

EI-16341

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THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

January 16, 2009

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

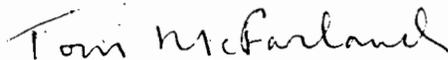
Re: Docket No. AB-497 (Sub-No. 4X), *Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc.* --
Abandonment Exemption -- in Norman County, MN

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am hereby transmitting a copy of my letter of December 22 to Acting Secretary Quinlan and attached letter from Minnesota Deputy Historic Preservation Officer Bloomberg, advising of completion of the Section 106 historic preservation review.

Based on those communications, it would be appreciated if the Environmental Section would recommend that the Board remove Conditions 5(a)-(c) in Ordering Paragraph 2 on page 5 of the Board's decision in the above proceeding served December 3, 2008.

Very truly yours,



Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for Minnesota Northern
Railroad, Inc.*

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cc: Mr. George LaPray - by e-mail to mnn@rrv.net

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THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

December 22, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Suite 1149
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. AB-497 (Sub-No. 4X), *Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc.* --
Abandonment Exemption -- in Norman County, MN

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

Hereby transmitted is a copy of a letter dated December 18, 2008 from Ms. Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, State of Minnesota, to Ms. Victoria Rutson, Surface Transportation Board, concluding, after Section 106 review, that no properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the abandonment proposed in that above proceeding.

Based on that letter, the Board is respectfully requested to issue a decision that removes Conditions 5(a), 5(b), and 5(c) that are listed in Ordering Paragraph 2 on Page 5 of the Board's decision in the above proceeding, served December 3, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for Minnesota Northern
Railroad, Inc.*

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cc: Mr. George LaPray, *by e-mail to mnn@rrv.net*



State Historic Preservation Office

December 18, 2008

Ms. Victoria Rutsen
Federal Preservation Officer
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW, Room 1106
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-497 (Sub-No. 4X)
Minnesota Northern Railroad, Abandon a 19.2 mile portion of Perley Subdivision
Between milepost 40.2 at the north end of the Marsh River Bridge south of Shelly and
end of track at milepost 21.0 at or near Perley
Norman County
SHPO Number: 2008-2854

Dear Ms. Rutsen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

In response to the initial review submittal from Mr. Thomas F. McFarland, we commented on 29 August 2008 that, while the submittal discussed the National Register eligibility of the bridges on the rail line, the significance of the rail line itself was not addressed.

Mr. McFarland's response includes information on the history of the line, and concludes that the Shelly-Perley segment is of minimal significance. The Shelly-Perley segment includes part of the Minnesota and Dakota Northern Railroad Company's 1883 line from Moorhead to Halstad, and part of the St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba's 1896 line from Halstad to Redland (Crookston). Based on information we have reviewed, it does not appear that these two lines meet National Register criteria. Therefore, we conclude that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this undertaking.

Contact us at 651-259-3456 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Britta L. Bloomberg'.

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Thomas F. McFarland
Tom Cinadr, SHPO