



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

The Cultural Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston, WV
25305-0300

Phone 304.558.0220
Fax 304.558.2779
TDD 304.558.3562
www.wvculture.org

EEO/AA Employer

September 23, 2008

EI-16152
KB

Ms. Jo Carole Dawkins
Dawkins Environmental Consulting
P.O. Box 845
Springville, Alabama 35146

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35131-Vaughan Railroad Company,
Construction of Line of Railroad to New Coal Mine
FR#: 08-1358-MG

Dear Ms. Dawkins:

We have reviewed the above referenced project to determine its effects to cultural resources. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

According to the submitted information, Vaughan Railroad Company, a subsidiary of CONSOL Energy, Inc. (CONSOL), has filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board for the authority to construct and operate a new rail line in Monongalia County. Submitted for our review was a map on which the two proposed routes have been outlined.

Architectural Resources:

A search of our files indicates that there have not been any architectural or structural surveys completed in this area nor are there any current resources listed on the National Register of Historic Properties within the proposed corridors or viewshed. However, there may be resources within the study area that have not yet been identified. As part of the review process and as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the applicant must identify significant cultural resources and the effect the proposed project will have on them. We invite personnel from Dawkins Environmental Consulting to set up an appointment to review our cultural resource files in preparation of the study. We will provide further comment upon receipt of the information requested.

Archaeological Resources:

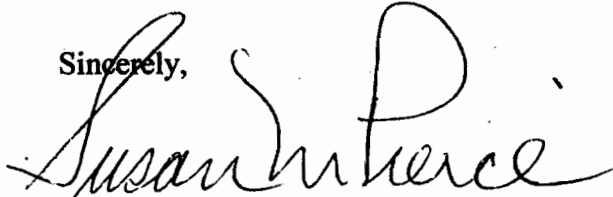
According to our records, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites located in West Virginia along either proposed railroad route. However, undisturbed landforms along White Creek and West Virginia Fork of Dunkard Creek have a moderate to high potential of containing intact archaeological sites. Once the final route is selected, we request that it be subjected to a Phase I archaeological survey to identify any significant resources that may be present

Ms. Dawkins
FR#: 08-1358-MG
September 23, 2008
Page 2

pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36CFR 800: Protection of Historic Properties. We also request that this survey be conducted according to Federal and state standards, especially as outlined in our guidelines, which are titled *Guidelines for Phase I, II, and III Archaeological Investigations and Technical Reports* (WV SHPO 2001).

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service and look forward to working with you on this project. *If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Ginger Williford, Structural Historian, or Lora A. Lamarre, Senior Archaeologist, in the Historic Preservation Office at (304) 558-0240.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan M. Pierce". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/GW/LAL