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FD 33407

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Section of Environmental Analysis

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

June 23, 2008

Ms. Sandra Barnum  
Cultural Resources Director  
Department of the Army US Army - Engineer District, Omaha  
106 South 15th Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-1618

**RE: STB Finance Docket No. 33407, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation Construction into the Powder River Basin Project: Report for your comment**

Dear Ms. Barnum:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is pleased to provide you with the draft report, *A Phase I Archeological and Geomorphological Survey for the New Ulm Yard Project, Minnesota Rehabilitation Segment*, Two Pines Resource Group, (Minnesota SHPO No. 2002-0185PA); (LBG No. MN3<sup>1</sup>). The report has been prepared as part of the cultural resources studies being completed to comply with the provisions of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) and Identification (ID) Plan executed in May 2003 (amended in May 2008) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14 (b) for the above-referenced project. We request your comments on the report pursuant to Section A.3.1. of the PA.

The fieldwork summarized in the enclosed report was completed in May and June 2007. This report provides the results of cultural resources studies conducted to identify National Register of Historic Places (National Register) eligible sites within the area of the proposed construction of a railroad staging yard southeast of New Ulm, Minnesota. The yard is approximately 4 miles in length and 450 feet at its widest point (this includes a 200 foot buffer outside the existing project right-of-way. In total, three sites (21BW0097, 21BW0098, 21BE0284) were identified within the project area. All the

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<sup>1</sup> This code refers to Louis Berger Group Report No. MN3. The first two letters refer to the state, "3" is the report number, and the letter, if present, indicates that this is an addendum to report 3. Please refer to both the SHPO and LBG codes in your response.

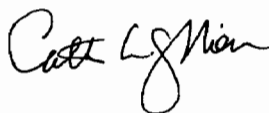
identified sites are located within the Prairie Lake South Minnesota archaeological sub-region.

The report includes our National Register eligibility recommendations for the identified sites. The Board will make its final National Register evaluations pending receipt of comments from participating tribes, agencies, and input from the Minnesota Historic Preservation Officer.

Your comments and/or suggested changes regarding the report (including National Register eligibility recommendations, if any) must be provided within 30 days of receiving this letter. Please send your written comments directly to David Bibler, Project Manager for the Louis Berger Group Inc. (SEA's third-party contractor). If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the above, please feel free to contact me at 202-245-0293 ([Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov](mailto:Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov)) or David Bibler at 319-373-3043 ([dbibler@louisberger.com](mailto:dbibler@louisberger.com)). Pursuant to the PA, SEA will assume that the lack of comments provided within the review period will mean your concurrence with its content and findings.

Thank you taking the time to review the enclosed report. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Catherine Glidden  
Section of Environmental Analysis

Cc: distribution list

Enclosures: *A Phase I Archeological and Geomorphological Survey for the New Ulm Yard Project, Minnesota Rehabilitation Segment*  
Report Review and Comment Form