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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (SUB-NO. 437X), BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY
ABANDONMENT— EXEMPTION—POLK COUNTY, IA**

January 3, 2007

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

Notice of Exemption Petition for Exemption Regulated Abandonment

(x) NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on April 6, 2006 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended four (4) environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

No comments were received during the EA comment period that ended April 28, 2006. No modifications to the EA in the post environmental assessment issued on, April 28, 2006 were recommended by SEA.

After the close of the EA comment period, the Iowa State Historic Preservation Officer by comment of December 12, 2006 (concurrence attached in letter of December 14, 2006) determined that no historic properties would be affected by this proposed abandonment.

Conclusion-Removal of Section 106 Condition

Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the EA should be removed because BNSF has complied with the below cited Section 106 condition.

- The BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. BNSF shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Officer and any other Section 106 consulting parties. BNSF may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

SEA CONTACT: Phillis Johnson-Ball X1530.



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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

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[Signature]

Section of Environmental Analysis

December 14, 2006

Douglas W Jones
State Historic Preservation Office
State Historical Society of Iowa
600 East Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-5111

RE: Finance Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 437X), BNSF Railway Company
Abandonment in Glake, Polk County, Iowa
R&C#:051177064

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of November 6, 2006, acknowledging the receipt and review of the Phase 1A Reconnaissance Report (Report) prepared by the University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist for the above referenced project. In your letter, you stated that you concur with the report's recommendation that no further work is recommended for this undertaking. In addition, you stated that if our office provided you with a determination of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this proposed project, your office would concur.

As explained below, and detailed in the report, we have determined that no historic properties would be affected by this proposed project. The project corridor was investigated through a pedestrian survey and the review of historical information. The results of the investigation revealed that no surface or subsurface disturbances would occur as a result of this proposed abandonment. Moreover, no archaeological materials were recovered and no historic properties were identified.

If you need additional information or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me or Phillis Johnson-Ball at (202) 565-1530

CONCUR

Sincerely,

NAME

Douglas W. Jones
ARCHAEOLOGIST S/H

Victoria Rutson
Victoria Rutson
Chief

DATE

12/19/2006

Section of Environmental Analysis