



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

E0-286
CG

May 30, 2006

Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwmna
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039-0123

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34075, Six County Association of Governments –
Construction and Operation – Rail Line between Levan and Salina, Utah

Dear Mr. Kuwanwisiwmna:

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in the process of conducting an environmental review in Finance Docket No. 34075, Six County Association of Governments – Construction and Operation – Rail Line between Levan and Salina, Utah. The project consists of a proposed 45-mile rail line located in Sanpete, Sevier and Juan Counties in Utah. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being completed by SEA for this project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other Federal laws including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As the lead Federal agency charged with complying with Section 106 of NHPA, we are following up on your request to act as a Section 106 consulting party and welcome your participation as we progress through the Section 106 and NEPA processes.

Two rail corridors, Alternate B and Alternate C, are currently under consideration for the proposed railroad construction project including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A). Alternate B consists of the proposed 45-mile line route situated between an existing Union Pacific Railroad line near Juab, Utah and a proposed coal transfer terminal facility near Salina, Utah. Alternate C extends from the southern end of the proposed project area north approximately 14 miles before connecting with Alternate B. The APE consists of a 160 foot wide corridor along the majority of both Alternate B and Alternate C. The APE expands to a 900 feet corridor where the northern and southern portions of the routes meet up with the existing rail lines (see Map). The project area is located on Federal (Bureau of Land Management), state and private lands.

SEA performed an intensive archaeological survey within the APE from April to July 2005. The survey resulted in the identification of 55 historic and prehistoric sites (see Table). Eight of the properties had been previously recorded but most are newly identified. Thirty-five of the sites likely meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). (For a complete description of the inventory results, please see the included draft document, Cultural Resources Inventory of the Central Utah Railroad Project in Sevier, SanPete and Juab Counties, Utah.)

SEA has been consulting with the Utah Division of State History/Utah State Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office) regarding the National Register eligibility of the sites and likely adverse effects. At this time we are seeking input from your tribe regarding the National Register eligibility of the identified historic properties. Any information that you provide us regarding the religious or cultural significance of the sites will be kept confidential pursuant to Section 304 of NHPA unless you indicate otherwise. Please respond to our request for National Register eligibility determinations on the historic properties within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

If you need further information or have any questions, please contact me at (202) 565-1545 or Catherine Glidden, at (202) 565-1542, gliddenc@stb.dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures – Map, Table, Cultural Inventory of the Central Utah Railroad Project in Sevier, SanPete and Juab Counties, Utah

cc (w/out enclosures):

Matthew T. Seddon, Ph.D., Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Archaeology
Six County Association of Governments