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STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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October 31, 2007

Ms. Christa Dean
Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 041007-02-STB

Property: STB Docket No. 34936, Northern Columbia Basin Railway Project

Re: Archaeology - APE Concur

Dear Ms. Dean:

We have reviewed the materials forwarded to our office for the Northern Columbia Basin Railway project (STB Docket No. 34936). Thank you for your description of the area of potential effect (APE) for the project. We concur with the definition of the APE. We look forward to the results of your cultural resources survey efforts, your consultation with the concerned tribes, and receiving the survey report. We would appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36CFR800.4(a)(4) and the survey report when it is available.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in conformance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36CFR800. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised. Please note that DAHP has developed a set of cultural resource reporting guidelines. You can obtain a copy of these guidelines from our Web site. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew Sterner, M.A., RPA
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Cc: Elizabeth Phinney, WSDOT Rail Office, MS 47387

