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A Division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

November 15, 2005

In reply refer to:
R&C#: 051156018

Christa Dean
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: STB – LEE COUNTY – CITY OF KEOKUK – ROQUETTE AMERICA, INC. – PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF APPROXIMATELY 250 FT RAIL LINE AT THE ROQUETTE CORN PROCESSING FACILITY TO CONNECT TO EXISTING BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY RAIL LINE – SECS. 34, 35, & 36, T65N-R5W

Dear Ms Dean,

Thank you for notifying our office about the above referenced proposed project. We understand that this project will be a federal undertaking and will need to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. We look forward to consulting with you on the Area of Potential Effect for this proposed project and whether this project will affect any significant historic properties under 36 CFR Part 800.4. We will need the following types of information for our review:

- The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this project needs to be adequately defined (36 CFR Part 800.16 (d)).
- Information on what types of cultural resources are or may be located in the APE (36 CFR Part 800.4). The archaeological background research has been provided to our office by (Burns & McDonnell) on November 14, 2005. We have not been provided any background information on what other types of historic properties such as buildings, structures, objects, and districts either already listed on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for listing on the National register of Historic Places may be located within the study corridor
- The significance of the historic properties in the APE in consideration of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria.
- A determination from the responsible federal agency of the undertaking's effects on historical properties within the APE (36 CFR Part 800.5).

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) contains many sources of information concerning cultural resources within the state of Iowa. Included among these sources of information are

- Files with information on over 110,000 standing structures, objects, and historic districts in the Iowa Site Inventory which includes the National Register of Historic Places listings for Iowa;
- Historical and architectural surveys and thematic reports;
- Over 10,000 archaeological survey records and reports;

- Maps showing previously conducted archaeological survey locations;
- Copies of the Iowa Archaeological Site records from the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA).

Information on cultural resources can also be found at local libraries, county engineer's office, universities and colleges, county historical societies and museums.

The State Historic Preservation Office does not have staffing to conduct background research for Section 106 projects or other historic preservation projects. We encourage agencies, applicants, organizations, or hired consultants to come to our office to conduct the background research on projects SHPO staff members are available to assist people in learning about and utilizing our resources. There is no charge for using our records unless copies are requested.

A brief examination of the provided archaeological background research indicates that eight previous archaeological surveys have been conducted within different portions of the proposed study corridor. We note that several of these surveys were reconnaissance level surveys and did not involve any type of subsurface investigations. A large portion of the proposed study corridor has not been previously investigated for archaeological sites. Nine previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the proposed study corridor. There are eight additional previously recorded archaeological sites located within a mile radius of the proposed study corridor. One site within the study corridor (13LE183) was found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. Portions of site 13LE183 were mitigated as part of other previous federal undertakings. The current status of this site is uncertain. The current status of sites 13LE178 and 13LE525 are also uncertain as they have not been evaluated for their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining sites located within the proposed study corridor (13LE174, 13LE175, 13LE176, 13LE177, 13LE179, and 13LE275) have been previously evaluated as not eligible for listing on the National Register.

Our records indicate that there is at least one prehistoric mound (13LE173) and one historic cemetery within a mile radius of the proposed study corridor. Site 13LE173 is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. The Iowa Burials Protection Laws (IC263 7-9; IC716.5; IC523; IAC68511.1) afford protection to all human interments and associated objects regardless of their age, manner of interment, or cultural or ethnic affiliation. We want you to be aware that there is a very high probability that both prehistoric and historic human burials and perhaps cemeteries could be located within the proposed planning study area. We urge you to consult with the proper authorities regarding these issues and other parties who may have an interest in these mortuary sites that may exist within the study area such as any historic American Indian Tribes or other ethnic and/or family groups

Based on the location of the this project area immediately adjacent to the confluence of the Des Moines River and the Mississippi River, there appears to be a high potential that additional archaeological sites may be located within or immediately adjacent to the proposed study corridor. In consideration of this information, we recommend that the best way to determine whether this proposed project will affect any significant historic properties is to conduct an archaeological survey of the proposed project area. The

survey should be conducted prior to any land disturbance or construction activities. The purpose of the survey is to locate and evaluate any presently unidentified archaeological or historical sites which may be affected by the proposed undertaking. We recommend that the responsible federal agency should consider whether an archaeological survey needs be conducted for this proposed project within the selected Area of Potential Effect. Based on the currently available information on this undertaking, **we can not concur that there will not be a significant impact on a historic property.**

Please reference the Review and Compliance Number provided above in all future submitted correspondence to our office for this project. We look forward to further consulting with the applicant and your agency on this project.

We have made these **comments** and **recommendations** according to our responsibility defined by Federal law pertaining to the Section 106 process. Your agency does not have to follow our **comments** and **recommendations** to comply with the Section 106 process. It remains the your agency's decision on whether or not to provide additional information to our office or whether to proceed with the project without the concurrence of this office. It also remains the your agency's decision on how you will proceed from this point for this project.

Should you have any questions please contact me at the number below.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Jones, Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office
State Historical Society of Iowa
(515) 281-4358

cc: Lowell Soike, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Dan Higginbottom, Archaeologist, State Historical Society of Iowa
Elizabeth Pauls, State Archaeologist, UI-OSA
Shirley Schermer, Burials Program Director, UI-OSA
Gordon Hendrickson, Division Director, Division of Public Trust, DCA
Ralph Christian, Historian, State Historical Society of Iowa