

EI - 20230



Re: Deadline for Tribal Participation - Tongue River Summer Fieldwork

Thomas Ellig

to:

Catherine.Nadals

06/17/2013 12:48 PM

Cc:

Grace Goldtooth-Campos

Hide Details

From: Thomas Ellig <thomas.ellig@mnhs.org>

To: Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov

Cc: Grace Goldtooth-Campos <lowersiouxthpo@gmail.com>

History: This message has been replied to.

Catherine,

The Lower Sioux Indian Community has a new THPO. Her name is Grace Goldtooth-Campos and her e-mail address is lowersiouxthpo@gmail.com. Please replace the old address, lowersioux@mnhs.org, with this new address.

Thank you.

On Mon, Jun 17, 2013 at 11:40 AM, <Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov> wrote:

Dear Tribes,

Please let me know by **Wednesday, June 19th** if your tribe is interested in sending someone to assist in the field surveys this summer. It is critical that we move to the planning stages for the field work including organizing our field teams. Therefore, unless I hear otherwise, we will schedule our survey teams with staff from tribes that have already indicated their availability to assist in this endeavor.

The summer field work will be completed solely to gather data necessary to compare alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act. Future surveys will be completed as part of the Section 106 undertaking once, or if, the Board licenses an alternative. My previous email to you, as shown below, describes the field work in more detail.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

All the best,
Cathy

Catherine Nadals
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423
[\(202\) 245-0293](tel:(202)245-0293)

Dear Tribes,

Soon, we plan to begin the archaeological surveys to identify sites within each of the alternatives under consideration in the Tongue River Railroad Construction (TRRC) Project. The survey work will be conducted between mid-July and September.

The archaeological surveys will be lead by ICF International, our third-party contractor for this project. Rick Starzak, of ICF, is the overall project director for the cultural resources portion of the TRRC Project and is currently organizing the field effort.

I know that ICF has already contacted some of you regarding the summer field work. But there will be a total of four survey teams, each of which will be working during 10-day periods. I have attached a schedule of the work plan for your review. To ensure parity, each crew will consist of four ICF staff archaeologists and four tribal participants. The crews will be lead by senior ICF archaeologists.

We have 16 potential slots for paid tribal representatives (4 field sessions and 4 tribal participants per session). This would be the case in the event we have different tribes make up each of the 16 tribal slots (unlikely, I know). To begin though, we are asking for one participant from each tribe to ensure that each interested tribe has an opportunity to provide at least one representative. Once we give each tribe an option to send one person, we will then look at our remaining needs and fill those based on an approach that all the tribes agree to.

As you probably already know, the survey members will need to be fit and able to walk across sometimes rugged terrain. There will also be limited access to health care as the project area is relatively remote. This part of the survey (completed to collect information to compare the NEPA alternatives) will be conducted quickly. If the Board licenses an alternative, we will be conducting much more detailed data collection for the selected alternative. At that point, we will be conducting a full Section 106 assessment for the then defined "undertaking," including definitive National Register assessments of any identified sites in the area(s) of potential effect. The specific details of our approach still needs to be spelled out in a programmatic agreement that we will be developing for this project (the sooner, the better!). However, there will be additional opportunities at that time for tribal involvement including the participation of tribal elders and other tribal experts.

If interested in participating in the upcoming field surveys, please review the attached

schedule and let Rick know which team you are available to join. It is important that you contact him soon so we can schedule all of the tribal participants before the beginning of the field season.

Rick will go into much more detail regarding the archaeological survey work during our call on Monday. He is also available via phone or email any other time if you want to talk over the details with him. You can also always call me if you have any questions. My work number is [202-245-0293](tel:202-245-0293) and my cell is [240-446-5086](tel:240-446-5086) (I'm working from home today).

RICHARD STARZAK | Senior Architectural Historian/Technical Director | [+1.213.312.1751](tel:+1.213.312.1751) direct | richard.starzak@icfi.com | icfi.com **ICF INTERNATIONAL** | 601 West 5th Street, Suite 900, Los Angeles, CA 90071 | [+1.213.840.7480](tel:+1.213.840.7480) mobile

Hope you have a lovely weekend!

-Cathy

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