

**BNSF Proposed Abandonment in McKinley County , NM****Joshua Wayland** to: kmorell

09/10/2012 11:40 AM

Mr. Morell,

The Surface Transportation Board, Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is currently reviewing the Environmental and Historic Reports submitted by BNSF Railway Company in support of its Notice of Exemption for the abandonment of a section of rail line in McKinley County, New Mexico (STB Docket No. AB 6 Sub-No. 485X). In our review, it appears that a portion of the line proposed for abandonment may be located within the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Nation Reservation. If this is the case, then it will be necessary to consult with the tribal authority, including the Tribal Historical Preservation Officer, before abandonment authority can be granted. The portion of the line in question comprises approximately .15 miles extending from Milepost 19.45 to Milepost 19.61, at the northernmost terminus of the line. I am requesting that you consult with your client, BNSF Railway Company, to determine whether this portion of the line does indeed cross the boundary of the Navajo Nation and report back your determination to OEA as soon as possible. I can be reached by email, mail, or at the contact numbers list below. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Josh Wayland
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

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