



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

H&E-18713
FD 35522
Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director



Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov

June 28, 2011

Kevin Keller
HDR Engineering, Inc.
4435 Main Street, Suite 1000
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Re: Project information 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 Mr. Keller:

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 May 25, 2011 and received on May 31, 2011 for the above indicated project in Munster, Lake County, Indiana.

Based upon the documentation available to the staff of the Indiana SHPO, we have not identified any historic buildings, structures, districts, or objects listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places within the probable area of potential effects.

In terms of archaeology, no currently known archaeological resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places have been recorded within the proposed project area.

However, it is our understanding that this review is in regards to acquisition only. If construction activities are proposed in the future that involve a Federal undertaking, we will resume identification and evaluation procedures.

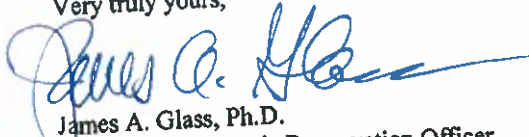
If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised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

At this time, it would be appropriate for the Surface Transportation Board to analyze the information that has been gathered from the Indiana SHPO, the general public, and any other consulting parties and make the necessary determinations and findings. Please refer to the following comments for guidance:

- 1) If the Surface Transportation Board believes that a determination of "no historic properties affected" accurately reflects its assessment, then it shall provide documentation of its finding as set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11 to the Indiana SHPO, notify all consulting parties, and make the documentation available for public inspection (36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4[d][1] and 800.2[d][2]).
- 2) If, on the other hand, the Surface Transportation Board finds that an historic property may be affected, then it shall notify the Indiana SHPO, the public and all consulting parties of its finding and seek views on effects in accordance with 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4(d)(2) and 800.2(d)(2). Thereafter, the Surface Transportation Board may proceed to apply the criteria of adverse effect and determine whether the project will result in a "no adverse effect" or an "adverse effect" in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.5.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James A. Glass".

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

JAG:CWS:CDW:cdw

cc: David C. Navecky, Environmental Protection Specialist, Surface Transportation Board