



IDAHO STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

EI - 34101

1 August 2025

Alan Tabachnick
Federal Preservation Officer
Surface Transportation Board
alan.tabachnick@stb.gov

Via Email

**RE: Gay Branch Line Abandonment/ SHPO Project No. 2025-419
(1994-1267) / Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 102X)**

Dear Mr. Tabachnick:

Thank you for consulting with our office regarding the above-referenced project. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is providing these comments to the Surface Transportation Board pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, codified at 36 CFR § 800. Please note that consultation with the SHPO does not replace consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public, as required under the NHPA.

It is our understanding that the scope of the undertaking will include the abandonment of the Gay Branch Railroad Line (10BM1316), a property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No physical removal of the line or features is planned as part of the abandonment.

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5, we have applied the criteria of effect to the proposed undertaking. Based on the information received on 19 March, 24 June, 22 July, and 1 August 2025, we concur that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties, as STB's federal authority over the line is limited. Our office understands that completion of the ongoing historic property survey will remain a stipulation of the abandonment process until it is fulfilled by the Union Pacific.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please note that our response does not affect the review timelines afforded to other consulting parties. Additionally, the information provided by other consulting parties may cause us to revise our comments. If you have any questions or the scope of work changes, please contact me via phone or email at 208.488.7463 or ashley.molloy@ishs.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Ashley Molloy
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Historic Preservation Office,
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