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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Planning and Review
Mr. Don L. Klima, Director
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington DC 20004

August 16, 2004

Re: STB Docket No. AB - 6 (413X), The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company- Abandonment Exemption - in Washington County, MN

Dear Mr. Klima:

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Surface Transportation Board (Board) that is responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the National Historic Preservation Act. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, I am writing to notify you that the proposed abandonment, set forth above, may adversely affect historic properties. Accordingly, SEA has begun the consultation process and will be working with Dennis Gimmestad at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the railroad, and other concerned or affected parties as needed. We seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

The following documents are enclosed for your review: 1) the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company's notice of exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the rail line; 2) the Environmental and Historic Reports submitted by the railroad, including a February 29, 2004 letter from the SHPO; 3) the June 4, 2004 Environmental Assessment prepared by SEA; and 4) the July 9, 2004 letter to the Stillwater Heritage Preservation Commission, inviting the organization to participate as a consulting party.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 565-1606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christa Dean".

Christa Dean
Attorney Adviser
Section of Environmental Analysis

Attachments

cc: Dennis Gimmestad, Minnesota SHPO
Sidney Strickland, BNSF
John A. Sims, BNSF