERS

(Rail transport in the two counties)

- Value of commodities shipped by rail: \$1 billion
- 543,000 carload tons/year
- Goods are primarily polymers and plastics
- 70% of plastic-related freight moves through Port Bienville Shortline Railroad
- Service impacts from single Class 1 Rail Carrier
- The need for Dual Class 1 rail service for existing and potential customers
- Expansion of client base and market opportunities.

SUBMIT COMMENTS TO:

Rhea Vincent, Environmental Division
Mississippi DOT

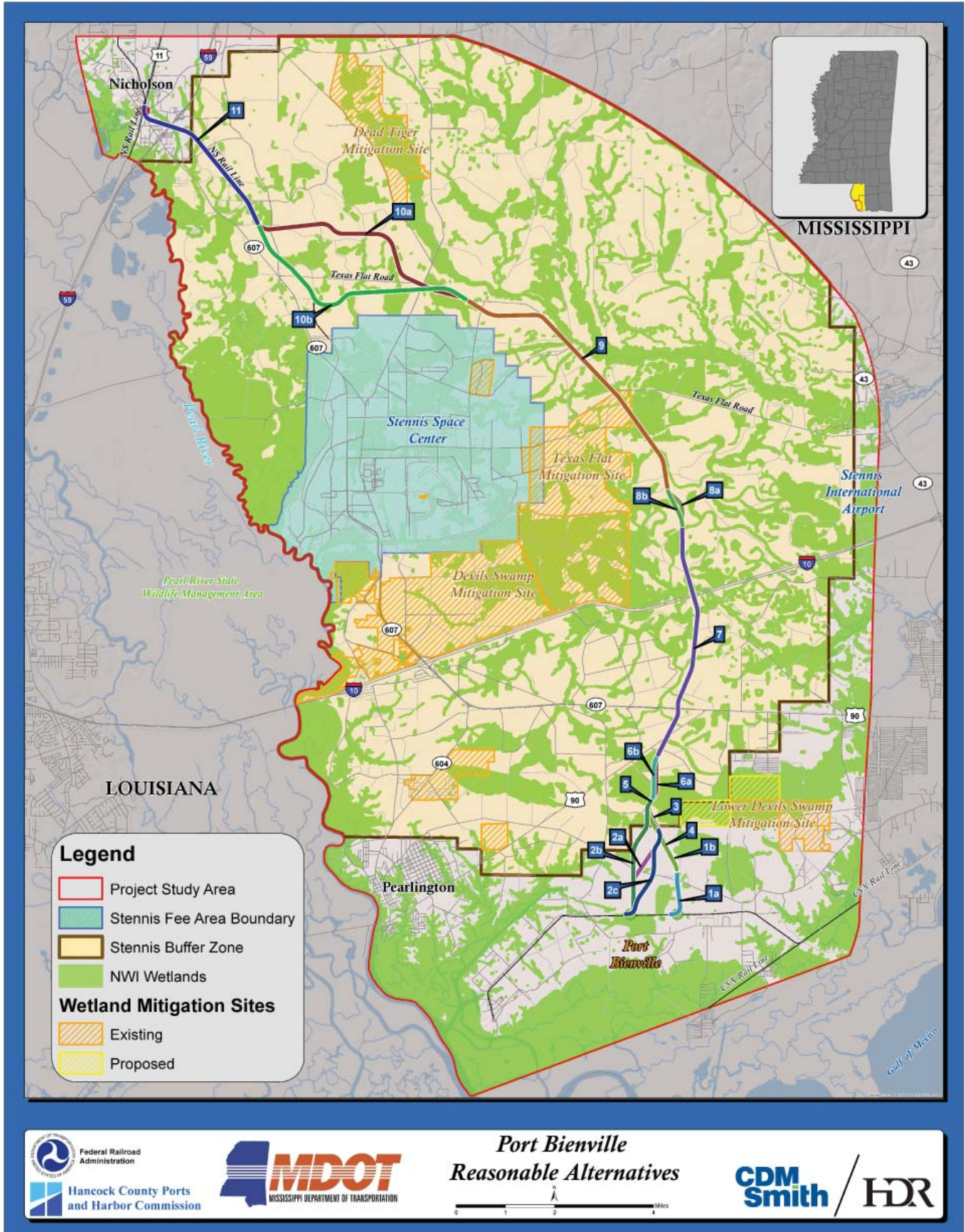
PO Box 1850

Jackson, Ms 39215-1850

601-359-7920

environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us

PROPOSED RAIL SEGMENTS IDENTIFIED IN FEASIBILITY STUDY



ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFO:

