

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***Washington, DC 20423**Office of Environmental Analysis*

December 18, 2012

Yankton Sioux Tribe
Thurman Cournoyer Sr., Chairman
P.O. Box 248
Marty, SD 57361-0248

Re: Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc.—Rail Construction and Operation—
in Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Montana: Government-to-Government
Consultation

Dear Chairman Cournoyer:

The purpose of this letter is to initiate formal government-to-government consultations with the Yankton Sioux Tribe regarding the above-referenced project.

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) October 29, 2012 e-mail to you provided your tribe with information regarding our responsibility for preparing the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the proposed project. This was followed by our December 11, 2012 letter that laid out our responsibilities to consult with you regarding potential effects from the proposed project to historic properties as defined under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Board is now interested in knowing your views regarding your tribe's interest in our consulting with you regarding the broader range of impacts assessed under NEPA including those to tribal lands and resources such as plant gathering areas and religious sites. To assist you in your response, I have attached a comment card regarding any future involvement your tribe may want in the overall NEPA process. I respectfully request that you complete the card and return it to Catherine Glidden of my staff at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail please do not hesitate to contact Catherine at 202-245-0293 or Richard Starzak of ICF International, our independent third-party contractor, at 213-840-7480. Information on this project is also available on the Board's website at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases.html, and on the project website at <http://www.tonguerivereis.com/>. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures: Map of Potential Alternatives; Consultation Questionnaire
cc: Lana M. Gravatt

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Yankton Sioux Tribe

STB Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc. (TRRC)—Rail Construction and Operation—in Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Montana.

Project Name: TRRC's proposed rail line

Please check all the appropriate response(s) that apply from the list below and use the back of this form or additional sheets if you wish to make comments:

- ☐ We have no interests associated with TRRC's proposed rail line and further consultation with our Tribe is not required.
- ☐ We want to continue to receive project information by mail and participate in the public involvement process.
- ☐ We have an interest in TRRC's proposed rail line and want to participate in government-to-government consultation.

Name of the Yankton Sioux Tribe designated contact for TRRC's proposed rail line:

Please print

Phone: _____
e-mail: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please mail to: Catherine Glidden
STB Finance Docket No. 30186
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Or Email to: gliddenc@stb.dot.gov



Proposed Tongue River Railroad Potential Alternatives

