



RE: PMRE Draft 2011 Report Addendum

EO-2183

Starzak, Richard

to:

Barbara Hotchkin, Bittner, Judy, Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov

10/25/2013 05:30 PM

Cc:

"Duvall, Shina A (DNR)", "Rickman, Summer L (DNR) (summer.rickman@alaska.gov)", Elizabeth Grover, "Heather Ralston (Heather.Ralston@matsugov.us)", Fran Seager-Boss, Brian Lindamood, "Klaudia Klaudi (KKlaudi@kniktribe.org)", "Brad.Sworts@matsugov.us", "Rutson, Victoria", "Porter, Richard", "kusske.floyd.kathryn@DORSEY.com"

Hide Details

From: "Starzak, Richard" <Richard.Starzak@icfi.com> Sort List...

To: Barbara Hotchkin <Hotchkinb@akrr.com>, "Bittner, Judy" <judy.bittner@alaska.gov>, "Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov" <Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov>

Cc: "Duvall, Shina A (DNR)" <shina.duvall@alaska.gov>, "Rickman, Summer L (DNR) (summer.rickman@alaska.gov)" <summer.rickman@alaska.gov>, Elizabeth Grover <Elizabeth.Grover@hdrinc.com>, "Heather Ralston (Heather.Ralston@matsugov.us)" <Heather.Ralston@matsugov.us>, Fran Seager-Boss <Fran.Seager-Boss@matsugov.us>, Brian Lindamood <LindamoodB@akrr.com>, "Klaudia Klaudi (KKlaudi@kniktribe.org)" <KKlaudi@kniktribe.org>, "Brad.Sworts@matsugov.us" <Brad.Sworts@matsugov.us>, "Rutson, Victoria" <RutsonV@stb.dot.gov>, "Porter, Richard" <rporter@kniktribe.org>, "kusske.floyd.kathryn@DORSEY.com" <kusske.floyd.kathryn@DORSEY.com>

2 Attachments



image001.png FD_35095_ARRC_Port_Mac_2013-10-25Determinations.pdf



Hello Barb and Judy,

Cathy is out of the office until Monday, but she asked if I could forward you the attached letter on her behalf so you would have it before then.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Rick

RICHARD STARZAK | Senior Architectural Historian/Technical Director | +1.213.312.1751
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Note new address and direct line.

Connect with us on [social media](#).

From: Barbara Hotchkin [<mailto:Hotchkinb@akrr.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 3:38 PM

To: Bittner, Judy; Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov

Cc: Duvall, Shina A (DNR); Rickman, Summer L (DNR) (summer.rickman@alaska.gov); Elizabeth Grover; 'Heather Ralston' (Heather.Ralston@matsugov.us); Fran Seager-Boss; Brian Lindamood; Starzak, Richard; Klaudia Klaudi (KKlaudi@kniktribe.org); Brad.Sworts@matsugov.us; Rutson, Victoria; Porter, Richard; kusske.floyd.kathryn@DORSEY.com

Subject: RE: PMRE Draft 2011 Report Addendum

The final report is attached (2011 Survey Report Addendum: Port MacKenzie Telecommunication Tower Site and Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road). The date was not changed, as there were no changes made to the document other than removing "draft" from the cover page. A formal cover letter transmitting the document is also attached.

Please contact Brian Lindamood at (907) 265-3095, or by email at lindamoodb@akrr.com, or Barbara Hotchkin at (907) 265-2313 or hotchkinb@akrr.com if you have questions. Thank you, Barb

From: Barbara Hotchkin

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 11:50 AM

To: Bittner, Judy; Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov

Cc: 'Duvall, Shina A (DNR)'; Rickman, Summer L (DNR) (summer.rickman@alaska.gov); Elizabeth Grover; 'Heather Ralston' (Heather.Ralston@matsugov.us); 'Fran Seager-Boss'; Brian Lindamood; Vanderhoek, Richard (DNR) (richard.vanderhoek@alaska.gov); Klaudia Klaudi (KKlaudi@kniktribe.org); Brad.Sworts@matsugov.us; Rutson, Victoria

Subject: PMRE Draft 2011 Report Addendum

Cathy and Judy,

In accordance with the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) project Programmatic Agreement, I am pleased to submit the Working Group's draft *2011 Survey Report Addendum: Port MacKenzie Telecommunication Tower Site and Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road* to initiate the 30-day formal review.

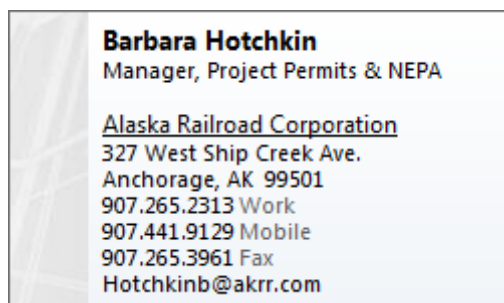
This is a negative survey report. This report documents further investigation of TYO-00276, a possible cache pit site found within the APE for the Alsop Haul Road in 2011, as well as a cultural resources survey conducted at the Port MacKenzie Telecommunication Tower site, an area located south the previously identified direct APE for Segment 1. Additional investigation of TYO-00276, which was determined eligible for the National Register for the purposes of this project, confirmed that the depressions in this area are not cultural in origin. Therefore, the Working Group recommends that TYO-00276 be determined not eligible for the National Register. The surveys of the Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road and Port MacKenzie Telecommunication Tower site APE did not identify any additional cultural resources or previously unidentified historic properties that would be affected by construction and operation of the PMRE project. Please note that SHPO and Working Group representatives had an opportunity to review a pre-submittal

draft of the report, and their comments on that draft have been addressed.

