

Assenza, Adam

From: Assenza, Adam
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 3:10 PM
To: Laura.Shick@dot.gov
Cc: Kachadoorian, Lydia (FRA); Kniss, Valarie (FRA); katherine.zeringue@dot.gov; 'Allyson Brooks, PhD'; matthew.sterner@dahp.wa.gov; Brown, Sandra; jbeckett thebeckettgroup.org; Rutson, Vicki
Subject: OEA to serve as lead federal agency for Section 106 compliance in NCBRP Port of Moses Lake, FD 34936
Attachments: OEA acceptance of FRA request to be lead for Section 106.pdf
Categories: FOR ECT, S 106 related

Dear Ms. Shick,

Attached please find OEA's acceptance of FRA's invitation to serve as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project ("NCBRP"/Docket No. FD 34936).

Thank you,

Adam Assenza

Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
O: 202-245-0301
Adam.Assenza@stb.gov



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

August 10, 2018

Laura A. Shick
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Railroad Policy and Development
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket No. FD 34936, Port of Moses Lake – Construction Exemption – in
Grant County, Wash.; **Acceptance of Lead Agency Status for Section 106
Review**

Dear Ms. Shick:

I am writing to accept your July 25, 2018, request for the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) to serve as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 in the above-captioned project. As you know, the Port of Moses Lake (Port) and Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc. (CBRW) petitioned the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in 2008 for authority for the Port to construct and acquire, and CBRW to operate, the approximately 11-mile-long rail line known as the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project (NCBRP). The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) developed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the input of the consulting parties. OEA, the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Port, and CBRW were signatories to the PA, which remains in effect until August 27, 2019. The Board approved the Port and CBRW's petition in 2009, however, the Port was unable to construct the rail line.

In light of new developments in the project area that affect portions of the NCBRP route approved by the Board nine years ago, OEA will issue a supplemental environmental assessment (EA) and amend the PA to include a modified Area of Potential Effect and new Sunset Clause. Additionally, OEA will add FRA to the list of signatories in the amended PA.

If you have any questions, please contact Adam Assenza at 202-245-0301 (e-mail address: adam.assenza@stb.gov). We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

CC: Lydia Kachadoorian, FRA
Valarie Kniss, FRA
Katherine Zeringue, FRA
Dr. Allyson Brooks, DAHP
Matthew Sterner, DAHP
Sandy Brown, Thompson Hine LLP
Jeannie Beckett, The Beckett Group