



May 31, 2012

EI-18907

FD 34658

Barbara Hotchkin
Alaska Railroad Corporation
PO Box 107500
Anchorage, AK 99510-7500

Letter sent to Section 106 Party Consultants

Dear Ms. Hotchkin:

I am writing on behalf of the Surface Transportation Board regarding the *Programmatic Agreement Among the Surface Transportation Board, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Alaska Railroad Corporation, Northern Rail Extension Between North Pole and Delta Junction, Alaska* (STB Finance Docket No. 34658).

Enclosed, please find a copy of the 2011 Annual Report for the Northern Rail Extension Project. The report was prepared by the Alaska Railroad Corporation and documents fieldwork activities to identify and evaluate historic properties completed during 2011; relevant construction progress during 2011; anticipated work in 2012; and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Programmatic Agreement (PA).

As stipulated in the PA, the report is submitted for your review in advance of the project's annual meeting. The meeting will be held July 24, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the following location:

HDR Alaska, Inc.
4th Floor Conference Room
2525 C Street
Anchorage AK

You are invited to attend the annual meeting to discuss the Northern Rail Extension Project's progress and scheduled activities for the coming year. For those who cannot attend in person, a teleconference number has been arranged. The teleconference number is 866-994-6437 and the conference code is 1082581.

Please contact Catherine Glidden, Environmental Protection Specialist at the Surface Transportation Board, at (202) 245-0293 or Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov if you have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed Annual Report or scheduled Annual Meeting. Sincerely,

Tracie Krauthoefer

Cultural Resources Specialist
HDR Alaska, Inc.

Enclosure: Northern Rail Extension Project 2011 Annual Report