



EI - 31383

Asa Hutchinson
Governor
Stacy Hurst
Secretary

December 14, 2021

Mr. Alan Tabachnick
Surface Transportation Board, c/o VHB
Attention: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 36500
940 Main Campus Dr., Suite 500
Raleigh, NC 27606

RE: Benton and Polk Counties: Gentry and Mena
Section 106 Review: FRA
Proposed Undertaking: Docket No. 36500, Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, et al. – Control of – Kansas City
Southern, et al.; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement
AHPP Tracking Number: 109127

Dear Mr. Tabachnick:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the submission for the above-referenced project and notice of intent to prepare and environmental impact statement. The proposed undertaking entails the merger of Canadian Pacific Railroad with Kansas City Southern, which would create the first railroad to connect Canada, the United States and Mexico. In reference to Arkansas, two locations have been proposed for capital improvements in Benton and Polk Counties. The first location is located north of Gentry in Sections 24 and 25, Township 19 North, Range 33 West. There are no previously recorded archeological sites in the railroad right of way and the likelihood of finding intact historic properties is small as the area of potential effect (APE) is highly disturbed from previous railroad construction. The second location is located northeast of Mena in Section 5, Township 2 South, Range 30 West. There are no previously recorded archeological sites in the railroad right of way and as the APE is already highly disturbed from previous construction, the likelihood of finding intact historic properties is minimal.

Based on the provided information, the AHPP believes **no historic properties will be affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)** for the proposed undertaking and that the capital improvement work should be able to proceed.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in these areas include the Caddo Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, the Shawnee Tribe, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this notice of intent. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, call Jessica Cogburn at 501-324-9357 or email jessica.cogburn@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,
Jessica H.
Cogburn
for

Digitally signed by Jessica
H. Cogburn
Date: 2021.12.14
09:37:07 -06'00'

Scott Kaufman
Director, AHPP

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey