



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO-1464

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

April 22, 2010

Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35095, Alaska Railroad Corporation Construction and Operation of a Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska

Dear Ms. Bittner:

As a follow-up to the April 12, 2010 meeting between our staffs, please find enclosed the *Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project Report of 2008 Cultural Resources Fieldwork* for your review. This report was prepared pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C § 470f) for the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) by members of our third-party contracting team, ICF International and Stephen R. Braund & Associates. This report summarizes the results of the 2008 cultural resources research undertaken to identify, locate, and describe cultural resources in the project area of the proposed Port MacKenzie Rail Extension and includes the following: description of the proposed project, its alternatives, and preliminary Area of Potential Effects; summary of the literature; Alaska Heritage Resource Survey and archival review; description of field survey methods; and summary of preliminary findings and recommendations. This report meets the stipulations under State of Alaska Archaeology Field Permit 2008-21. SEA supports the preliminary findings and recommendations of the report. We look forward to any comments you may have on the report.

Please note that the enclosed report does **not** include the results of the 2009 cultural resources investigation. The 2009 evaluation is currently being prepared and will be submitted for your review in May 2010.

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Navecky, SEA Project Manager, at 202-245-0294 or Alan Summerville, ICF Project Manager, at 703-934-3616. Specific technical questions may be directed to our cultural resources third-party subcontractor, Stephen Braund of Stephen R. Braund & Associates, at 907- 276-8222.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

NOTE: The enclosure to this letter contains sensitive site-location data and this information can only be disclosed to the public with written approval from the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office.