



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

December 14, 2006

Mr. Tom German
Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
P.O. Box 8943
Madison, WI 53708-8943

Re: STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 28X), Wisconsin Central Ltd. –
Abandonment Exemption – in Ashland County, WI

Dear Mr. German:

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review process for the above abandonment proceeding pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). SEA has been consulting with the Wisconsin Historical Society (SHPO) and Wisconsin Central Ltd. (the Applicant) regarding this proceeding and has determined that the proposed abandonment will have an adverse effect on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) eligible Ashland Ore Dock

SEA has identified your agency as having a potential interest in this undertaking. SEA has also identified the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, City of Ashland, and 21 additional Federally Recognized Tribes as potential consulting parties pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of NHPA. SEA intends to work with the consulting parties throughout the Section 106 process including the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to stipulate the resolution of adverse effects to identified National Register eligible historic properties. Please inform us if you would like to participate in the Section 106 process as a consulting party for this proceeding.

The following documents are enclosed for your review pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(e):

- Applicant's environmental and historic reports;
- The Environmental Assessment prepared by SEA;
- The Board's decision dated April 28, 2006; and
- The Applicant's Status Report dated October 24, 2006.

In the interest of completing the Section 106 process in a timely manner, we request that you respond no later than January 19, 2007. Please reference Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 28X) in all correspondence for this proceeding. We request that you sign at the appropriate line and return the original signature page for your agency to:

Troy Brady
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, NW Suite 500
Washington, DC 20423

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 565-1643 or via email at Troy.Brady@stb.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Brady / kaa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Troy Brady
Environmental Protection Specialist
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures (4)

cc (w/out enclosures): Sherman Banker, Wisconsin Historical Society
Michael Barron, Wisconsin Central Ltd.