

EI-18832



Revised PMRE 2011 Survey Report

Barbara Hotchkin

to:

Judy Bittner, Catherine Glidden

02/27/2012 09:06 PM

Cc:

"Brian Lindamood", "Shina A (DNR) duVall", "Summer Rickman", "Kathryn Kusske Floyd", "Elizabeth Grover", "Angie Wade", "Brad Sworts", "Fran Seager-Boss", "Victoria Rutson"

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From: "Barbara Hotchkin" <Hotchkinb@akrr.com> Sort List...

To: "Judy Bittner" <judy.bittner@alaska.gov>, "Catherine Glidden" <Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov>

Cc: "Brian Lindamood" <LindamoodB@akrr.com>, "Shina A (DNR) duVall" <shina.duvall@alaska.gov>, "Summer Rickman" <summer.rickman@alaska.gov>, "Kathryn Kusske Floyd" <kusske.floyd.kathryn@dorsey.com>, "Elizabeth Grover" <Elizabeth.Grover@hdrinc.com>, "Angie Wade" <AWade@kniktribe.org>, "Brad Sworts" <Brad.Sworts@matsugov.us>, "Fran Seager-Boss" <Fran.Seager-Boss@matsugov.us>, "Victoria Rutson" <RutsonV@stb.dot.gov>

3 Attachments



2011 PMRE Survey Report letter to STB and SHPO 022712.pdf 2011 PMRE draft survey report-022712.docx OHA-crrcvrsht-rev.pdf

Judy and Catherine,

In accordance with Stipulations III.B and IV of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) project PA, I am pleased to submit the revised 2011 Survey Report for a completion of your formal review. A transmittal letter is attached, and the OHA cover sheet, and a word document of the report text. A pdf of the full report, including appendices will be sent by separate e-mail due to the large file size.

We completed substantial revisions to the report in response to your comments. Please note that we did not change the figure to label the blue line. This "line" is actually a series of blue dots (showing the 2008 survey GPS track points) that run together due to the scale of the figure. If this still concerns you, we can modify the legend in the final report.

In response to a comment from SHPO, this work was not completed under State permit #2010-34, and therefore, the report is not submitted for the purposes of permit requirements. No project-specific archaeological permit was acquired for the PMRE project for the 2011 cultural resources surveys because no surveys were conducted on State lands. Should future cultural resources surveys be conducted for the PMRE project on State lands, a permit will be acquired.

I did not send a hard copy of the draft report, but if you would like one, please let me know and I will get it in the mail ASAP. We will send a hard copy of the final report.

Please contact me at 907.265.2313 or Brian Lindamood at 907.265.3095 if you have questions or require additional information. Thanks, Barb

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February 27, 2012

PROJECTS MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING

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Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) Compliance
Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project, 2011 Archaeological Surveys

Dear Ms. Bittner and Ms. Glidden:

In accordance with Stipulation III.B and IV of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) project Programmatic Agreement, archaeological surveys were conducted in selected areas within the proposed final Area of Potential Effect (APE). We submitted the draft PMRE project *2011 Cultural Resources Survey Report*, with a January 26, 2012 transmittal letter, and received your specific comments on the report on February 16, 2012. We completed substantial revisions to the report in response to those comments. This letter resubmits the PMRE project *2011 Survey Report* for completion of your formal review.

The enclosed report documents the results of cultural resource surveys conducted by staff from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Cultural Resources Division and the Knik Tribal Council (KTC) in September and October 2011. The surveys addressed portions of the PMRE project scheduled for construction during the winter and spring of 2012, including Segment 1, the Alsop Haul Road, and the Section 6 Borrow Area. Cultural resource staff conducted surveys within the portions of the APE for direct effects that had not been previously surveyed. Both moderate to high probability areas and some low probability areas were surveyed. The level of effort and methodology were based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Surface Transportation Board (STB).

The 2011 survey documented multiple cultural resources near the project area; however, all but one of these resources are modern in age (tree stands, bear baiting stations, modern debris and survey monuments) or of indeterminate age/origin (e.g., a heavily disturbed depression). One potentially significant cultural resource, a cluster of three probable cultural depressions that may represent a prehistoric cache pit site (TYO-00276), was identified in the Alsop Haul Road APE.

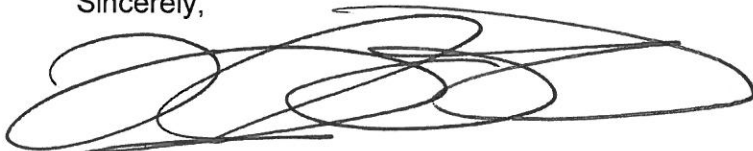
Based on the information in the enclosed report and in accordance with the PA, we recommend the following findings for STB's consideration.