Port Bienville Rail Feasibility Study <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILLE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• William R Fricko	15130 Fricko DR Pearlington, Ms.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Hal Walters	106 Fibers, Bay St. Louis, MS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Keith Bowman	2302 Palestine Rd Picayune, MS, 39466	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• BO CLARKE	BLDG 1100 SSC	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>LETTER</u>
• Tim Pierce	NASA	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>LETTER</u>
• Mike Biggs	13092 Sea Plane Rd Bay St Louis MS 39520	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Gabe Faggard	9926 Honalo Place Diamondhead, MS 39525	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Cindy Lamb	124 RUE MAGNOLIA BILUZI 39530	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• JOHN OLADELE	3303 PORT & HARBOR BAY ST LOUIS, MS	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>PORT</u>

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILLE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• Thomas Muddle	SABIC	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Wesley B. Hammond	DAK	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Port & Harbor Note</u>
• William Kenneth Dean	EPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Al Shower	WLOX TV	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Billy Waits	2510 14 th Ave Suite 1200, Gulfport, MS 39501	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Bob Davis	127 Felicity St. BSL, 39520	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• ALAN E. POWERS	712 THIRD ST BFL, MS	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

August 20, 2015 Pearlinton, MS

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED
Port Bienville, Hancock County
Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov
www.goMDOT.com

Name Mike Biggs Telephone _____

Address 6492 Kaligekona Way

City Diamond head State MS Zip 39525

Which best describes your primary interest?

<u>Affected</u>	Resident
Concerned	<u>Business</u>
Other _____	Landowner
	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	<u>Economics</u>
Other _____	_____

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: No preference

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Timeline needs to be accelerated

Recommendations for the project: None



PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Port Bienville, Hancock County

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
 E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov
www.goMDOT.com

Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 20, 2015 Pearlinton, MS

Name JOHN OLADELE Telephone 228 - 533 - 4083

Address 3303 PORT 9 HARBOR DR

City BAY ST. LOUIS State MS Zip 39520

Which best describes your primary interest?

Affected	Resident
Concerned	<u>Business</u>
Other _____	Landowner
	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	Economics
Other <u>None</u>	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: _____
All see it from the perspective of a Port Bienville tenant

Issues and/or concerns about the project: None

Recommendations for the project: Implementation
Support and hopes it gets implemented to provide additional class 1 rail access to Port Bienville

