

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Washington, DC 20423

Section of Environmental Analysis

Ute Indian Tribe
Cultural Rights and Protection Office
P.O. Box 190
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026-0190

To: Ms. Betsy Chapoose

From: Catherine Glidden, Surface Transportation Board

Date: November 20, 2006

Subject: Section 106 Consultations in Finance Docket No. 34075, Six County
Association of Governments – Construction and Operation – Rail Line between
Levan and Salina, Utah

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed 43-mile rail line that would run through Sanpete, Sevier, and Juab Counties in Utah (see attached map). The EIS is being completed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). SEA has identified your tribe as having traditional connections to the project area and is formally inviting you to become involved in the environmental review process as a consulting party under Section 106 of NHPA.

Two rail corridors, Alternate B and Alternate C, are currently under consideration for the railroad construction project including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A). Alternate B consists of the 45-mile line route situated between an existing Union Pacific Railroad line near Juab, Utah and a proposed coal transfer terminal facility near Salina, Utah. Alternate C extends from the southern end of the project area north approximately 14 miles before connecting with Alternate B.

A cultural resources inventory survey for the Central Utah Railroad project was completed by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants (MOAC) on behalf of SEA in September of 2005. The draft document, *Cultural Resource Inventory of the Central Utah Railroad Project in Sevier, Sanpete and Juab Counties, Utah*, indicates that the proposed rail line under any alternatives would cross an area that is archaeologically rich. The survey identified 55 historic and prehistoric sites/properties in the Area of Potential

Effect.¹ A summary of the sites identified in the project area is enclosed with this letter. We would value any information you could provide to us regarding the project area, especially if any of the sites has importance to your tribe as traditional cultural properties.

Kindly respond within 45 days of your receipt of this letter regarding your interest in acting as a consulting party for Section 106 purposes and receiving a copy of the full cultural resources survey report. Please also inform us if you do not wish to receive additional information regarding the project. We look forward to working with you to ensure that your concerns are included as part of the Section 106 and NEPA processes.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or require further information, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 565-1542 (gliddenc@stb.dot.gov). If you prefer, you can also call Dana Holmes ((801) 743-7813) of HDR Engineering, who is assisting SEA in completing the environmental documentation for this project. For additional information about the Board, please refer to our web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Sincerely,



Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures: Project Map and Table of Resources
cc: Mathew T. Seddon, Ph.D., RPA (without enclosures)

¹ The project APE consists of a 160 foot wide corridor along the majority of both Alternate B and Alternate C. The APE expands to a 900 feet corridor where the northern and southern portions of the routes meet up with the existing rail lines (see Map). The project area is located on Federal (Bureau of Land Management), state and private lands.