

EI-18881



Fwd: PMRE Working Group meeting follow-up: survey method

Barbara Hotchkin

to:

Catherine Glidden

04/27/2012 06:58 PM

Cc:

"Brian Lindamood", "Doug Gasek", "Shina A (DNR) duVall", "Summer Rickman",
"Elizabeth Grover"

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

To: "Catherine Glidden" <Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov>

Cc: "Brian Lindamood" <LindamoodB@akrr.com>, "Doug Gasek"
<doug.gasek@alaska.gov>, "Shina A (DNR) duVall" <shina.duvall@alaska.gov>,
"Summer Rickman" <summer.rickman@alaska.gov>, "Elizabeth Grover"
<Elizabeth.Grover@hdrinc.com>

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Cathy,

The forwarded e-mail below summarizes what was discussed during our Working Group meeting yesterday regarding cultural resource surveys during the 2012 field season. We are particularly concerned about Segment 6 and the tight time frame, as construction is scheduled to begin in June in Segment 6. There is still snow on the ground, so we need to wait a couple more weeks to do the field work. We expect to be able to submit a report for this segment about the 3rd week of May. I want to give you advance notice that we will request an expedited review from SHPO and STB. We will be using the same format (and author) for the 2011 report that was ultimately accepted, and will ensure it meets the high quality standards required by STB for an expedited review.

A brief explanation is warranted. Based on Working Group discussions with SHPO representatives in 2011, we originally planned on no further field surveys in the existing ARRC ROW because the APE primarily consists of existing railroad right-of-way and previous surveys in the APE for this segment were negative for cultural resources. Refer to our letter of January 26, 2012 that transmitted the 1st version of the 2011 report (page 2). However, following further discussions with SHPO we have had second thoughts about this approach, as it is not fully consistent with the PA and Working Group MOU -- there are medium risk areas that extend into the

existing ROW

Thanks for your help, and I hope your schedule will allow an expedited review of the report for the Segment 6 area. I will keep you updated on the status of the field survey and report. Let me know if you have any questions. Barb

>>> "Grover, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Grover@hdrinc.com> 4/27/2012 1:08 PM >>>

Hello,

Included below is a summary of discussions at the Working Group meeting on 4/25/12 regarding methodology for cultural resource surveys during the 2012 field season. These discussions were based on previous consultation with the Working Group and SHPO regarding survey methodology:

Surveys in 2012 will include Segments 6 (to occur in early-mid May), 3, 4, 5, and 2

MSB and Knik Tribe staff will be invited and encouraged to participate in surveys

Survey crews will include a minimum of 3 people

We will conduct an aerial (helicopter) survey of the entire PMRE APE this spring with participation from SHPO and representatives of the Working Group to identify specific locations in Segments 3, 4, 5, and 2 requiring a pedestrian survey.

We will survey medium and high probability areas within the APE for direct effects that have not previously been surveyed. Pedestrian surveys in these areas, as deemed necessary based on the aerial survey, will not be conducted until the survey is clear of snow and the ground is thawed to allow subsurface testing.

We will survey select low probability areas within the APE for direct effects that have not previously been surveyed as determined in consultation. Priority will given to areas with accessibility and landowner permission

We will not survey:

- o Wetlands
- o Previously surveyed areas
- o Areas within the Millers Reach Fire area (with the exception of the area at the north end of the Segment 6 "Y" that has been identified as medium probability)

Reporting will use the format/outline approved for the final 2011 Survey Report

Given the tight schedule for construction (Segment 6 construction slated to begin in June), SHPO has agreed to a possible abbreviated review period for Segment 6

If cultural resources are identified during the survey, the Working Group and SHPO will be notified within 24 hours to facilitate immediate discussions regarding avoidance or mitigation

I have been working on maps to reflect this methodology – they are forthcoming.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Thanks!

Elizabeth

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