



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

July 10, 2015

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35802, Northwest Tennessee Regional Port
Authority—Rail Construction and Operation—in Lake County, Tennessee:
Finding of No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Mr. McIntyre,

I am in receipt of your letter, dated June 15, 2015, regarding the proposal of the Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority (NWTRPA) to construct and operate an approximately 5.5 mile rail line in Lake County, Tennessee. Your letter indicates that the Tennessee Historical Commission has determined that the archaeological survey report submitted to your office for this project meets the Tennessee SHPO Standards and Guideline For Archaeological Resource Management Studies. I want to thank you for your timely review of this report and for your continued support during the Surface Transportation Board's (the Board) historic review process of NWTRPA's proposal.

With this letter we are notifying you that we have made a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.4(d)(1), based on our independent review of the available information, including the archeological survey submitted to your office, which indicated that there are no historic properties impacted within Area of Potential Effect. The documentation for this finding include the archeological survey report, all relevant correspondences, and this letter, which have been made publically available on the Board's website at www.stb.dot.gov.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed rail line on the human and natural environment, including cultural and historic resources. In the EA, OEA will recommend that the Board impose a condition on any decision granting approval for NWTRPA's proposal that will require NWTRPA to consult with OEA and the Tennessee Historical Commission if NWTRPA's project plans are changed or in the event that archeological remains are discovered during construction activities in order to determine what further action would be necessary to comply with the Board's Section 106 responsibilities.

In accordance with 36 C.F.R 800.4(d)(i), your office has thirty days to object to

this finding. Please respond within this timeframe, otherwise we will assume that you concur with our finding.

Thank you for your assistance with this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Wayland of my staff at (202) 245-0330 (email: waylandj@stb.dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis