



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

August 12, 2022

Carey Mayer, Division Manager and Deputy SHPO
 Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
 Old State Capitol Building, 2nd Floor
 One Old State Capitol Plaza
 Springfield, Illinois 62701

Re: Cultural Resources Survey in Support of the Proposed Acquisition of Kansas
 City Southern Railway by the Canadian Pacific Railway

Dear Ms. Mayer,

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board's) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is pleased to submit this Cultural Resources Survey Report in support of the OEA's review of a proposal by Canadian Pacific Railway et al. (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway et al. (KCS) for CP to acquire KCS (Proposed Acquisition). The Proposed Acquisition is an undertaking subject to the Board's federal jurisdiction. If the Board authorizes this Proposed Acquisition, CP and KCS would combine to form an integrated system to be known as Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), which would be the first railroad to connect Canada, the United States, and Mexico. As part of the review process, OEA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Acquisition. OEA is also evaluating the potential impacts of the Proposed Acquisition on historic properties, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108), the Section 106 implementing regulations (36 C.F.R. Part 800), and the Board's environmental regulations (49 C.F.R. Part 1105).

Consistent with past practice in merger cases and the Board's regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(b)(1), OEA focused the Section 106 review on 25 planned capital improvements that CP and KCS intend to add within the existing rail right-of-way (ROW) if the Board authorizes the Proposed Acquisition. The 25 planned capital improvements would include adding 10 new passing sidings, extending 13 existing sidings, adding a section of double track, and adding a section of facility working track along the CPKC network within the rail ROW. The planned capital improvements are the only outcomes of the Proposed Acquisition that could have the potential to affect cultural resources. Of the 25 planned capital improvements, one is located in Illinois. This is a planned new siding located at Milepost (MP) 75 near Monroe Center in Ogle County. On behalf of OEA, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), OEA's third-party contractor, undertook background research, field survey, and documentation of historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the planned MP 75 siding.

The APE as defined in 36 C.F.R. § 800.16(d), is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. The above-ground APE for the planned capital improvement extends the length of the planned capital improvement within the existing rail ROW as well as a buffer on each side of the ROW to account for potential setting, visual, noise, or other impacts from construction activities. All above-ground resources over 50 years of age present within this broader above-ground APE were surveyed and documented. The above-ground APE varies depending upon actual field conditions, incorporating factors such as topography, vegetation, and intervening buildings. The archaeology APE for the Phase I archaeological survey is confined within the existing rail ROW, where ground disturbing activities could potentially occur.

Two historic resources and no archaeological resources were identified within the APE. The Bennett Road Farmstead and the Historic Railway Segment (C-CHIC-03) have both been determined to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. As there are no historic properties located within the APE in Illinois, the Proposed Acquisition and associated planned capital improvements have a finding of No Historic Properties Affected. OEA's determinations are supported by the findings presented in the attached report, prepared by VHB. If you have any questions about the report, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Alan Tabachnick, Historic Preservation Specialist, at alan.tabachnick@stb.gov or 202-245-0367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

Cc: Rita Baker, Cultural Resources Manager

Attachments:

- Letter Report