



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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May 6, 2009

Melanie Yasbin
Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer
Adams Building, Suite 301
600 Baltimore Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204-4022

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Re: Response to request for additional project information concerning the Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis' intent to abandon 5.18 miles of line between milepost 181.26 and 183.64 and 2.8 miles between milepost 51.5 and milepost 54.3 (DHPA #5700)

Dear Ms. Yasbin:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated and received on April 8, 2009 for the above indicated project in Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana.

Thank you for the update regarding the proposed abandonment and/or sale of the railroad lines. Your letter mentioned that the line to be abandoned by Central Railroad Company, including the Norfolk & Western Railroad bridge crossing Wildcat Creek at Milepost 53.95, which we believe to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, may be transferred to the City of Kokomo and the Greenways Foundation for trail use, or alternately sold to U.S. Rail Corporation and Winimac Southern Railway Company for continued railroad use. Since the course of action has not yet been determined, we are unable to provide further comment on the potential effects of the abandonment on historic properties within the probable area of potential effects. Once these issues have been sorted out and the federal agency determines whether an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 still exists, the Indiana SHPO will resume identification and analysis procedures for this project.

A copy of the revised 36 C.F.R. Part 800 that went into effect on August 5, 2004 may be found on the Internet at www.achp.gov for your reference. If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Cathy Draeger at (317) 234-3791 or cdraeger@dnr.IN.gov. If you have questions about buildings or structures please contact Chad Slider at (317) 234-5366 or cslider@dnr.IN.gov. Additionally, in all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #5700.

Very truly yours,

James A. Glass, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JAG:CWS:cws

cc: David C. Navecky, Environmental Protection Specialist, Surface Transportation Board