



Fw: Tongue River Railroad Company (TRRC): New Application and NOI (FD 30186)

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Cc: Danielle Gosselin, BlodgettK, Vicki Rutson (RutsonV@stb.dot.gov),
"Summerville, Alan", "Starzak, Richard"

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Dear Consulting Party,

I am writing this e-mail to inform you that on October 16, 2012, the Surface Transportation Board (Board) received an application from the Tongue River Railroad Company (TRRC) for the construction and operation of an approximately 80 mile rail line from Miles City, Montana, to two ending points, one near the site of the previously planned Montco mine near Ashland, Montana, and another at the proposed Otter Creek mine east of Ashland, Montana. Because the construction and operation of this project has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate.

Section 106 of the NHPA: As you know, the rail line is an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). In the near future, you will be receiving a letter formally initiating Section 106 consultations with you for the new undertaking as currently proposed by TRRC to the Board. In the meantime, I want to introduce you to the following third-party consultant staff from ICF International who will be assisting me in the Board's Section 106 consultation efforts: Richard Starzak, Alisa Reynolds, Mark Robinson, and Colleen Davis. Although ICF will be assisting OEA with its historic preservation efforts, the Board will be ultimately responsible for government-to-government consultations with tribes and the Section 106 process in general.

EIS: The EIS Notice of Intent (NOI), (which includes the Draft Scope of Study, and notice of scoping meetings) was issued today. The NOI can be viewed on-line [here](#). Documents filed with the Board (including the TRRC application) that relate to this undertaking can be viewed [here](#): In case you have trouble viewing these documents, go to the Board's web site at <http://stb.dot.gov> and look under filings or decisions using Docket No. 30186. Please feel free to call me at 202-245-0293 if you have any problems accessing these documents.

The scoping meetings will be held in the following locations:

- November 12, 2012, 2-4 pm & 6-8 pm: The Charging Horse Casino, Bingo Hall, Lame Deer, MT.

- November 13, 2012, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm: The Haugo Center at Riverview Villa, Rosebud Street, Exit 95, Forsyth, MT 59327 (**please note that this location is shown incorrectly in the NOI**).
- November 14, 2012, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm: The St. Labre Indian School Auditorium, Ashland, MT.
- November 15, 2012, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm: Elks Lodge #537, Miles City, MT.

If you would like to provide comments on the Draft Scope of Study, please do so before the close of the scoping comment period on **December 6, 2012**. Please visit the Board's web site to file your scoping comments electronically by clicking on the ["E-FILING" link](#) or by visiting the project website at tonguerivereis.com. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the proposal in more detail, please contact Ken Blodgett (202-245-0305, blodgettk@stb.dot.gov), who is the environmental manager for this project. You can also contact Alan Summerville with ICF at 703-934-3616 (Alan.Summerville@icfi.com).

As always, please feel free to contact me as well at gliddenc@stb.dot.gov or 202-245-0293.

I look forward to working with you!

-Cathy

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