

Tongue River PA Tribal Meeting Invitation

Catherine Glidden

EO-1638

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to:

ngabriel, vhauser, cvaughn, Dalice_Landers, doug, David Coburn, rebecca.j.shipman, laxline, rebecca, swilmoth, Lisa.Baete, christine_whitacre, conrad.fisher, leroy.spang, steve.brady, joe.foxjr, dale, clairsgreen, wyoung, steve.vance, gravattlana, dyandancer, curley_up, fjackson005, rstthpo, rickthomas_06, narapahothpo_2009, williamb, johnmurray

05/03/2011 09:07 AM

Cc:

lowersioux, wanapeyanajica, brandonsazue, scottl, culturalresources, blackfeetthpo, pbrady, Kenneth Blodgett, tom.lennon, Vicki Rutson

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From: Catherine Glidden/STB Sort List...

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Greetings,

You are invited to attend a three-day tribal consultation meeting regarding the Tongue River Railroad Project. The purpose of the meeting is for the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to address any concerns participating tribes may have regarding the project Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) and proposed revisions.

We intend to hold the meeting in Rapid City, SD either June 14-16 or June 21-23 (the Monday before and Friday after would function as travel days). We will need to know of your intention to attend the meeting or if you have a conflict for either set of dates by May 9th at the latest as we will need time to make preparations including securing hotel rooms and a meeting site in Rapid

City.

Although this meeting is specifically designed to address the concerns of consulting tribes, we are inviting all consulting parties to attend. Tongue River Railroad Company (TRCC) representatives will also be attending as well as an engineer from Mission Engineering prepared to discuss the alternatives analysis it prepared for the Wolf Mountains Battlefield Site.

During the meeting, we intend to provide an overview of the project, discuss impacts to the Wolf Mountains Battlefield Site, and make any additional proposed changes to the PA based on any new comments or concerns brought up at the meeting. Time will also be set aside during the meeting for tribes to meet in private.

Background

As you know, STB's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) prepared the PA as part of TRCC's application to construct and operate a rail line in southeastern Montana. However, since the PA was executed in November 2005, the Wolf Mountains Battlefield Site was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The NHL designation, tribal concerns regarding project impacts to the site, and the passage of time requires that the STB amend the PA.

An amendment to the PA was executed by all signatory parties extending the existing PA through September 1, 2011. Since then we have added additional tribes as consulting parties and have requested and received comments regarding proposed changes to the PA. We are in the process of amending the original PA based on submitted comments and will be sending you the draft revision by next week.

Third-Party Consultant

Western Cultural Resource Management, Inc.(WCRM) has been retained by TRCC to act as STB's third-party consultant to assist us with the meeting logistics and other matters related to the PA revision process. Tom Lennon [(303) 449-1151 (tom.lennon@wcrminc.com)] will be the primary contact at WCRM.

Payment Information

TRCC has agreed to help fund this meeting by providing travel expenses for one representative from each invited tribe. Travel expenses will include payment for overnight lodging, round-trip mileage and per diem for meals.

Once again, please let me know by close of business **May 9th** (sooner, if possible) if you intend to participate in the meeting and if you have a conflict with either of the proposed meeting dates (or a preference for either). Please also let me know if there are specific topic items that you would like included in the meeting agenda. Tom Lennon will be contacting you soon to confirm that you have received this email.

Don't hesitate to give me a call at (202) 245-0293 if you have any questions or concerns. You can also contact Kenneth Blodgett at blodgett@stb.dot.gov, (240) 446-0305.

Thank you!

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