



THE
NAVAJO
NATION



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BEN SHELLY
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September 30, 2014

Victoria Rutson, Director
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street SW
Washington D.C., 20423

Subject: **RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN CENTRAL UTAH**

Dear: Ms. Rutson,

The Historic Preservation Department-Traditional Culture Program, hereafter (HPD-TCP) is in receipt of the letter notification for a proposed railroad construction project in central Utah.

After reviewing the information documents provided, HPD-TCP ahs concluded that the project will not have adverse affects to Navajo Traditional Cultural Properties, and would like to recommend that the project identified stay within close proximity to the highway it is adjacent to. HPD-TCP on behalf of the Navajo Nation has no concerns at this time.

If the proposed project inadvertently discovers habitation sites, plant gathering areas, human remains and objects of cultural patrimony the HPD-TCP request that we be notified respectively in accordance with the Native American Graves protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). *(The Navajo Nation claims cultural affiliation to all Anasazi people (periods from Archaic to Pueblo II) of the southwest. The Navajo Nation makes this claim through Navajo oral history and ceremonial history, which has been documented as early as 1880 and taught from generation to generations).*

The HPD-TCP appreciates the Surface Transportation Board's consultation efforts regarding this document. Should you have any additional concerns and/or questions do not hesitate to contact me electronically at tony@navajohistoricpreservation.org or telephone at 928-871-7750.

Sincerely

Tony H. Joe, Jr., Supervisory Anthropologist (Section 106 Consultation)
Traditional Culture Program
Historic Preservation Department