

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Planning and Review
Mr. Don L. Klima, Director
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington DC 20004

September 29, 2004

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-872X, Great Northwest Railroad, Inc.-
Abandonment Exemption - in Clearwater County, Idaho**

Dear Mr. Klima:

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Surface Transportation Board (Board) that is responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the National Historic Preservation Act. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, I am writing to notify you that the proposed abandonment, set forth above, may affect historic properties. Accordingly, SEA has begun the consultation process and will be working with Susan Pengilly Neitzel at the Idaho State Historical Society (SHPO), Kevin Cannell with the Nez Perce Tribe, the railroad, and other concerned or affected parties as needed. We seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

The following documents are enclosed for your review: 1) the railroad's petition for exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the rail line; 2) the Environmental and Historic Reports submitted by the railroad; 3) an August 11, 2004 letter from the SHPO; 4) the September 10, 2004 Environmental Assessment prepared by SEA; 5) an August 25, 2004 letter inviting the Nez Perce Tribe to participate in the Section 106 process; and 6) an August 31, 2004 letter from the Nez Perce Tribe.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 565-1606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christa Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christa Dean
Attorney Adviser
Section of Environmental Analysis

Attachments

cc: Susan Pengilly Neitzel, Idaho SHPO
Kevin Cannell, Nez Perce Tribe
Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP