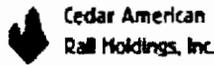


FD 33407

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CG



February 8, 2008

Ms. Catherine Glidden  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20043-0001

RE: *HISTORIC DISTRICT TREATMENT PLAN FOR THE DAKOTA MINNESOTA AND EASTERN RAILROAD CORPORATION'S POWDER RIVER BASIN EXPANSION PROJECT*

Dear Ms. Glidden:

For your review please find enclosed two copies of the draft treatment plan for the historic railroad district (District) that extends between Winona, Minnesota and Wall, South Dakota. This District is owned and operated by the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern (DM&E) Railroad Corporation and constitutes a historic property approximately 589 miles in length. The District is subject to adverse effects due to the Powder River Basin Project (PRB Project). This plan was prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) under contract with DM&E and documents an extensive effort among HDR's federally-qualified architectural historians, historians, and structural and railroad engineers to identify impacts to the District and design alternatives to treat any adverse effects.

In the current draft form the plan should function as a working document to facilitate dialogue among DM&E and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) about the activities needed to compensate for those effects. For example, Section 5.0 is a broad list of potential treatment options and proposed schedules that are based on a combination of standard treatment practices and activities recommended in discussions with State Historic Preservation Office staff and members of the public. Therefore, this section is meant to serve as list of options for discussion. We believe that the ultimate compensation package will reflect the targeted mitigation goals of the DM&E, the STB and their consulting parties.

The draft plan has also been converted into a single PDF file to facilitate your review. The file has been uploaded to HDR's FTP Public Site (<ftp://ftp.hdrinc.com>). You will be prompted to enter a username (UADMMADSONHDR) and password (dCu&6ZYK) before downloading the PDF file.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can assist in your review of the plan. Please provide comments on the plan at your earliest convenience, preferably by February 29, using the comment log provided on the FTP Public Site. We look forward to the comments from the STB and the consulting parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb Jones".

Herb Jones  
Director, Government Affairs  
Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad

Cc: David Bibler, Louis Berger Group  
Doug Jackson, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Melissa Lundberg, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Michael Madson, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Joe Trnka, HDR Engineering, Inc.