

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

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September 1, 2010

File No.: 3130-1R STB
3330-6 Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District, ANC-3326/TYO-0203

SUBJECT: Port MacKenzie Rail Line Extension

Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street
Washington, DC 20423

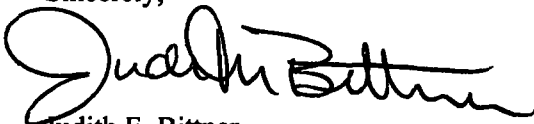
Dear Ms. Rutson:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office received your correspondence regarding the abovementioned project on August 3, 2010. We have reviewed the report titled *Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project, Report of 2009 Cultural Resources Fieldwork* by Stephen R. Braund & Associates, July 2010. We concur with your finding that ANC-3326/TYO-0203, (the Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District/ Historic Vernacular Landscape) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the national level, for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Alaskan history, specifically the theme of recreation related to the Iditarod Race and its development. The period of significance is 1967 – 1978 and the property meets criteria consideration G. We recommend the boundaries of the property be further refined and developed, please refer to *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* for more guidance on delineating boundaries.

A number of consulting parties have indicated their interest in this project and a desire to participate in the development of the Programmatic Agreement (PA). At this time, to move the undertaking forward, we recommend STB hold a meeting with the signatories and concurring parties to discuss the goals and objectives of the PA.

Please contact Tracie Krauthoefer (907-269-8722) if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Najah Duvall-Gabriel, ACHP
Mark Yachmetz, Federal Railroad Administration

Jack Alcon, Knik Tribal Council
William G. O'Leary, Alaska Railroad Corporation
Fran Seager-Boss, Matanuska Susitna Borough Historical Commission
Dick Mylius, DMLW
Gary Harrison, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
Dorothy Cook, Native Village of Eklutna
Angela Sandstol, Native Village of Tyonek

JEB:tak