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July 14, 2010

EI-18235
KHS

Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Re: Environmental Assessment and the Surface Transportation Board's finding of "no historic properties affected" regarding the abandonment of 2.18 miles of Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E) rail line between Milepost 48.28 and Milepost 46.10 (Docket #AB-117 [Sub-no. 7x]; DHPA #8111)

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated June 11, 2010 and received on June 17, 2010 for the above indicated project in Hammond, Lake County, Indiana.

Thank you for a copy of the Environmental Assessment. We concur with the Surface Transportation Board's finding that there are no historic buildings, structures, districts, objects, or archaeological resources within the area of potential effects that will be affected by the above indicated project.

This identification is subject to the following condition:

- The project activities remain within areas disturbed by previous construction.

If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations.

If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Cathy Draeger-Williams at (317) 234-3791 or cdraeger-williams@dnr.IN.gov. If you have questions about buildings or structures please contact Chad Slider at (317) 234-5366 or cslider@dnr.IN.gov.

Very truly yours,

James A. Glass, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JAG:CWS:cws

cc: Thomas Healey, Counsel for Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company