



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
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Lt. Governor

September 12, 2019

Diana F Wood
Office of Environmental Analysis
US Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423
Diana.Wood@stb.gov

Dear Ms. Wood:

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey, in accordance with 36 CFR 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2000 (65 FR 777698-77739) and as amended on July 6, 2004 (69 FR 40544-40555), I am providing consultation comments for the following proposed project:

**Passaic County, City of Passaic and Bergen County, City of Garfield
New York & Greenwood Lake Railway (NYGL)
Abandonment of Railroad Right of Way, milepost post 0.0 and milepost 1.1
Surface Transportation Board (STB)**

Summary: The abandonment of the NYGL railroad (Formerly Bergen and Dundee Branch - New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad) between milepost 0.0 and 1.1 will not adversely affect historic properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the opinion of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (HPO) that numerous industrial buildings along this railroad may constitute an historic district eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The consultation comments below are in reply to your *Final Environmental Assessment, Environmental Recommendations in Docket No. AB 1273X* dated and received August 20, 2019. This was submitted to the HPO for review and comment pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

800.4 Identification of historic properties

The HPO had previously identified six (6) industrial buildings along the NYGL that are likely eligible for listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places (D2007-10). In addition to these six previously identified resources, there are several other late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial buildings associated largely with the textile industry, but also

other industries such as cigar making, wire making, printing and rubber manufacturing, all concentrated where the Dundee Canal and the former Bergen and Dundee Branch of the Erie Railroad (NYGL) converge. This industrial district represents the peak of manufacturing production in the City of Passaic. Additionally, the textile mills along the Dundee Canal gained national attention in 1926 for the largest textile strike in US history. Therefore, it is likely that this area along the NYGL is a National Register eligible industrial historic district under criterion A for industrial history and criterion C for architecture. More information is needed before the HPO can assess the existing integrity of an industrial historic district. Finally, this area is likely eligible under criterion D related to the archaeological remains of the Dundee Canal formerly located under what is now Canal and South Streets, as well as other potential precontact and colonial period archaeological resources. However, further research is required to confirm the presence of contributing archaeological deposits. Please see the attached historic resources map delineating the potential historic district boundaries.

800.5 Assessment of adverse effects.

It is the opinion of the HPO that the proposed abandonment and potential removal of remaining rails and ties of the Former Bergen and Dundee Branch - New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad will have no adverse effect to historic resources. The potential removals will be too shallow to potentially effect below ground resources; the adjacent buildings will not be visually, aesthetically, or physically effected; and the line itself has lost its integrity overtime, having virtually no character defining features remaining. This is consistent with the HPO findings of April 3, 2007 (D2007-10) when the adjoining section of NYGL, from mile posts 1.1 to 1.8, was abandoned.

Additional Comments

Thank you again for providing this opportunity for review and comment on the potential for this project to affect historic architectural and archaeological resources. Please reference the HPO project number 19-2192 in any future calls, emails, submissions, or written correspondence to help expedite your review and response. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vincent Maresca 609-633-2395 or vincent.maresca@dep.nj.gov regarding archaeological resources or Jennifer Balson Alvarez at 609-633-2397 or jennifer.alvarez@dep.nj.gov regarding architectural resources.

Sincerely,



Katherine J. Marcopul
Deputy State Historic Preservation Office

cc: Ms. Carlough, Clark Hill PLC (scarlough@clarkhill.com)
Honorable Hector C. Lora, Mayor of the City of Passaic (mayor@cityofpassaicnj.gov)

JBA/VM/KC/KJM