



March 1, 2012

PROJECTS MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING

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Judith Bittner
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Alaska Department of Natural Resources
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Victoria Rutson
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

John Fowler
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803
Old Post Office Building
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) Compliance
Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project, *Draft Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic
District Workshop Summary and Implementation Plan*

Dear Ms. Bittner, Ms. Rutson, and Mr. Fowler:

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) issued a final decision (Docket No. FD 35095) authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) to construct and operate approximately 35 miles of new rail line connecting Port MacKenzie to ARRC's existing main line near Houston, Alaska. In accordance with Stipulation V. of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) Project Programmatic Agreement (PA), we are pleased to provide a copy of the *Draft Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District (IDSHD) Workshop Summary and Implementation Plan* to initiate the required 30 day review and comment period. This plan is also provided in compliance with Mitigation Measures 92 and 93 of the final decision.

With this letter, we are providing copies of the *Draft IDSHD Workshop Summary and Implementation Plan* to the Invited Signatories and interested consulting parties (certain Concurring Parties to the PA). We are also notifying all individuals and organizations that participated in the IDSHD workshops and the remaining Concurring Parties to the PA of the availability of the report on the project website (www.portmacrail.com), and that we will send a hard copy of the plan upon request.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at (907) 265-3095, or by email at lindamood@akrr.com. You may also contact Barbara Hotchkin at (907) 265-2313 or hotchkinb@akrr.com. Please provide your comments on the draft plan by April 2, 2012.

Sincerely,



Brian Lindamood
ARRC Project Manager

Enclosure:

Draft IDSHD Workshop Summary and Implementation Plan

Cc: with enclosure:

Dave Navecky, STB
Catherine Glidden, STB
Shina duVall, Office of History and Archaeology
Brad Sworts, Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB)
Fran Seager-Boss, MSB
Angie Wade, Knik Tribal Council (KTC)
Debra Call, KTC
Jeff Bruno, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)
Martin Buser, Happy Trails Kennels
Donna Quante, Willow Dog Musers Association
Lori Henry, Iditarod Historic Trails Alliance
Barbara Hotchkin, ARRC
Elizabeth Grover, HDR
Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Cc: without enclosure:

Christopher Aadnesen, ARRC
John Moosey, MSB
Gary Harrison, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
Dorothy Cook, Native Village of Eklutna
Frank Standifer, Native Village of Tyonek
Margaret Brown, Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Curtis McQueen, Eklutna, Inc.
Raymond Theodore, Knikatu, Inc.
Wyn Menefee, ADNR