



#E1-26529

Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

HAZAZA BOSN KNPOM

Date: July 3, 2019

File: 1819-3814OK-5

RE: Environmental Essay, Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-NOo. 498X), BNSF Railway Company-Abandonment Exemption-in Pawnee county, Oklahoma

Surface Transportation Board
Victoria Rutson
395 E St SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office has evaluated your submission and concurs that the proposed Environmental Essay, Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-NOo. 498X), BNSF Railway Company-Abandonment Exemption-in Pawnee county, Oklahoma most likely will not adversely affect any sacred properties and/or properties of cultural significance to the Osage Nation. **The Osage Nation has no further concern with this project.**

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in 54 U.S.C. § 302706 (a), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969). **The Osage Nation concurs that the Surface Transportation Board has fulfilled NHPA compliance by consulting with the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office in regard to the proposed Environmental Essay, Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-NOo. 498X), BNSF Railway Company-Abandonment Exemption-in Pawnee county, Oklahoma.**

The Osage Nation has vital interests in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources. We do not anticipate that this project will adversely impact any cultural resources or human remains protected under the NHPA, NEPA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or Osage law. **If, however, artifacts or human remains are discovered during project-related activities, we ask that activities cease immediately and the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office be contacted.**

Should you have any questions or need any additional information please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.


James Munkres
Archaeologist