UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

October 16, 2012

Mr. Steven Biba
Project Manager
Dallas Area Rapid Transit
PO Box 660163
Dallas, TX 75266-0163

SUBJECT: South Oak Cliff Blue Line Extension Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) prepared by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas is providing the following comments.

There are conflicting statements within the document. Table ES-1 on page ES-7 states "No wetlands or waters of the U.S. [would be] affected (would be bridged; impacts would be *limited to column placement*)". In other words, it states that there would be impacts to waters of the U.S. by column placement. In contrast, page 5-61 states "Based upon preliminary determinations, no jurisdictional water or wetland features would be impacted." If waters of the U.S. would be impacted by bridge column placement, then these impacts should be identified. Even if plans and specifications call for spanning streams, temporary impacts could occur, e.g. temporary haul roads, temporary culverts. In summary, temporary and permanent impacts to stream crossings should be identified and evaluated.

Page 5-53 states that an 800 foot wall would be constructed for noise abatement to parcel 6. However, the document does not quantify the reduction, does not state if that reduction is acceptable, and does not discuss if the landowner was involved with the process.

EPA recommends that any 303(d) impaired waters within the project area be identified. If impaired waters do occur within the project area, then they should be characterized and evaluated for impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the DEA. Please mail or email a copy or provide an internet link of the final EA when it is published. Thank you for your coordination and don't hesitate to contact John MacFarlane, of my staff, at 214-665-7491 or macfarlane.john@epa.gov should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning and
Coordination