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EEO/AA Employer

June 8, 2015

Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
395 S Street Southwest
Room 110
Washington, District of Columbia 20423

RE: STB Docket No. AB55 (Sub-No. 741X – Abandonment Section 106)
FR# 15-503-RG-2 and 15-503-RG-3

Dear Ms. Wood:

We have reviewed the above mentioned project to determine its effects to cultural resources. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

According to submitted information, CSX Transportation plans to abandon 15.2 miles of track in Raleigh County, West Virginia.

Architectural Resources:

It is our understanding that the railroad is consulting with the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority which may be interested in purchasing the abandoned line. At this time, there is no longer proposed salvage of the line. In reviewing the file and the August 26, 2003 letter from us that states the "tracks and identifying features such as bridges will remain in place, thus not detracting from the historic integrity of the rail-line," it is our opinion that the tracks which were replaced in the 1970s and 1980s should not have been included as eligible. It is our opinion that the rail-line corridor and its identifying features are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, a conversion of the railway to a trailway will not be an adverse effect to the historic resource. No further consultation is necessary regarding architectural resources; however, we ask that you contact our office if your project should change.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Ernest Blevins, Structural Historian, at (304) 558-0240.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan M. Pierce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "P".

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/EEB

CC: JoAnn Burroughs, CSX Transportation