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILLE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• <u>R Barrett</u>	<u>111 Petrol Point Suite 204</u> <u>Reach Tree City, Ga. 30269</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• <u>William Fricko</u>	<u>P.O. Box 23 Pearlinton, MS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• <u>Emmy Frierson</u>	<u>2810 Dixie Dr.</u> <u>Picayune MS 39466</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>mail</u>
• <u>John R Ladner</u>	<u>141 Bay Oaks Dr.</u> <u>Bay St. Louis, MS 39520</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>mail</u>
• <u>Judith Redshaw</u>	<u>15195 Panofoc Dr.</u> <u>Kilm, MS 39556</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Mr. Bell</u>
• <u>Emile Manier</u>	<u>200 Leube St</u> <u>Bay St Louis, MS 39520</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• <u>Phillip Stockstill</u>	<u>12 Azure Ln</u> <u>Pineburg, MS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• <u>THOMAS MURPHY</u>	<u>8570 Lower Bay Rd. BSL MS 39520</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• <u>Lyonie J. Ladner</u>	<u>11052 August Rd - RD BSL</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILLE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• <u>Mwen McChapman Mitchell</u>	<u>132 Clyde Meitzler Rd Picayune</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>LETTER</u>
• <u>Beau Cox</u>	<u>219 Nicholson Ave Waveland, MS. 39576</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other
• <u>Louis B. Stockstill</u>	<u>P.O. Box 1073 Picayune, MS 39466</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other
• <u>ALLEN COLE JR</u>	<u>ANSLEY MS. 39520</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other
• <u>Randy Shaw</u>	<u>P.O. Box 111 Picayune MS 39466</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>LETTER</u>
• <u>Andy Callahan</u>	<u>PO Box 489 Grove Hill, AL 36451</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Mail</u>
• <u>Cynthia Simpkins</u>	<u>408 Louisa St Waveland, MS 39576</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other
• <u>J.D. Davis</u>	<u>8109 RIDGEWOOD DR KILN MS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth
• <u>Shawn Brown</u>	<u>28488 Vintage Row 41060 Fairbrook Rd, Ponchartraine, LA 70454</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Letter</u>
•		<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILLE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• Evelyn Bosworth Evelyn Bosworth	28488 Vintage Lane Ponchatoula, La. 70454	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Letter</u>
• Harold Walters	106 fiber S. Bry St. Louis, MS 39520	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Mark & Gwyn Ellermann	2039 Old River Rd Slidell LA 70461	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Larry McEwen	80 checker Mitchell Road Picayune, MS 39466	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>mail - letter</u>
• Nell Frisbie	5021 Kiln Dehisle Road Kiln, MS 39556-8185	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Lisa McGlofin	83 Alan Rd. Carriere MS 39424	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>letter</u>
•		<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
•		<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
•		<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILLE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• Barbara Cross	128 Clyde Meitzler Rd Picayune, MS 39466	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• James E Downs	P.O. Box NICHOLSON MS.	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Mose Gill	24496 Old Hwy 49 Saucier, MS 39574	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• TISH WILLIAMS	517 Sunset Drive Bay St Louis, MS 39520	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Port + Itcr Sur
• Beau Fortune	6448 Apokhane Road Diamondhead, MS 39525	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Ronald Douthett	12270 OLD LOWER BAYRA Bay St Louis 39520	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• Brett Henry	1001 Ochman Blvd Suite 200 Covington LA 70433	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other notice to landowners
• Wesley Goode	406 Bratley Rd. Carriere, MS, 39426	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Mail Notice
• ZACH BUTTERWORTH	POB 3567 B.S.T.L., MS 39571	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth NOTICE TO LAND OWNER

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• <u>CAREY METZLER</u>	<u>6009 THE WOODS ROAD</u> <u>PEARLINGTON, MS 39466</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>MAIL</u>
• <u>Andy Beard</u>	<u>176 ENTREKUN RD</u> <u>CANTON, MS 39426</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)
PORT BIENVILE (PEARLINGTON, MS)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 4:00-7:00 P.M.



NAME	ADDRESS	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING
• Irma Frierson	15 Joe Bennett Rd Picayune, MS 39466	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Letter</u>
• Mary Beth Murphree	17635 Henderson Pass San Antonio, TX 78232	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
• _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Staff Sign In

REGISTRATION SIGN-IN SHEET
 PORT BIENVILLE PUBLIC OFFICIALS MEETING
 (PEARLINGTON, MS)
 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 10:00-12:00 P.M.



NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE / E-MAIL
• Lindsay Ward	Southern Miss. Planning, Dev. District	LWard@SMPDD.COM 228-868-2311
• Mike McIn	CDM Smith	mcquinnm@cdmsmith.com (803) 758-4548
• GUY JOHNSON	COAST ELECTRIC	228-216-7622 guy.johnson@coastepa.com
• Greg Shaw	HAWCOCK Co Supervisor	228-493-7967 Greg.Shaw@hawcock.co.us
• DAVID BARIA	STATE REP	228.216.5991 dbaria@gmail.com
• Jeffery Lee	Noel-Schaffer	601 270-5843 jeffery.lee@noel-schaffer.com
• Beau Gex	HEPHA	228-216-8351 bgex@hepha.ms
• Kelly Castleberry	MDOT	kcastleberry@mdot.ms.gov 601-544-6511
• Jimmie Ladner	Hawcock County	Taxi Ladner@Co.Hawcock.MS. 228-466-5791



Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

September 8, 2016 Pearlington, MS

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED
Port Bienville Short Line Railroad Hancock County
Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355 E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov www.goMDOT.com

Name Nell Frisbie Telephone 228-493-2024
 Address 5021 Kiln Dehiste Road
 City Kiln State Ms Zip 39556-8185

Which best describes your primary interest?

