

EO-1483



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

July 30, 2010

Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
Office of History and Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Re: Finance Docket No. 35095, The Alaska Railroad Corporation – Petition to Construct and Operate a Rail Line to Port MacKenzie, Alaska; Request for Review and Comment on draft Programmatic Agreement

Dear Ms. Bittner:

For your review and comment, please find attached a draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the proposed Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project (PMREP or Undertaking). The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) developed the PA in accordance with Section 800.14(b) of the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) implementing Section 106. Once executed, the PA would govern implementation of the remainder of the Section 106 process for the Undertaking. If the Board authorizes construction and operation of the PMREP, Level 2 cultural resource surveys would be completed on the approved alternative and SEA would issue a formal determination of effects.

This draft of the PA was included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that SEA and several cooperating agencies issued in March 2010. SEA provided you with a copy of the Draft EIS at that time. SEA anticipates issuing the Final EIS later this year and will provide a copy of that document to you when it becomes available.

We would appreciate any comments that you may have on the draft PA by Friday, **September 10, 2010**. If you have questions, please contact Dave Navecky, SEA Project Manager, at 202-245-0294 or Alan Summerville, Project Manager for ICF International (SEA's 3rd party contractor), at 703-934-3616. Please feel free to direct and specific technical questions to our cultural resources subcontractor, Stephen Braund of Stephen R. Braund & Associates, at 907-276-8222.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance and cooperation on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping underline.

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

NOTE: The enclosure to this letter contains sensitive site-location data and this information can only be disclosed to the public with written approval from the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office.