- Segment 1 and Section 6 Borrow Area: Given that the 2011 cultural resources investigations in the APE for Segment 1 and the Section 6 Borrow Area did not result in the identification of historic properties, the Working Group recommends a finding of no historic properties affected for these project components.
- Alsop Haul Road Area: The Working Group recommends that the possible prehistoric cache pit site (TYO-00276) identified in the Alsop Haul Road APE be assumed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion D (information potential). Impacts to this potential historic property will be avoided, since there are no current plans to utilize the Haul Road. Therefore, we recommend a finding of no adverse effect to this site. Even though there are no current plans to utilize the Haul Road as part of Segment 1 construction, additional investigation of this site will be conducted during the 2012 field season to further document the site and determine if it has sufficient significance and integrity to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. If construction of the Alsop Haul Road is determined to be required for future project phases, and the 2012 survey work confirms the site is eligible for the NRHP, additional consultation will be conducted with SHPO and STB regarding this site.

Once we receive your comments, the Working Group will incorporate them as appropriate and submit a final report to the appropriate parties.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the address above, at (907) 265-3095, or by email at LindamoodB@akrr.com. You may also contact Barbara Hotchkin at (907) 265-2313 or hotchkinb@akrr.com.

Sincerely,



Brian Lindamood
ARRC Project Manager

Enclosures:
PMRE Project 2011 Survey Report (February 27, 2012)

cc:

Victoria Rutson, STB
Shina duVall, OHA
Brad Sworts, MSB
Barbara Hotchkin, ARRC
Fran Seager-Boss, MSB
Angie Wade, KTC
Elizabeth Grover, HDR
Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

Office of History and Archaeology: Cultural Resources Report Coversheet
(Must Accompany All Compliance Reports Submitted to OHA/SHPO)



Office of History and Archaeology
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565
Phone: (907) 269-8721 Fax (907) 269-8908
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/index.htm>

Was this survey/investigation (Check one): Negative ☐ Positive ☒

Negative = no cultural resource sites are reported or updated. Positive = cultural resource sites are reported or updated.

Note: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) numbers are **required** for reported cultural resource sites, including buildings. AHRS numbers can be obtained by contacting Joan Dale at 907-269-8718).

Project/Report Information:

- Report Title: Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project 2011 Survey Report
- Report Author(s): PMRE Working Group (contributors: Elizabeth Grover, Fran Seager-Boss, Heather Ralston)
- Report Date: 2/27/2012
- Submitting Organization/Agency: Alaska Railroad Corporation
- Project Name and Project Number: Point MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
- Principal Investigator (PI) name: Fran Seager-Boss

Geographic Information (attach an extra sheet or cite report page numbers if necessary)

- USGS Mapsheet (1:63,360 if available) TYO
 - Meridian/Township / Range / Section (MTRS) location: (all affected sections)
Format example: "F021N018E|13-14" "SM16N04W Sec. 6"; "SM14N04W Sec. 22"; "SM14N04W Sec. 21-22";
"SM14N04W Sec. 21"; "SM15N04W Sec. 32"; "SM15N04W Sec. 32-33";
"SM14N04W Sec. 17"; "SM14N04W Sec. 7".
 - Verbal description of survey area Cultural resource survey took place within the 200 foot ROW of Segment 1 of the proposed railroad, a material site north of West Susitna Parkway and the proposed Haul Road off Point MacKenzie Road
- (for example: "123 Acme Street," "confluence of Fish and Moose creeks," "Milepost 9-16 ...")

- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for the surveyed area? Yes ☐ No ☒ Page #(s) _____
- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for reported sites? Yes ☐ No ☒ Page #(s) _____
- Land owner(s): Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Answer one: Acres Surveyed w/in ROW Hectares Surveyed

Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Information

- List AHRS numbers of new and updated sites – (do not list sites that are merely described in the background section).
TYO -00276 in SM. T15N, R04W, Sec. 32 consisted of three 40cm. x 40cm. x 30 cm depressions within a 3 m radius.

- Is the report part of a National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106 consultation? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Is the report part of an Alaska Historic Preservation Act compliance consultation? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of eligibility? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of effect? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Was this report submitted to fulfill State Field Archaeology Permit requirements?
Permit No.: _____ Yes ☐ No ☒
- Was this project and/or report overseen or authored by someone meeting the minimum qualifications of the Sec. of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (48 FR 44738-44739)? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Is the Principal Investigator's resume' appended to the report or on file at OHA? Yes ☒ No ☐