

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

April 6, 2010

Reid Nelson, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Re: AB-33 (Sub-No. 255) – Union Pacific Railroad Company - Abandonment
and Discontinuance in Carver and Scott Counties, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I am writing to notify you that the abandonment, captioned above, may adversely affect the **historic nature of the rail line itself**, which the Surface Transportation Board has determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The rail line to be abandoned is 5.60 miles long and located in Carver and Scott Counties, Minnesota. The Board has made this determination through its Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), the office within the agency responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act, and related laws. We are making this determination of adverse affect pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of NHPA.

On March 12, 2010, the Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stated its concurrence with the Board's determination of eligibility of this rail line. We are currently developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SHPO, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), and the City of Carver pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(b)(iv) to mitigate any adverse effects to the National Register eligible rail line. We do not seek your participation at this time. Please notify us if you would like to participate in the resolution of adverse effects for this project.

I have enclosed the following documents: (1) a copy of the letter dated March 16, 2010 from SHPO concurring with the Board's determination of eligibility; (2) a copy of the Notice of Exemption and the Environmental and Historical Reports filed by UP; (3) a copy of the Environmental Assessment issued by SEA on January 15, 2008; (4) a copy of the Board's Final

Decision issued on April 1, 2008; and (5) a copy of the Historic Resources Evaluation prepared by Summit Envirosolutions.

If you need further information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (202) 245-0301 or e-mail at Troy.Brady@stb.dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Troy Brady
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Nina Archabal, Minnesota Historical Society, SHPO
Ms. Najah Duvall-Gabriel, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Mr. Mack Shumate Jr., Union Pacific Railroad Company