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SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
Associate General Counsel

The Burlington Northern and
Santa Fe Railway Company
700 13th Street NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20005-5915
(202) 347-8667 - Telephone
(202) 347-8675 - Fax
Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com



VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

June 9, 2004

Ms. Rini Ghosh
STB Case Control Unit
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 415X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment from Langdon to Hannah, Cavalier County, North Dakota

Dear Ms. Gosh:

Please refer to STB's Environmental Assessment served on May 28, 2004, in the above-referenced docket. In that assessment, the STB recommended imposition of a condition that BNSF retain its interest in the line until completion of the Section 106 process. Since BNSF's submission of its Environmental Report in the referenced docket, BNSF has received further input from the ND SHPO. Enclosed for SEA's reference is a copy of a letter dated May 11, 2004, from the State Historical Society of North Dakota making a recommendation of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this line.

Accordingly, BNSF submits that the recommended Section 106 condition of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, need not be imposed in this docket.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667 or Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com.

Sincerely,

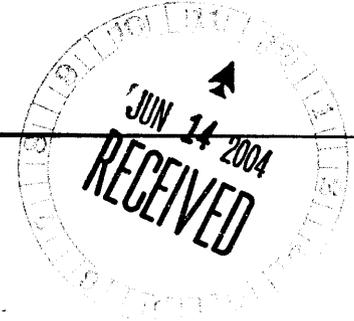
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr. *by BLR*

Enclosure

cc: James H. Gallegos
Richard Batie
Peter Luedtke
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. (ND SHPO)



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA**



John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota

May 11, 2004

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Department of Transportation

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Bismarck

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Director

Accredited by the
American Association
of Museums

Betty L. Reinert
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co.
Law Department
P.O. Box 961039
Fort Worth, TX 76161

NDSHPO REF.: 04-0151C, Report Review, Proposed BN&SF Railway Co.
Abandonment, Langdon to Hannah, Cavalier County, ND.

Dear Ms. Reinert:

We have reviewed: *Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment in Cavalier County, North Dakota, Class I and Class II Cultural Resources Inventories* (review draft version) by Cynthia Kordecki, UND, Department of Anthropology, Anthropology Research, April 2004, and have no comments on this report.

The ND SHPO seldom concurs with, or makes recommendations for, a determination prior to receiving all (if any) cultural resource forms and a final report. However, the draft version of this document is well written and contains enough information for us to make a recommend to the Surface Transportation Board. Provided that the project is of the nature specified and takes place in the legal description outlined in the report and correspondence, we would concur with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination. We look forward to receiving the site forms for the three bridges and the final report for this undertaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Please include the ND SHPO Reference number listed above in any further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions please contact Duane Klinner at (701) 328-3576.

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)