



January 10, 2022

Alan Tabachnick
STB
395 E Street Sw
Washington PA 204230000

RE: ER Project # 2021PR07468.001, Docket No. AB 167 (Sub-No. 1195X) Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption in Schuylkill & Carbon Counties, Pa. Tresckow Branch, Surface Transportation Board, Packer Township, Carbon County

Dear Alan Tabachnick:

Thank you for submitting information concerning the above referenced project. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) reviews projects in accordance with state and federal laws. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, is the primary federal legislation. The Environmental Rights amendment, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Pennsylvania History Code, 37 Pa. Cons. Stat. Section 500 et seq. (1988) is the primary state legislation. These laws include consideration of the project's potential effects on both historic and archaeological resources.

Above Ground Resources

No Above Ground Concerns - Environmental Review - SHPO Sends Above Ground Comments

The PA SHPO concurs that the abandonment of the rail line constitutes no effect to above ground resources if they exist. However, it is the opinion of the PA SHPO that the development of the line would constitute an undertaking that would require review and comment by the PA SHPO.

No Above Ground Concerns - Environmental Review - No Effect - Above Ground

Based on the information received and available within our files, it is our opinion that the Abandonment proposed project will have No Effect on above ground historic properties, including historic buildings, districts, structures, and/or objects, should they exist. Should the scope of the project change and/or should you be made aware of historic property concerns, you will need to reinitiate consultation with our office using PA-SHARE.

For questions concerning above ground resources, please contact Cheryl Nagle at chnagle@pa.gov.

Archaeological Resources

No Archaeological Concerns - Environmental Review - No Effect - Archaeological

Based on the information received and available in our files, in our opinion, the proposed Abandonment project should have No Effect on archaeological resources. Our analysis indicates that archaeological resources are potentially located in this project area, and the potential development that may occur post abandonment may adversely affect these resources. If the future scope of work includes additional ground-disturbing activity and/or should you be made aware of historic property concerns, you will need to reinitiate consultation with our office using PA-SHARE.

For questions concerning archaeological resources, please contact Casey Hanson at chanson@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma Diehl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Emma Diehl
Environmental Review Division Manager