



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

501 East State Street

P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 501-04B

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Tel. (609) 940-4312

www.nj.gov/dep

Mikie Sherrill
Governor

Ed Potosnak
Acting Commissioner

Dr. Dale G. Caldwell
Lt. Governor

April 30, 2026

Mr. Alan Tabachnick
Federal Preservation Officer
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis

Email: alan.tabachnick@stb.gov

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 Continuing Consultation Comments for the following proposed project:

**Hunterdon County, Borough of Milford
Milford Historic District
Belvidere & Delaware River Railway Abandonment
Surface Transportation Board (STB)**

Thank you for providing the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) with the opportunity for continued review and comment on the potential for the above-referenced project to affect historic properties. The following comments are in response to the draft Environmental Assessment received from New Jersey Green Acres Program on April 21, 2026, and the Section 106 Summary and Determination received from STB on April 27, 2026. This documentation 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 proposed project involves the abandonment of a section of the Belvidere & Delaware Railway that extends approximately 3,288 feet from Alexandria Creek (Milepost 34.27) to a

point 566.75 feet south of Milepost 35, at the southeastern end of the Borough of Milford (the Line). The Belvidere & Delaware Railway is a contributing resource to the Milford Historic District, which was determined eligible in 2012 and listed on the New Jersey and National Register in 2025. The Line also crosses through the location of the former Curtis Paper Mill Historic District, which was determined eligible in 2003. However, the Curtis Paper Mill was demolished, and the site cleared by 2020.

800.5 Assessment of Effects

The Right of Way (ROW) of the Belvidere & Delaware Railway, in the area of potential effects of the proposed project, has no physical remaining elements other than the two bridges which will remain in place. No changes to the two bridges on the Line are proposed. Therefore, the abandonment of the Line would not change any of the character-defining elements of the Milford Historic District or the Curtis Paper Mill Historic District. As proposed, **the project will not adversely affect historic properties**. Pursuant to 800.S(c), if no consulting parties object to this finding within the 30-day review period, the project may proceed, as proposed, unless resources are discovered during project implementation, pursuant to 800.13.

Additional Comments

Thank you for providing the HPO with the opportunity for continued consultation on the submitted documentation. Please do not hesitate to contact Christine Yewaisis of my staff via phone at (609) 940-5148 or via email at Christine.Yewaisis@dep.nj.gov with any questions. If additional consultation with the HPO is needed for this undertaking, please reference the HPO project number 26-1112 in any future calls, emails, or written correspondence to help expedite our review and response.

Sincerely,



Katherine J. Marcopul
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

KM/MMB/CY

Cc: Kerry Owen, Green Acres, Kerry.owen@dep.nj.gov

