



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

June 2, 2015

Mr. Ben Shelly, President
The Navajo Nation
100 Parkway, P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Re: Docket No. FD 34075 - Six County Association of Governments--Construction and Operation Exemption--
Rail Line Between Juab and Salina, UT: **Submission of Programmatic Agreement for Signature**

Dear President Shelly:

On behalf of the Surface Transportation Board (Board), I am pleased to send to you the Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Six County Association of Governments Railroad project, a proposed 43-mile rail line in Juab, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties. The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) developed this PA in consultation with numerous parties, pursuant to the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C § 300101 *et seq.* (NHPA), and 36 C.F.R. Part 800. Based on your tribe's interest in notification with regard to inadvertent discovery, I respectfully request your signature representing your tribe as a Concurring Party to this document.

The PA represents input from federal agencies, state agencies, local interest groups, local governments and tribes. The PA treats historic properties comprehensively, establishing stipulations for survey, evaluation, and protection of cultural resources as well as mitigation of adverse effects. The PA includes protocols for ongoing consultation throughout pre-construction activities as well as for inadvertent discovery and protection protocols during construction. Signatories and concurring parties signing the PA will actively participate in the review of plans, reports and discoveries. The Applicant seeking Board approval for the rail line has primary responsibilities for many aspects of the PA. The Board's OEA will maintain oversight of PA implementation and coordinate consultation.

Thank you for your participation in consultation to address effects to historic properties from this important rail project. If you wish to sign the PA as a Concurring Party, in order to meet our schedule for a Board decision and to enable initiation of project planning, we request return of your signature by June 19, 2015. Please sign the attached signature page and return the original copy to our office. We look forward to continuing consultation in the implementation of the PA. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Irwin by phone at 202-245-0299, or by email at jeffrey.irwin@stb.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure: PA for Signature
Cc: Tony Joe