



**TRRC Monthly Section 106 Conference Call Reminder**

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Hello All,

Our next Section 106 Consulting Party call will be held this coming Monday, August 11, 2014 at 1 PM EST/11 AM MST. We would like to focus our discussion on the attached Whereas Clauses. They have been revised based on comments made during our last monthly call and subsequent comments from the MT SHPO, ACHP, NTHP and applicant. Thereafter, we would like to begin a discussion regarding stipulations to include in the PA.

Please use the following call-in number and password for the call:  
Toll-free number: 1-877-423-6338,  
Participant Passcode: 364456

I hope you plan to be on the call. We appreciate your input!

-Cathy

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**PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT AMONG  
THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD,  
THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION,  
THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH SERVICE,  
THE MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,  
THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
CONSERVATION, AND  
THE TONGUE RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.,  
REGARDING CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION  
BY THE TONGUE RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY, INC. OF A RAIL LINE  
IN CUSTER, POWDER RIVER AND ROSEBUD COUNTIES, MONTANA**

**WHEREAS**, the Tongue River Railroad Company Inc. (TRRC), the project applicant, filed a revised application with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) proposing to construct and operate a new, approximately 42-mile rail line between Colstrip, Montana, to two terminus points, near Ashland, Montana in Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties to transport low sulfur, sub-bituminous coal from proposed mine sites in the Tongue River Valley and Powder River Basin (TRRC project) (Map, Attachment A); and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to address the potential impacts of the TRRC project on the environment, including on cultural resources. Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is being coordinated with the NEPA process and cultural resources documentation prepared will be the basis for determining the potential impacts on historic properties, cultural resources, and tribal sites of significance for both reviews; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB is considering the No Action Alternative and five build alternative routes, and certain variations on the five build alternative routes, to be carried forward in the EIS: the Colstrip Alternative (the applicant's preferred alternative), the Tongue River Alternative, the Tongue River Road Alternative, the Moon Creek Alternative, and the Decker Alternative, some of which traverse portions of Custer County as well as Powder River and Rosebud Counties; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB is the lead federal agency responsible for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, 16 U.S.C. Part 470f and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB's potential approval of the TRRC project is an Undertaking as defined at 36 CFR § 800.16(y); and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB has determined its potential approval of the TRRC project, the Undertaking, may affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 60 as well as tribal sites of significance as defined in Appendix C; and,

**WHEREAS**, tribal sites of significance identified and evaluated by tribal experts or authorities may be eligible for listing in the National Register as historic properties of religious and cultural significance to tribes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the effects on historic properties and tribal sites of significance cannot be fully determined prior to any approval of the TRRC project by the STB, and therefore a programmatic agreement (PA) is appropriate pursuant to the Section 106 regulations at 36 CFR § 800.14(b)(1)(ii); and,

**WHEREAS**, in the event that the STB approves any build alternatives, this PA would be included in its record of decision to guide the resolution of adverse effects to historic properties and tribal sites of significance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB may or may not approve construction and operation of the TRRC rail line, the STB developed this PA to defer final identification and evaluation of historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(2), to phase the application of the criteria of adverse effect pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(3), and to continue consultation to avoid, minimize and mitigate the potential adverse effects of the Undertaking to historic properties and tribal sites of significance in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6(a); and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(2) and 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(3), the STB, through the phased identification, evaluation and effect assessment, has established the likely presence of historic properties and tribal sites of significance within the area of potential effects (APE) for each alternative or inaccessible area through background research, consultation and the appropriate level of field investigation, taking into account the number of alternatives under consideration, the magnitude of the undertaking and its likely effects, and the views of the consulting parties; and,

**WHEREAS**, upon approval of the project, the STB would develop a treatment plan as an amendment to this PA that would outline the specific measures that would be implemented to resolve adverse effects to historic properties and tribal sites of significance for any approved alternative; and,

