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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

June 10, 2005

Mr. Don L. Klima
Director
Office of Planning and Review
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Re: AB-6 (Sub-No. 424X) – The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway
Company - Abandonment Exemption – in Dawson and McCone Counties,
Montana

Dear Mr. Klima:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, I am notifying you that the proposed abandonment, set forth above, may adversely affect historic properties, as indicated in the letter (copy enclosed) from Mr. Josef Warhank, Montana Historical Society (MT SHPO) dated April 8, 2005.

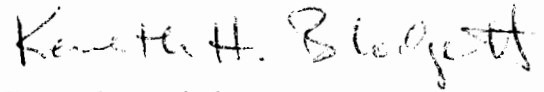
Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Mr. Warhank beginning the consultation process.

Also enclosed is a copy of the petition for exemption filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, describing the proposed action and containing information about the rail line.

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the National Historic Preservation Act. I will be working with the MT SHPO's office, as well as the railroad, and other concerned or affected parties as needed. I have enclosed a copy of the environmental assessment for this proceeding, and seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

If you need further information or have questions, please contact me at (202) 565-1554.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth H. Blodgett". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Kenneth H. Blodgett
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Sims, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company
Mr. Josef Warhank, MT SHPO