



National Environmental Policy Act Services for Railroads



ICF International...

- Emphasizes process management to ensure an efficient environmental review process
- Plans and implements public involvement, agency consultations, technical analyses, internal reviews, and document production
- Utilizes CommentWorksSM, our proprietary Web-based software, to organize, summarize, and respond to public comments in coordination with the agency and project team
- Develops and publishes legally defensible NEPA documents under tight deadlines imposed by regulatory requirements or client needs

Certain railroad construction proposals and other transactions need approval from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) or other Federal agencies and often require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Moving smoothly through the NEPA compliance process can help a project adhere to the schedule and budget and ensure success.

Our Approach

ICF International provides solutions for a wide range of environmental issues. We have substantial experience managing environmental review processes for a broad range of U.S. government, state government, and foreign projects and thoroughly understand and have been involved in all aspects of the NEPA process.

ICF has managed and prepared NEPA and equivalent state documentation, including Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and Environmental Assessments (EAs), for numerous complex and controversial projects. Our experts have extensive experience working with senior agency staff and attorneys as well as applicant staff and their in-house and outside counsel.

ICF also has prepared and delivered NEPA training, guidance, and policy analysis to several agencies and Native American tribes.

ICF has supported the STB Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), other Federal agencies, and railroads for more than 10 years in reviewing the potential environmental impact of proposed railroad construction projects and mergers. We have provided this support as both an independent third-party contractor working for SEA and as a direct contractor to the railroads.

Comments on ICF's performance on EIS for Bayport Loop Build-Out

"The ICF staff all provided the highest level of expertise and professional conduct. Not only were all of the people who participated experienced in team work, which was vital to this case, but, when the situation called for innovation and adaptation, each team member could be counted on for initiative, self-direction, attention to detail, and follow-up."

"I wish to acknowledge again the outstanding work by the entire ICF team."

Victoria Rutson
Chief, SEA

Selected Experience

EIS for 80-Mile Extension of Alaska Railroad from North Pole to Delta Junction.

The Alaska Railroad Corporation is proposing the first major rail extension project in Alaska since 1923. The proposed Northern Rail Extension project would run from North Pole (near Fairbanks) to Delta Junction. ICF is preparing the EIS as a third-party contractor under the direction of the STB. Cooperating agencies include the Alaska Command (Army and Air Force), 354th Fighter Wing, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

EIS for Rail Line Connecting Yucca Mountain Repository to Union Pacific Main Line, Nevada.

ICF is part of a team supporting the Department of Energy (the lead agency) on an EIS for a proposed rail line to connect the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain to an existing rail line in Nevada. The EIS analyzes construction and operation of two alternative rail alignments—the 320-mile Caliente alignment and the 250-mile Mina alignment. Cooperating agencies include Bureau of Land Management, STB, and U.S. Air Force.

EA for Construction of Access Road along New Fourth Main Track, Wyoming.

ICF is a third-party contractor assisting the U.S. Forest Service in preparing an EA for the construction of a 12-mile access road for a new fourth main track along the existing triple-track Burlington Northern Santa Fe-Union Pacific Joint Line that serves the Powder River Basin coal mines. The Joint Line averages 61 trains per day and the fourth main track is needed to address capacity constraints.

EIS for 13-Mile Rail Line from Bayport Loop, Texas.

ICF acted as a third-party contractor assisting SEA in preparing an EIS for the construction and operation of a 13-mile rail line to connect petrochemical plants in the Bayport Loop to an existing mainline. ICF also analyzed the proposed operations for more than 45 miles of existing mainline track. Because one of the alternative alignments would cross a runway protection zone, ICF analyzed the potential impact to airport operations. ICF also planned and implemented a substantial public involvement campaign in English and Spanish.

EA for the New England Transrail Truck to Rail Reload Facility, Massachusetts.

ICF prepared an EA for the STB for the construction and operation of a reload facility in Wilmington, Massachusetts. Tasks on this highly controversial project included analysis of potential impact from the construction and operation of the facility at a site with existing soil and groundwater contamination, mitigation of potential impact, agency consultation, public involvement, and responding to agency and public comments.

EA for Canadian National Acquisition of Illinois Central.

ICF served on the management team of the third-party contractor for the preparation of the EA for the Canadian National acquisition of Illinois Central. ICF reviewed the application and operating plan to verify projected changes in rail traffic represented a reasonable outcome of the proposed acquisition. Verification and analysis of traffic data for the draft and final EA focused on development of the operating plan, system capacity, and geographically specific operations.

About ICF International

ICF International (NASDAQ: ICFI) partners with government and commercial clients to deliver consulting services and technology solutions in the energy, climate change, environment, transportation, social programs, health, defense, and emergency management markets. The firm combines passion for its work with industry expertise and innovative analytics to produce compelling results throughout the entire program life cycle, from analysis and design through implementation and improvement. Since 1969, ICF has been serving government at all levels, major corporations, and multilateral institutions. More than 2,500 employees serve these clients worldwide. ICF's Web site is <http://www.icfi.com>.

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