



EI-20136
Received 3/1/13

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

SCOTT WOOSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 13, 2013

DAVE NAVECKY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20423-0001

RE: ER13-145 West Michigan Railroad Co. Rail Line Abandonment Exemption - STB Docket No. AB-1107X,
MP 19.8 to MP 30.55, T3S, R15W and T3S, R14W, Lawrence and Paw Paw Townships,
Van Buren County (STB)

Dear Mr. Navecky:

Under the authority of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we have reviewed the above-cited undertaking at the location noted above. Based on the information provided for our review, it is the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) that the effects of the proposed undertaking do not meet the criteria of adverse effect [36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1)]. Therefore, the project will have no adverse effect [36 CFR § 800.5(b)] on historic properties within the area of potential effects for the above-cited undertaking.

The views of the public are essential to informed decision making in the Section 106 process. Federal Agency Officials or their delegated authorities must plan to involve the public in a manner that reflects the nature and complexity of the undertaking, its effects on historic properties and other provisions per 36 CFR § 800.2(d). We remind you that Federal Agency Officials or their delegated authorities are required to consult with the appropriate Indian tribe and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) when the undertaking may occur on or affect any historic properties on tribal lands. In all cases, whether the project occurs on tribal lands or not, Federal Agency Officials or their delegated authorities are also organizations that might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties in the area of potential effects and invite them to be consulting parties per 36 CFR § 800.2(c).

This letter evidences the STB's compliance with 36 CFR § 800.4 "Identification of historic properties" and 36 CFR § 800.5 "Assessment of adverse effects", and the fulfillment of the STB's responsibility to notify the SHPO, as a consulting party in the Section 106 process, under 36 CFR § 800.5(c) "Consulting party review".

The State Historic Preservation Office is not the office of record for this undertaking. You are therefore asked to maintain a copy of this letter with your environmental review record for this undertaking. If the scope of work changes in any way, or if artifacts or bones are discovered, please notify this office immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Grennell, Cultural Resource Management Specialist, at (517) 335-2721 or by email at grennellb@michigan.gov. Please reference our project number in all communication with this office regarding this undertaking. Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment, and for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Martha MacFarlane Faes
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

MMF:SAT:BGG

copy: Robert Wimbish, Baker & Miller, PLLC

