

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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EI-20929

January 30, 2015

Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC, 20423-001
Attn: STB Finance Docket No. 35874

Re: Project review under the National Historic Preservation Act: STB Docket No. FD 35874, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southwestern Switching Company, Proposed Operation and Construction, Howard County (Surface Transportation Board; Track #201504494)

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Tiffany Osburn, has examined our records. According to our maps, the tract proposed for development is in an area that has the potential for cultural resources. Several archeological sites have been previously recorded in the immediate vicinity and adjacent to the project site, as shown on the map you provided. We recommend that a professional archeologist survey the proposed project area. This work should meet the minimum archeological survey standards posted on-line at www.thc.state.tx.us. A report of investigations should be produced in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and submitted to this office for review. You may obtain lists of most professional archeologists in Texas on-line at: www.councilof texasarcheologists.org or www.rpanet.org. Please note that other potentially qualified archeologists not included on these lists may be used.

Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Tiffany Osburn at 512/463-8883 or tiffany.osburn@thc.state.tx.us.**

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/to

