

From: [Thornhill, Steve](#)
To: [Blodgett, Kenneth](#)
Cc: [Johnson, Kevyn K](#)
Subject: FW: Surface Transportation Board, Preliminary Environmental Consultation – Iowa Falls Railroad, Hardin County, Iowa
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 3:29:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[RE Surface Transportation Board Preliminary Environmental Consultation Iowa Falls Railroad Hardin County Iowa.msg](#)
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Hi Ken.

Kevyn Johnson, who sent the agency letter out and the emails transmitting them, got this response from Iowa DOT. The string below notes trees and potential for northern long eared bats, attachments are for cultural resources and wetlands. Please let me know if you have any questions.

steve

Stephen G. Thornhill, **LEED AP**
 Project Manager \ Environmental Services



Note: I have a new office phone number below. Please update your records.

O 816-894-8808 \ M 816-214-3740
sthornh@burnsmcd.com \ burnsmcd.com
 9400 Ward Parkway \ Kansas City, MO 64114

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Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Thornhill, Steve <sthornh@burnsmcd.com>
Subject: FW: Surface Transportation Board, Preliminary Environmental Consultation – Iowa Falls Railroad, Hardin County, Iowa

Kevyn K. Johnson \ Burns & McDonnell
 Assistant Environmental Scientist \ Environmental Services
 O 816-652-2582 \ M 918-706-5255
kkjohnson@burnsmcd.com \ burnsmcd.com
 9450 Ward Parkway \ Kansas City, MO 64114

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Comments from our Location and Environment Bureau.

TONY J. GUSTAFSON, P.E.

DISTRICT 1 ENGINEER

DISTRICT 1 OFFICE

1020 S. 4TH STREET, AMES, IOWA 50010

Tony.Gustafson@iowadot.us

 Iowa Department of Transportation

Office phone: 515-239-1430

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Phone: 515-239-1698
Cell: 913-205-6487
Fax: 515-239-1726
E-mail: jill.garton@iowadot.us

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If you would like a hard copy of the attachments or other information on the Project, please let me know.

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9450 Ward Parkway \ Kansas City, MO 64114

From: [Walls, Brandon](#)
To: [Nicholson, Tamara](#); [Dolan, Brennan](#); [Garton, Jill](#)
Cc: [Gustafson, Tony](#)
Subject: RE: Surface Transportation Board, Preliminary Environmental Consultation – Iowa Falls Railroad, Hardin County, Iowa
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 5:09:12 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Thanks, Tammy. You are correct, the wetlands that are within the project limits are isolated and therefore are non-jurisdictional under 404. Likewise, because this is a non-transportation project, they would not be regulated under Iowa Code either.

If I could add one more additional comment that I overlooked – It is unclear what typed of work will be done to the rail that is planned to be constructed on existing alignment. This rail crosses a small intermittent stream on the westerly end of the project. If any work is being done in and around this channel or fill will be placed within the channel, a 404 Permit application will need to be submitted to the Corps for review prior to construction. Again, I would recommend having a wetland delineator or biologist on site to do a USACE Waters of the U.S. stream determination.

Tony, if my comments are unclear, please feel free to give me a ring.

Thanks,

-Brandon



From: Nicholson, Tamara <Tamara.Nicholson@iowadot.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Walls, Brandon <Brandon.Walls@iowadot.us>; Dolan, Brennan <Brennan.Dolan@iowadot.us>; Garton, Jill <JILL.Garton@iowadot.us>
Cc: Gustafson, Tony <Tony.Gustafson@iowadot.us>
Subject: RE: Surface Transportation Board, Preliminary Environmental Consultation – Iowa Falls Railroad, Hardin County, Iowa

Thanks Brandon.

Tony – in your response, you won't want to reference Iowa Code since that section only applies to the DOT, and would not apply to this non-highway project.

Tammy

From: Walls, Brandon <Brandon.Walls@iowadot.us>

Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:58 PM

To: Dolan, Brennan <Brennan.Dolan@iowadot.us>; Nicholson, Tamara <Tamara.Nicholson@iowadot.us>; Garton, Jill <JILL.Garton@iowadot.us>

Cc: Gustafson, Tony <Tony.Gustafson@iowadot.us>

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Hi Tammy,

Water resources recommendation:

From my desktop review, I did not see any apparent streams or wetlands that are regulated under CWA Section 404. However, I have suspicion that there may be a small isolated wetland as well as a farmed (FSA) wetland within the project area that would be regulated under Iowa Code 314.23. Evidence of these atypical wetland areas can be seen using NRCS Web Soil Survey maps, topography relief maps, as well as visible saturation or inundation as seen in historic imagery.

Our recommendation is to have a certified wetland delineator or biologist conduct a desktop review of the project area for presence of wetlands as well as a field delineation during the growing season using guidance from the *USACE Wetland Delineation Manual (Midwest supplement)* specific to "Agricultural Lands". This section of the manual describes the appropriate procedures needed to delineate potential wetlands specific to agriculture lands.

Thank you,

-Brandon



From: Dolan, Brennan <Brennan.Dolan@iowadot.us>

Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:28 AM

To: Nicholson, Tamara <Tamara.Nicholson@iowadot.us>; Walls, Brandon

<Brandon.Walls@iowadot.us>; Garton, Jill <JILL.Garton@iowadot.us>

Cc: Gustafson, Tony <Tony.Gustafson@iowadot.us>

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Tammy –

Here is my cultural resources recommendation:

- Data currently available from the State Historic Preservation Officer and the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist do not reveal any recorded resources within the proposed project area. Also, some portions of the proposed project area appear to have been previously surveyed as part of an intensive archaeological survey. However, major portions of the proposed project area have not been previously surveyed and it is our recommendation that a phase I archaeological investigation (that follows the guidelines set forth by the Association of Iowa Archaeologists) be completed for this project. Obviously, the STB will need to consult with Sovereign Tribes and Nations that may attach religious or cultural significance (36 CFR 800.2) to historic properties known to this part of the state.

Let me know if you have any questions,

BRENNAN J. DOLAN, RPA 18023

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGER/ARCHAEOLOGIST

LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

iowadot.gov

□ Iowa Department of Transportation

Office: 515-239-1795

□ @iowadot

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