



October 3, 2017

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Environmental Section Chief
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W. Room 1110
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In future correspondence please refer to:

Project Tracking Code: 2016-07-04716
Property: Abandonment of the Columbia & Cowlitz Railway
AB-1243X; AB-1244X; AB-1244 (Sub-No.1X)
Re: ADVERSE Effect

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for contacting the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) you provided for this project.

As a result of our review, we concur with your determination that the Columbia and Cowlitz Railroad is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We also concur that the current project, as proposed, will have an Adverse Effect on the railroad. Our concurrence on the eligibility of the railroad is based upon the limited and the preliminary documentation the Surface Transportation Board (STB) provided to the SHPO for review and comment. Additional survey and documentation is recommended to be completed for a better understanding of the line and its contributing elements and associated resources.

In view of our concurrence on the adverse effect determination, we look forward to further consultation and the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA shall identify specific measures that when implemented will serve to mitigate the adverse effect on the property.

It should be noted by the STB that the abandonment proponents have undertaken activities that could be construed as removing a section, or sections, of the existing roadbed. This action is contrary to the prescription the STB provided in the Salvage Activities section (page 2) of the EA. We would recommend that all such activities be halted on the line until the environmental review process is completed and all the consulting parties consulted, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Also, we appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36 CFR 800.4(a)(4). These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the



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State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR 800.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (360) 586-3533 or russell.holter@dahp.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Russell Holter
Project Compliance Reviewer

Cc: Adam Assenza (STB)
Dave Burlingame (Cowlitz Tribe)
Nick Fazio (Cowlitz Co.)
Sarah Stokely (ACHP)
Adam Trimble (City of Longview)
Joshua Wayland (STB)
Fred Wert

