

EO-1065

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423**

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

October 7, 2008

Ms. Blythe Semmer
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Re: AB-307 (Sub-No. 4X) – Wyoming and Colorado Railroad Company -
Abandonment Exemption - between M.P. 0.19 and M.P. 1.31 in Laramie,
Albany County, Wyoming
Wyoming SHPO Number: 0201JKW003

Dear Ms. Semmer:

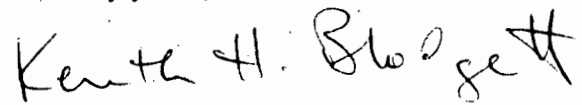
On August 14, 2008, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) received your request for additional information on the above referenced undertaking to enable the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to determine whether your participation in the consultation to resolve adverse effects is warranted.

As clarified in the attached e-mail from Mary Hopkins of the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) office, the establishment of the Laramie Greenbelt project proceeded without the STB's involvement and is not part of the federal undertaking currently before the STB.

Subsequent to the SHPO's letter dated February 25, 2003, the SHPO has worked closely with the City of Laramie, the Albany County Historic Preservation Board, the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (SPCR), the USDA Forest Service, the Wyoming and Colorado Railroad Company (WYCO), and the STB toward a resolution of adverse effects of WYCO's undertaking. Negotiations are proceeding in a positive and productive manner. All parties are in agreement that the installation of an interpretive sign and kiosk describing the history of the Laramie-Hahn's Peak rail line on SPCR property would mitigate the adverse effect of the abandonment. The interpretive sign would be designed for pedestrian access and would help the public to better understand the history of the resource. The interpretive sign would provide educational benefits to the public. A Memorandum of Agreement would be developed to mitigate the adverse effects detailing the responsibilities of all parties involved.

I will continue to work with the SHPO's office, as well as the railroad, and other concerned parties toward successful completion of the 106 process. STB will not move forward to conclude an MOA until ACHP has determined whether to enter consultation. If you need further information or have questions, please contact me at (202) 245-0305.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth H. Blodgett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kenneth H. Blodgett
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Karl Morell, WYCO
Ms. Mary Hopkins, WY SHPO



"Mary Hopkins"
<Hopkins@uwyo.edu>

10/02/2008 04:38 PM

To <Kenneth.Blodgett@stb.dot.gov>, <bsemmer@achp.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Laramie Hahns Peak Line

Hi Ken and Blythe:

Our negotiation of the MOA for the abandonment of the rail line in Laramie is proceeding in a positive and productive manner. I had sent a draft MOA for you to review a few weeks ago. I wanted to explain that the Laramie Greenbelt project was not a federal undertaking and thus the adverse effect to the rail line happened without the STB's involvement. I hope that clarifies some of this and I feel if the signage is put in place, we are all in agreement that the abandonment will be mitigated. It is the abandonment that is the undertaking.

I have heard from all of the other parties on the agreement and I only have a few changes to make. The City is wanting to move forward on this so they can proceed with a wetlands mitigation project and the snow is going to be flying soon.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information for you both.

Regards,

Mary Hopkins
Interim SHPO, Wyoming
307-766-5324 (Laramie)
307-777-6311 (Cheyenne)