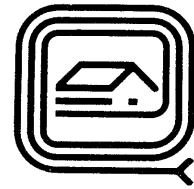


Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

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October 30, 2003

Rini Ghosh
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration
1925 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company Abandonment, AB-227, Sub-No. 9X
Harrison and Jefferson Counties, Ohio

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

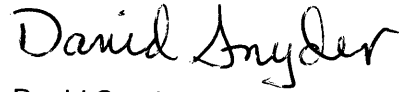
This is in response to correspondence from your office dated August 25, 2003 (received August 29) and correspondence from William Callison dated September 26, 2003 (received September 29) transmitting documentation fulfilling stipulations of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed June 18, 2003, for the above referenced project. The comments of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) are submitted in accordance with provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 [36 CFR 800]).

The documentation includes the report prepared by your office titled "Report on Research Conducted at the National Archives, STB Docket No. AB-227 (Sub.-No. 9X) – Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – in Harrison and Jefferson Counties, Ohio" and completed Ohio Historic Inventory forms with mapping, photographs and additional historical documentation compiled by Jeff Brown for the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company. The completed inventory forms meet the standards set by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. The photographs include both black and white and color prints from film. The number of prints and the views meet the stipulations of the MOA. The photographs are keyed to mapping, and the mapping provides plan views of the yard office and tunnel portals designed to meet the stipulations of the MOA. The documentation preserves important qualities and characteristics of these structures. Placement of documentation packets by Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company in several local institutions as indicated in your correspondence will help preserve an important part of the history of this region. We note that the MOA encourages Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company to continue consultation with the OHPO if it becomes necessary to attach barricades to the tunnel portals (Page 3, Paragraph C.). It is our opinion that the documentation that has been received fulfills the requirements stipulated in the MOA. No further coordination with this office is necessary for this undertaking and we concur with your finding to release the abandonment exemption.

Ms. Rini Ghosh
October 30, 2003
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Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to David Snyder at (614) 298-2000, between the hours of 8 am. to 5 pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Snyder". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "David" and "Snyder" being capitalized and prominent.

David Snyder, Archaeology Reviews Manager
Resource Protection and Review

DMS/ds (OHPO Serial Number 998517)

xc: William A. Callison, Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company, 100 E. First Street, Brewster, OH 44613
Jeff Brown, SCRPO, 201 3rd Street NE, Canton, OH 44702-1211