

#EO-3245



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

February 13, 2020

Jackie Rodgers, Archaeologist
Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office
627 Grandview
Pawhuska, OK 74056

RE: STB Docket No. AB 1068 (Sub-No. 3X)- Missouri Central Railroad Company -
Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service Exemption - In Cass, Pettis, Benton,
Morgan, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Gasconade, and Franklin Counties, Mo.

Dear Ms. Rodgers:

Thank you for your January 30, 2020 letter to the Surface Transportation Board (Board) regarding the above-captioned abandonment filed with the Board on November 18, 2014. You request that a cultural resources survey be conducted for this project. I have attached the Phase I Archaeological Survey (Phase I Report) that was prepared in 2015 as part of the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis' (OEA) responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Shortly after the abandonment was filed at the Board in 2014, you may recall that OEA consulted with the Osage Nation and other interested parties about the rail line abandonment and its potential effects on the environment and historic resources. This resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA contained language specific to the railroad's salvage process and inadvertent discoveries and expired on June 1, 2018 after all the terms had been met and following the removal of the tracks, ties and other railroad appurtenances. As the ballast and roadbed were left in place, the Missouri Central Railroad Company indicated in the attached letter that no inadvertent discoveries were found.

In addition to the Phase I Report, I am also enclosing the MOA and relevant correspondence pertaining to OEA's Section 106 consultation process in this docket. To view the documents and other pertinent information in this docket, please go to the Board's web site at: www.stb.gov and go to "Search STB Records," then select "Filings" or "Decisions" and scroll to AB 1068 (Sub-No. 3X). To access environmental correspondence, go to "Quick Links" and click on "Environmental," then click on "Environmental Overview" and then click on "Environmental Comments" and scroll down to "Incoming" or "Outgoing" and search for the docket number.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any questions, or need further assistance with regard to the Board's environmental review process, please do not hesitate to contact Diana Wood of my staff at Diana.Wood@stb.gov or by telephone at 202-245-0302.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Four (4) Enclosures:

1. EI-21141 Phase I Archaeological Report
2. EI-21174 letter from MCRR to signatory and concurring parties with certificate of service of the Phase I Report
3. EO-2682 OEA letter to ACHP with MOA and correspondence between Osage Nation
4. EI-26304 MCRR letter indicating that all terms of the MOA have been met and that no inadvertent discoveries were found at completion of salvage