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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 464X)

30 March 2009

ABANDONMENT TYPE

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

The decision in this proceeding, served October 27, 2008, imposed a condition requiring the railroad to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line in its entirety until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed.

Pursuant to Section 106 and following consultation with the Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (SHPO), SEA has determined that the proposed abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The attached correspondence from the SHPO indicates its concurrence with SEA's determination that the abandonment will have "no adverse effect" on National Register eligible or listed historic and cultural resources. STB's compliance responsibilities under Section 106 of NHPA have been completed.

Conclusions

We recommend that the Section 106 condition imposed by the Board in this proceeding be removed.

SEA CONTACT: Kenneth Blodgett

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501

Mailing address: PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343

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March 25, 2009

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Environmental Section Chief
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W. Room 1110
Washington DC 20423-0001

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 090208-55-STB

Property: BNSF Railway Abandonment Exemption AB-6 (Sub #464X)

Re: NO Adverse Effect

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The above referenced project has been reviewed on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer under provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800. My review is based upon documentation contained in your communication.

I concur with Kenneth Blodgett that the current project as proposed will have "NO ADVERSE EFFECT" on National Register eligible or listed historic and cultural resources. If additional information on the project becomes available, or if any archaeological resources are uncovered during construction, please halt work in the area of discovery and contact the appropriate Native American Tribes and DAHP for further consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Russell Holter
Project Compliance Reviewer
(360) 586-3533
russell.holter@dahp.wa.gov



DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Protect the Past, Shape the Future



"Holter, Russell (DAHP)"
<Russell.Holter@DAHP.WA.GOV>

03/25/2009 07:31 PM

To <Kenneth.Blodgett@stb.dot.gov>

cc <kristy.clark@bnsf.com>, <susan.odom@bnsf.com>

bcc

Subject RE: BNSF Railway abandonment exemption AB-6 (Sub-No. 464X)

Kenneth,

Thank you for helping me close the loop on this. This is exactly what I needed. Hope all is well over on your side of the world.

Russell Holter
Project Compliance Reviewer
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
360-586-3533
DAHP's new office hours! 7:00am to 5:30pm Monday through Thursday

-----Original Message-----

From: Kenneth.Blodgett@stb.dot.gov [mailto:Kenneth.Blodgett@stb.dot.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 11:23 AM

To: Holter, Russell (DAHP)

Cc: kristy.clark@bnsf.com; susan.odom@bnsf.com

Subject: BNSF Railway abandonment exemption AB-6 (Sub-No. 464X)

In the Environmental Assessment for AB-6 (Sub-No. 464X) (BNSF's proposed abandonment of a 5.60 mile rail line located between milepost 5.00 at Kennydale and milepost 10.60 at Wilburton in King County, Washington), we determined that the line itself may be eligible and recommended a condition for BNSF to take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

Based on additional information received from BNSF, STB has since determined that the proposed abandonment in AB-6 (Sub-No. 464X) will have "No Adverse Effect" on the eligible line pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b).

Please provide your concurrence if you agree. If so, we will remove the Section 106 condition attached to this decision.

Thanks for you help.



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