Affected	Resident
Concerned	<u>Business</u>
Other <u>Expansion of Businesses</u>	Landowner
	Other <u>Jobs</u>

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	<u>Economics</u>
Other _____	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: The yellow line on map at presentation
This line has least amount of wetlands, fewer owners

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Hancock County needs this Railroad
to better serve existing businesses at the Port as well as the
airport - Will enhance the possibilities of new companies
and more jobs so badly need in our area

Recommendations for the project: Full steam ahead!



Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

September 8, 2016 Pearlinton, MS

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED
Port Bienville Short Line Railroad Hancock County Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355 E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov www.goMDOT.com

Name Emile P. Manieri JR. Telephone 228-493-6341

Address 200 Se. 62 St

City Bay St Louis State MS Zip 39520-2405

Which best describes your primary interest?

Affected	Resident
Concerned	Business
Other _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner
	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics
Other _____	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: I was not made aware of any alternatives

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Eminent Domain has not been kind for me. My land is in the buffer zone of NASA. I am only allowed to grow timber and pay taxes on it. The Miss Power Co also came thru other property of mine and said they would be a good neighbor. They are not.

Recommendations for the project: Other concerns are:
who would this benefit?
who will pay for it?
why do we need it?

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov

would you please send me a landowner key and a property owner map or parcel map.

Thank You



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

September 8, 2016 Pearllington, MS

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED
Port Bienville Short Line Railroad Hancock County
Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355 E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov www.goMDOT.com

Name John & ANN Ladner Telephone 228-493-0539
 Address 141 Bay Oaks DR.
 City Bay ST. Louis State MS Zip 39520

Which best describes your primary interest?

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Affected	Resident
<input type="radio"/> Concerned	Business
<input type="radio"/> Other _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landowner
	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	Economics
Other <u>NO Problem with Location</u>	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: _____

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Since you are going through our property I would prefer that you buy the whole piece of our property. I am concern that you are going across the Highway. How will that crossing be protected for TRAFFIC on Highway.

Recommendations for the project: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov



Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

September 8, 2016 Pearlinton, MS

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED
Port Bienville Short Line Railroad Hancock County
Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355 E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov www.goMDOT.com

Name TISH WILLIAMS Telephone 228 216 9048
 Address 517 SUNSET DR
 City Bay St Louis State MS Zip 39520

Which best describes your primary interest?

Affected	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resident
Concerned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business
Other _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landowner
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social
Traffic Volume	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Economics
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: yellow line offers best alternative because it offers limited impacts on land owners, wetlands

Issues and/or concerns about the project: FUNDING the project

Recommendations for the project: Secure funding and implement the project swiftly to facilitate Economic impact to Region.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov



PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Port Bienville Short Line Railroad
Hancock County

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov
www.goMDOT.com

Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

September 8, 2016 Pearlinton, MS

Name Shane LaFontaine Telephone 228-467-2394

Address 812 Edna St

City Davelund State MS Zip 39576

Which best describes your primary interest?

Affected	Resident
<u>Concerned</u>	Business
Other _____	Landowner
	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	<u>Economics</u>
Other _____	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: the proposed

Issues and/or concerns about the project: NONE

Recommendations for the project: Needs to be done for future development

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov



PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Port Bienville Short Line Railroad
Hancock County

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov

www.goMDOT.com

Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

September 8, 2016 Pearlinton, MS

Name Beau Gex Telephone 228-216-8321
Address 219 Nicholson Ave
City Waveland State MS Zip 39576

Which best describes your primary interest?

Affected	Resident
Concerned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business
Other _____	Landowner
	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	Economics
Other _____	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: The proposed one

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: This is a badly needed project. I am 100% for it

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

September 8, 2016 Pearllington, MS

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED
Port Bienville Short Line Railroad Hancock County
Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355 E-mail: environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov www.goMDOT.com

Name Judith Redshaw Telephone 228-332-1816
 Address 15195 Pondtoc Dr.
 City Kiln State MS Zip 39556

Which best describes your primary interest?

Affected	<u>Resident</u>
Concerned	Business
Other _____	Landowner
	Other _____

What are the major issues?

