



Northern Rail Extension Project

A project of the Alaska Railroad Corporation

EI-18672

CG

FD 34658

September 8, 2011

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA)
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Inadvertent Discovery Resolution and Determination of Eligibility for FAI-02118
Northern Rail Extension Project, Tanana River Bridge and Levee (Phase 1)

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) is constructing a crossing of the Tanana River and levee as the first phase of the Northern Rail Extension Project (NRE Project). The Surface Transportation Board (STB) prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NRE Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and issued a Decision approving that project on January 6, 2010. The Decision included a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to address continued cultural resources management for the NRE Project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

On August 26, during the staking of a construction access road for the project, surveying engineers located the remains of a potentially historic cabin and trash scatter. Consistent with PA Stipulations IX.A. and C. and Attachment A.2., inadvertent discovery notification proceeded and procedures were put into effect immediately.

The discovery was investigated cooperatively by Northern Land Use Research (NLUR) and HDR Alaska, Inc. (HDR). Field survey was completed on September 1, 2011 by NLUR while HDR conducted archival research and the NRHP evaluation. The site was assigned Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) number FAI-02118 and named the Tom Bear Trail Cabin Site. FAI-02118 is located in Sections 13 and 24, Township 4 South, Range 3 East, Fairbanks Meridian.

The enclosed report documents the results of the field survey, research and evaluation. FAI-02118 was evaluated within the theme of Homesteading in Alaska and does not possess the integrity necessary for conveying its significance; the report recommends the site be found not eligible.





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ARRC recommends, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the NHPA, that the STB determine FAI-02118 is not eligible for listing in the National Register and that no historic properties would be affected by recommencement of construction of the construction access road. If you have any comments regarding the completed evaluation and recommended determination and finding, please contact me at the address above, or by email at Peterbursm@akrr.com.

Please submit this report and enclosed coversheet with STB's determination of eligibility for FAI-02118 and finding of effect to the Alaska SHPO.

Sincerely,

Mark Peterburs
Project Director
Northern Rail Extension

Enclosures:

Office of History and Archaeology Coversheet
*Northern Rail Extension Project, Tom Bear Trail Cabin, FAI-02118, Inadvertent
Discovery Report and NRHP Evaluation, HDR Alaska, Inc. September 2011*

cc:

Catherine Glidden, Environmental Protection Specialist, STB
Ellen Lyons, USACE, Regulatory Division, Fairbanks Field Office
Barb Hotchkin, ARRC Environmental Program Manager

