



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

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# E1-1932  
RA

BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor

February 17, 2006

John A. Sims, Certified Paralegal  
Law Department  
BNSF Railway Company  
2500 Lou Menk Drive  
AOB-3  
Fort Worth, TX 76131

Re: Abandonment of rail line between French and York Canyon, Colfax County,  
Mitigation Document, STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 428X), HPD, 77080,  
75841, 74337, 73168

Dear Mr. Sims:

Thank you for sending the HAER Level II documentation report for the above-referenced undertaking.

In 2005, the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office determined this rail corridor (the York Canyon Branch) eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Transportation.

The HAER documentation was prepared pursuant to Condition #7 of the Environmental Assessment and in consultation between the BNSF and the SHPO, and reflects the proposed salvage conditions put forward by this office on November 8, 2005.

Based on the substance of this report, we feel that it adequately mitigates a possible Adverse Effect that might result from future alteration or demolition of the concrete arch culverts. This document, then, fulfills consultation over the undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

We look forward to working with you in the future on other rail projects. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at 505-827-4044.

Sincerely,

Katherine Slick  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Rini Ghosh, STB