Relocations	Noise
Wetlands	Safety
Wildlife	Social
Traffic Volume	<u>Economics (good)</u>
Other _____	

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: _____

Issues and/or concerns about the project: only concern is finding
funding

Recommendations for the project: If public money fails to
materialize, sell stock.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov



September 30, 2016

Ms. Kim D. Thurman, Administrator
Environmental Division
MS Department of Transportation
401 North West Street
Jackson, MS 39201

RE: Letter of Support for Port Bienville Railroad

Dear MS Thurman,

The Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC), serving as the metropolitan planning organization for the three coastal counties, Hancock, Harrison and Jackson, hereby expresses its support of the proposed Port Bienville Railroad Project, establishing dual Class I rail service to CSX and NS, which will lower rail transportation costs, reduce rail delivery times, improve reliability for existing and potential businesses in Hancock and Pearl River counties, and provide significant improvements in rail transportation resilience for the coastal region.

This is a critically important time in the redevelopment of our coastal economy and this project carries tremendous economic benefit for the industries and workers, creating the potential for expansion of port operations and services. Jobs lost from Hurricane Katrina and the Deep Horizon Oil Spill are favored to return as Port Bienville would be accessible and an advantageous location for new industries.

The six recommended segments form the Recommended Reasonable Alternative that will be further studied in the environmental Impact Statement. GRPC was a resource stakeholder and participated in the final analysis presentation of the Purpose and Need and Segment Comparison. We support the findings of the study and concur that the recommended alternative is the most favorable alternative to advance into the EIS.

We will continue to monitor the progress of the EIS and offer our assistance as needed for the success of the project.

Sincerely,

GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ELAINE G. WILKINSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
 P. O. BOX 571
 Jackson, MS 39205-0571
 Phone 601-576-6940 Fax 601-576-6955
 Website: mdah.ms.gov

December 21, 2017

Ms. Laura Shick
 Federal Railroad Administration
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

RE: Project No. FRA-002333-00(003)/105494 101000-102000; Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Connection between the Port Bienville Railroad and the Norfolk Southern Rail Line near Interstate 59, North of the National Aeronautics and space Administration's John C. Stennis Space Center, (FRA) MDAH Project Log #12-026-17, Report #17-0335, Hancock and Pearl River Counties

Dear Ms. Shick:

We have reviewed the August, 2017, cultural resources survey by J. Howard Beverly, with CDM Smith, received on December 6, 2017, for the above referenced project in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After reviewing the information provided, we offer the following comments:

Comments: NRHP recommendations/MDAH response

Site cards and corresponding text in the report have been revised to reflect MDAH comments for the following archaeological sites:

Site cards	NRHP det	MDAH	Report recommendations	MDAH
22Pr180	unknown	concur	P. 5-176 states it is undetermined	concur
22Pr158	unknown	concur	p. 5-169 states it is undetermined	concur
22Ha767	unknown	concur	p. 5-80 states it is undetermined	concur

Site card for this RR line segment states the site is undetermined due to its non-association with the mission of the Stennis Space Center. From information contained at MDAH, this RR line segment is actually associated with the Mississippi Army Ammunitions Plant –the only one of its kind built in the US after the Korean War. Despite the fact that the ammunitions plant is under 50 years of age, the ammunitions plant served a unique function in military history in the US –making it eligible under Criterion A. Information provided in the report has determined that the RR line was constructed to enable construction of the center before being also utilized in an unknown capacity to service the ammunitions plant. Since the line was built for other uses and then also utilized for the plant, MDAH concurs with an unknown determination.

22Ha181	unknown	concur	p. 5-72 states it is undetermined	concur
22Ha171	unknown	concur	p. 5-68 states it is ineligible	concur

Ms. Shick
Page Two
December 21, 2017

Site cards	NRHP det	MDAH	Report recommendations	MDAH
22Ha783 (CDMS15)c	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS16)g	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS17)g	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS20)a	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS21)b	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur

Site cards	NRHP det	MDAH	Report recommendations	MDAH
22Ha783(CDMS31)e	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS32)d	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS33)f	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS34)h	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur
22Ha783(CDMS35)h	unknown	concur	p.5-138 - 5-168 states undetermined	concur

p. 5-185 chart now correctly reflects correct information

We concur that site 22Ha171 is ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and will have no effect to the project. We also concur that the eligibility status of sites 22Ha181, 22Ha783 a-g, and Resources 1-3 is undetermined and will have No Adverse Effect to the resources. As such we have no reservations with the project.

There remains the possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during the project. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting this office immediately in order that we may offer appropriate comments under 36 CFR 800.13.

Please provide a copy of this letter to Mr. Beverly, et al. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Hal Bell
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: Katie Blount
State Historic Preservation Officer