The pdf version of the complete report is attached, and I will send a separate e-mail with a word document in case you would like to provide edits and comments on that document. Please let me know if you would like a hard copy of the draft report.

Once we receive your comments, the Working Group will incorporate them as appropriate and submit a final report to the appropriate parties. Please contact me at 907.265.2313 or Brian Lindamood at 907.265.3095 if you have questions or require additional information.

Thanks,
Barb





SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

October 25, 2013

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

Re: **Finance Docket No. 35095, STB Determination of Effect for
2013 Archaeological Surveys - Port MacKenzie Telecommunication Tower Site and
Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road, Port MacKenzie Railroad Extension Project**

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) recently provided me with a copy of the final Port MacKenzie Railroad Extension (PMRE) Project report: *PMRE Project 2011 Survey Report Addendum: Port MacKenzie Telecommunication Tower Site and Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road* dated August 2013. The report was prepared by the ARRC, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB), and the Knik Tribal Council (KTC), collectively referred to as the Working Group. Based on my review of the document and comments from your office, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has determined that there would be no effect to National Register of Historic Places (National Register) listed- or eligible- properties within the areas discussed in the report.

Background

ARRC, in partnership with the MSB, has undertaken planning for construction of the PMRE Project. In 2011, the STB approved a license allowing ARRC to construct and operate approximately 35 miles of new rail line connecting the Port MacKenzie District to a point on ARRC's existing main line near Houston, Alaska using the Mac East Variant-Connector 3 Variant-Houston-Houston South Alignment. That authorization was issued after completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and was subject to environmental mitigation conditions including a Programmatic Agreement (PA), which required additional investigations once the final Area(s) of Potential Effect (APE) was identified. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), developed by the Working Group with input from the STB and your office, details the approach for the additional cultural resources investigations and reporting activities.

To date, four reports summarizing cultural resources work conducted in the PMRE Project area have been completed. The first report, which summarized work conducted in Segment 1, the Alsop Haul Road, and the Section 6 Borrow Area, was completed in February 2012. A second report, completed in August 2012, covered Segment 6. The third report, finalized in November 2012, described the results of the surveys conducted in Segments 3 and 4. This fourth report serves as an addendum to the first report and discusses additional archaeological surveys conducted along the Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road and within the area of a proposed telecommunication tower site. The cultural resources surveys described in the report were conducted by HDR Alaska, MSB, and KTC cultural resources staff in June and August 2013. We provide details of the surveys below.

June and August 2013 Archaeological Surveys, PMRE 2011 Survey Report Addendum Summary

The survey of the proposed Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road included conducting excavations of a possible prehistoric cache pit site (TYO-00276) discovered during surveys in 2011. As you know, TYO-00276 was assumed eligible for listing in the National Register for management purposes as no detailed analysis could be conducted at that time. However, the additional investigations of TYO-00276 conducted in June 2013 revealed that the depressions are not cultural in origin. We have therefore determined that TYP-00276 is no longer eligible for listing in the National Register.

Archaeological survey work was also conducted in August 2013 at the location of a proposed telecommunication tower site and associated facilities (including but not limited to antennas, equipment, shelters, fencing, and access road). The survey was required as the tower site is planned in an area outside of the previously surveyed direct impact APE for Segment 1. The survey did not result in the identification of historic properties.

STB Determinations of Effect

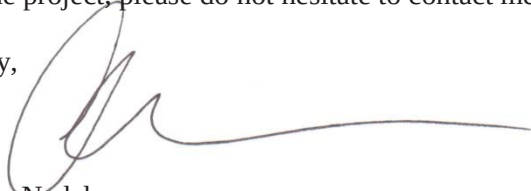
Our review of the PMRE 2011 Survey Report Addendum has resulted in the following findings and determinations of effect:

- TYO-00276 - a possible prehistoric cache pit site identified in 2011 and previously assumed eligible for the National Register - is no longer eligible for listing in the National Register;
- No National Register-eligible or -listed properties that could be affected by the project are located within the APE for Reddane Connector/Alsop Haul Road;
- No National Register-eligible or -listed properties that could be affected by the project are located within APE for the Port MacKenzie Telecommunication Tower Site.

Based on the above, the STB has determined that no historic properties would be affected in those areas discussed in the PMRE 2011 Survey Report Addendum. In addition, we have determined that Site TYO-00276 is no longer eligible for listing in the National Register.

Please provide us with your opinion regarding our determinations within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 245-0293.

Sincerely,



Catherine Nadals
Office of Environmental Analysis

cc:

Barbara Hotchkin, ARRC
Fran Seager-Boss, MSB
Richard Porter, KTC