**WHEREAS**, this PA was developed in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6, who are signatories to this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are cooperating agencies under NEPA and signatories to this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT DNRC) (acting as lead agency for all Montana State agencies, including the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT)) is a cooperating agency and signatory to this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the MDOT has the responsibility for complying with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act where applicable; and,

**WHEREAS**, the TRRC, the project applicant, is a signatory to this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB has consulted by letter, email, monthly teleconferences, and meetings with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana; the Crow Tribe of Montana; the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota; the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota; the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota; the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota; the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota; the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota; the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana; the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota; the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota; the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota; the Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska; the Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming; Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota; the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma; the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana; the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming; and the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe, North Dakota concerning properties of traditional religious and cultural significance, and who have been invited to participate in the development of the PA as concurring parties; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB has contacted the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota; the Upper Sioux Community, Minnesota; and the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana by letter, email and phone, and invited them to participate as consulting parties in the development of this PA, however each of these tribes has either not responded to STB's invitation or declined to participate in the development of this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, other consulting parties, including the Colstrip Alternative Landowners Group, Fix Ranch, National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA), National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Northern Cheyenne Otter Creek Descendants (NCOCD), Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC), Rocker Six Cattle Company (RSCC), and the Sierra Club have been invited to participate in the development of the PA as concurring parties; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Wolf Mountains Battlefield, a property located within the view shed of the Decker Alternative, was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on October 6, 2008; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Wolf Mountains Battlefield Site may be indirectly affected if the STB licenses the Decker alternative; and,

**WHEREAS**, given the designation of the Wolf Mountains Battlefield as an NHL, the STB has invited the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, National Landmarks Program (NLP), and the NLP has agreed, to participate in consultation and invited to be a concurring party in the development of this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the signatory and concurring parties to this PA are hereafter collectively referred to as PA consulting parties; and,

**WHEREAS**, TRRC, the applicant, would not be required to act under the terms of this PA unless or until the STB authorizes the construction and operation of a new rail line; and,

**WHEREAS**, the TRRC project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), as defined at 36 CFR § 800.16(d), is outlined and identified in the Identification Plan (ID Plan), Attachment B of this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the definitions of 36 CFR Part 800 and the definitions and acronyms in Attachment C are applicable throughout this PA and any attachments to this PA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the PA consulting parties have considered requirements of NHPA, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996 et. seq. (AIRFA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3001 et. seq. (NAGPRA), Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites, Executive Order 13175 – Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 303) where applicable in the course of consultation; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2013 and 2014, the STB conducted a SHPO records search for previously recorded archaeological and historic sites, for a one-mile area on either side of the proposed right-of-way of the five build alternative routes, and variations, being considered for the TRRC project under NEPA; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2013 and 2014, the STB conducted pedestrian transect surveys by tribal members, contracting archeologists, historians and architectural historians along portions of each of the alternatives considered under NEPA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB has been advised by some consulting parties, including tribal members and ranchers, that the Tongue River Valley is an area of rich cultural heritage; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB in collaboration with the ACHP, SHPO and consulting parties, will include specific mitigation in its treatment plan to resolve project related adverse effects within the APE for any licensed alternative; and,

**WHEREAS**, all the data gathered under the terms of this PA will be made available to consulting tribes to inform any future undertakings that may take place in the Tongue River Valley; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ID Plan in Attachment B requires that TRRC complete Phase I and Phase II surveys as defined in Attachment C and the ID Plan for the entire line approved by the STB in order to take into account any potential adverse effects to historic properties and tribal sites of significance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the STB will use an independent third-party contractor, working under its sole supervision, direction and control, and at TRRC's expense, to assist STB in implementing the Stipulations below; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the signatories to this PA agree that the proposed TRRC project will be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effects of the TRRC project on historic properties and sites of significance.

**Definitions** [to be developed and added to the acronyms listed in Attachment C]

- *Phase I*
- *Phase II*
- *The Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc.*
- *Tribal Sites of Significance*

Other definitions