



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

June 24, 2025

Ashley L. Molloy
 Historical Review Officer
 Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
 210 Main Street
 Boise, Idaho 83702

**Re: Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 102X), Union Pacific Railroad Company –
 Discontinuance of Service Exemption, Gay Branch – In Bannock and
 Bingham Counties, ID; SHPO Rev. No. 2025-419; 2022-876; 1994-1267**

Dear Ms. Molloy:

As discussed during our recent meeting, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) initiated consultation for the above-referenced rail line abandonment proceeding in 1994, and the Board authorized abandonment in 1996 with a condition requiring completion of the Section 106 process prior to consummation of the abandonment. At that time, there was no eligibility determination for the Gay Branch or any resources within the right-of-way.

In a letter dated April 22, 2025, your office stated that it had recently consulted with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on the project to widen Interstate I-15 (I-15), which also would require the removal of the Gay Branch bridge spanning I-15. As part of the Section 106 process related to the I-15 widening, in 2022 the Gay Branch was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and that the proposed removal of the Gay Branch bridge would have no adverse effect on any historic properties (including the Gay Branch).

OEA has reviewed the background information and the materials submitted in this proceeding over the years, including the documentation of the Gay Branch in ICRIS (IHSI No: 11-17960). OEA has also reviewed historic maps as well as photographs of the Gay Branch bridge and rail line. In an email dated June 16, 2025, Union Pacific Railroad (UP) confirmed that it has no plans to salvage or alter the line, other than removing the bridge. Therefore, based on the information gathered to date in this case, OEA has determined that the proposed abandonment, including the removal of the bridge, would have no adverse effect on historic properties.

Thank you again for your continued consultation efforts on this project. If you have any questions about this determination, please contact Alan Tabachnick, the Board's Federal Preservation Officer, at alan.tabachnick@stb.gov, or at 202-245-0367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis