



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

EO - 3228

January 21, 2020

Katherine Marcopul,
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Andrea Tingey, Principal Historic Preservation Specialist
Mail Code 501-04B
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

*Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation -
Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ; Concurrence with all effect
determinations save one, which OEA has revised*

HPO Log#: 08-0811; HPO-E2019-001-PROD

Dear Mses. Marcopul and Tingey:

The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) appreciates your January 17, 2020 comments from the Historic Preservation Office (NJ SHPO) in the above-captioned proceeding. We appreciate that your office has concurred with all but one of our effect determinations on the 19 historic properties documented for this project.

The one effect determination that you do not concur with involves Scenario 2 and the Jersey City and Harsimus Cemetery Historic District. For that resource, OEA made a finding of No Effect; your office determined that Scenario 2 would have No Adverse Effect. OEA has revised our determination for Scenario 2 to No Adverse Effect on the resource. As noted in your letter, there is some possibility that a building may be visible in the distance from the cemetery in that scenario, causing a change, that would not be adverse. Your office has concurred with all the other determinations of effect. On a project-level basis, you have also concurred with our determination that the project will have an Adverse Effect on historic properties.

OEA understands that additional survey work is underway to delineate in more detail the various property lines associated with parcels west of the New Jersey Turnpike, including the property line of the Jersey City and Harsimus Cemetery. If any new information arises as a result of those surveys, OEA will continue consultation with all parties, as appropriate.

With NJ SHPO providing concurrence on all effect determinations (with the understanding that OEA has revised one finding as noted above), we also look forward to working with your office and the consulting parties to conclude the final step in the four step Section 106 process—resolving

adverse effects. Our consultation efforts, including a public meeting in Jersey City, will result in the execution of an agreement document, as your letter noted, which will finalize the Section 106 process.

Again, thank you very much for working with OEA on this important project and we truly appreciate the hard work and expertise that everyone has provided. Our office will be in touch with you early next week to start discussions regarding the agreement document as we move to the resolution of adverse effects phase of Section 106. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to call Alan Tabachnick at 202-245-0367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue 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: Jaime Loichinger, ACHP
Sarah Stokely, ACHP