



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

January 16, 2014

Victoria Rutson, Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Diana Wood, OES Project Manager

**RE: STB 35756: Hartwell Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption
Elbert County, Georgia
HP-131217-002**

Dear Ms. Rutson,

Concerning the above referenced project, and based on recent conversations with the Surface Transportation Board, HPD offers the following recommendations to assist the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of the construction and operation of approximately 1,400 feet of connecting track between the Hartwell Railroad Line and the adjacent CSX Abbeville Line. Based on the information provided, HPD concurs that no archaeological resources that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by the proposed undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), due to previous disturbances. Concerning historic properties, HPD concurs that both the Hartwell Railroad Line and the CSX Railroad Line are eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for transportation and commerce. HPD concurs that the subject project, as proposed, will have **no adverse effect** to the rail lines within the project's area of potential effect, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

However, it is HPD's determination that the Century Granite Company is eligible to the NRHP under criteria A for industry. Therefore, HPD finds that the subject project, as proposed, constitutes an **adverse effect** to historic properties located within the subject project's area of potential effect (APE), as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(2).

When an adverse effect on a historic property is found, the federal agency must notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer on ways to mitigate adverse effects to historic properties. HPD would also like to make it clear that this determination of adverse effect is not the end of the review process. We will work with the federal agency and other consulting parties to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to address the adverse effects of this undertaking.

We look forward to working with you as this project progresses. Please refer to project number **HP-131217-002** in any future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 404-291-7627 or david.crass@dnr.state.ga.us or Karen Anderson-Cordova, Environmental Review Program Manager at 404-651-6461 or karen.anderson-cordova@dnr.state.ga.us.

V/r,

Dr. David Crass
Division Director,
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DC:kac

Cc: Kevin Stamer, Skelly and Loy, Inc.
Burke Walker, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission