

EI-2412



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June 27, 2006

Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson,

Thank you for your correspondence dated May 30, 2006, regarding Finance Docket No. 34075, Six County Association of Governments, Construction and Operation – 59-mile Rail Line between Levan and Salina, Utah. As you know from our July 1, 2001, and April 13, 2003, letters on this project, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the Fremont and Ancestral Pueblo prehistoric cultural group in this project area, known to Hopi people as Hisatsinom, or People of Long Ago.

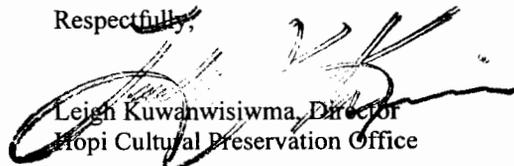
As you also know from our April 13, 2003, letter, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we request consultation on proposed impacts to archaeological sites and cultural resources that are our ancestral sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Surface Transportation Board's continuing solicitation of out input and your efforts to address our concerns.

We have reviewed the enclosed cultural resources inventory report by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants that identifies by our accounting from Table 1. Archaeological Sites Within the Central Utah Railroad Project Area, 16 prehistoric sites recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register and described as lithic scatters, 10 prehistoric sites recommended as eligible and described as temporary camps, and 1 prehistoric site recommended as eligible and described as a habitation site. In addition there are 8 prehistoric sites described as lithic scatters that are recommended as ineligible for listing on the National Register.

Therefore, we have determined that this project is likely to adversely affect cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe, and request additional consultation. Please provide us with a copy of the draft cultural resources treatment plan for review and comment.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director  
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

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