



7131
E1-1631
The United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma has no objection to the referenced project. However, if any remains, artifacts or other items are inadvertently discovered, please cease construction immediately and contact us at 918-456-6533 or by letter.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC

Don Stopp JUN 24 2005
Date
Lisa C. Stopp, Tribal NAGPRA POC

Section of Environmental Analysis

May 4, 2005

MAY - 9 2005

Mr. Sequoyah Guess
United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Re: STB Finance Docket No. AB-290 Sub No. 260X, Tennessee Railway Company — Proposed Abandonment — in Scott County, TN: Government to Government Consultation

Dear Mr. Guess:

I am writing to seek your assistance in obtaining input from your Tribe on a proposed rail line abandonment in Tennessee. The Tennessee Railway Company (TRC) has filed an application with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) for permission to abandon 27 miles of rail line between Oneida and Nick's Creek, in Scott County, TN.

Included in this letter are two reports prepared by the railroad, an environmental report and an historic report (together, the EHR). This EHR was one of many sources used by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA), which was mailed to you on April 29, 2005. During preparation of the EA, SEA learned that the rail line is located in an area where several native American tribes have aboriginal ties. Because of potential impacts that the proposed abandonment may have on religious, sacred and cultural resources, SEA would like to solicit your comments and concerns.

Specifically, it is our expectation that this consultation, as well as future communications, will help to identify significant issues of concern, establish acceptable consultation approaches and, ultimately lead to the development of appropriate measures to mitigate any adverse effects associated with the TRC proposed abandonment.

Additionally, we would like to assure you that the location of any scared sites or sensitive