



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

August 14, 2015

Dr. Stan Wilmoth
State Historic Preservation Officer
Montana Historical Society
225 North Roberts, P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201

Re: Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc. - Rail Construction and Operation - in Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Montana: Request for Comments on draft Programmatic Agreement.

Dear Dr. Wilmoth:

The purpose of this letter is to request additional comments from you on the draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the above referenced undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 C.F.R. Part 800. As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) developed the draft PA through a series of consulting party meetings and teleconferences from February 2014 through January 2015. You and the others included in the PA Working Group incorporated those comments into the attached draft PA. (Also attached are your May 6, 2015 comments; we will incorporate these with any further suggested changes you may have.)

The attached draft PA is the identical version included as an appendix to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We request your comments on the attached draft PA by September 23, 2015 to coincide with the close of the Draft EIS comment period. After the comment period closes, OEA plans to revise the PA, redistribute it to the consulting parties, continue consultation, and begin to seek signatures. We are in the process of developing a timeline that will include firm dates for the PA development and completion process.

Please feel free to contact me at 202-245-0293 (Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov). I can also be reached on my cell at 240-446-5086. You may also contact Rick Starzak with ICF International (our third-party contractor) at 213-312-1751 (Richard.Starzak@icfi.com). I look forward to your comments and appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nadals
Office of Environmental Analysis

Attachments (2)

cc: Charlene Dwin Vaughn, ACHP; Najah Duvall-Gabriel, ACHP
Dr. Mark Baumler, MT SHPO

