



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

#E1-1903-
Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director

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November 5, 2012

Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW, Room 1110
Washington, D.C. 20423

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding the acquisition of a 22.3-mile rail line from the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company between Munster, Indiana (Milepost 31.0) and Elsdon, Illinois (Milepost 8.7) (Docket no. 35522; DHPA #11780)

Dear Ms. Wood:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated October 5, 2012 and received on October 9, 2012 for the above indicated project in Munster, Lake County, Indiana.

Thank you for providing the Indiana SHPO with a copy of the draft environmental assessment. Please refer to our letter of June 28, 2011. We have no additional comments at this time.

If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations.

A copy of the revised 36 C.F.R. Part 800 that went into effect on August 5, 2004, may be found on the Internet at www.achp.gov for your reference. If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Cathy Draeger-Williams at (317) 234-3791 or cdraeger-williams@dnr.IN.gov. If you have questions about buildings or structures please contact Chad Slider at (317) 234-5366 or cslider@dnr.IN.gov. Additionally, in all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #11780.

Very truly yours,

James A. Glass, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JAG:CWS:CDW:cdw