



Tongue River Railroad Updates

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Cc: Blodgett, Dcoburn, Vicki Rutson, vhauser, Shannon.L.Johnson,
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Hello All,

It has been a while since we last contacted you about the Tongue River Railroad Project. However, we are still awaiting word from the applicant regarding additional details on how they would like to proceed. We have been in close contact with David Coburn and explained to him the updated information that we need from the new owners -- a detailed description of the rail line that the applicant wants to move forward with, a map clearing showing the end points of the rail line, and information regarding tribal payment. In the interim we wanted to update you on what has transpired on the project and to propose some next steps.

As you know, Tongue River Railroad was sold to three investors (Tongue River Holding Company, LLC) who have decided not to proceed with Tongue River II and III but only construct Tongue I at this time. Construction of just Tongue I will mean a considerably shorter rail line extending only from Miles City to Ashland. Importantly, the project will no longer affect the Wolf Mountains Battlefield Site. However, the new project will require the development of a new PA for just Tongue I.

We propose to hold two conference calls as soon as we have the additional information from the applicant. We would like to hold the first call with all interested tribes. The second conference call would follow and would be held with all the Section 106 consulting parties. During both calls we would answer any questions regarding the purpose and extent of the new project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the project or any of the above. As always, I can be reached at 202-245-0293, gliddenc@stb.dot.gov. You can also direct your calls or concerns to Kenneth Blodgett at 202-245-0454, blodgettk@stb.dot.gov.

All the best,

Cathy

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