



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**Washington, DC 20423**

#EO-841  
DHW  
FD#34836

*Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration*

April 10, 2008

James Garrison  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Arizona State Parks  
1300 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34836, Arizona Eastern Railway —  
Construction and Operation — In Graham County, Arizona:  
Notification of Additional Adverse Effects and Request for Review  
and Comment on Draft Supplemental Report

Dear Mr. Garrison:

As you know from our consultation in July 2007, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in the process of conducting an environmental review in Finance Docket No. 34836, Arizona Eastern Railway (AZER) – Construction and Operation – In Graham County, Arizona. The proposed rail line would connect Phelps Dodge's proposed San Juan mining operation with an existing 113.5 mile AZER line that operates between Miami and Bowie, AZ. SEA has recently completed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other Federal laws including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The public review and comment period for the Draft EA began on February 25, 2008 and will end on May 1, 2008. The Draft EA was sent to all interested parties, including your office.

As the lead Federal agency responsible for complying with Section 106 of NHPA, we are informing you that due to the preparation of more detailed engineering analyses in the Project Area, AZER has determined that the alignment would need to be modified in three locations. The proposed changes would occur at the Gila River crossing to accommodate bridge/pier construction, and along two curves, one immediately south of the Gila River and the other between the Peterson and Wilson washes north of the Gila River. These modifications would likely result in adverse effects to historic properties within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE), as detailed below.

As I am sure you recall, in July 2007, you reviewed and commented on a draft cultural resources Class III report for the project entitled *Inventory of the Arizona Eastern*

*Railroad Extension of Service Right-of-Way Near Solomonville, Graham County, Arizona.* At that time, SEA had identified seven new archaeological sites and three previously recorded linear sites within its area of potential effect (APE), for a total of ten sites that could be adversely affected. In addition to these sites, the proposed modifications would affect two new sites (AZ CC:2:369 (ASM) and AZ CC:2:370 (ASM)), as well as new locations of two of the ten previously recorded sites (AZ CC:2:364 and AZ CC:2:172 (ASM)) discussed in the initial draft cultural resources Class III report.

I have provided a summary below of each of the sites identified in the additional project area and have enclosed the supplemental report, *A Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Arizona Eastern Railroad Extension of Service Right-of-Way Near Solomonville, Graham County, Arizona: Supplementary Archaeological Survey*. The modified project area includes Federal (Bureau of Land Management) and private land.

**Summary of Each of the Sites Identified in the Additional Project Area**

<b>SITE</b>	<b>IN APE</b>	<b>NRHP Eligibility</b>
AZ CC:2:264 – Historic Euroamerican buried aqueduct	Yes	SHPO has determined that other portions of this linear site are eligible but has not evaluated this segment. Recommended eligible, with SHPO concurrence on August 28, 2007, for a determination of no adverse effect
AZ CC:2:369 – Prehistoric artifact scatter with rock features.	Yes	Recommended ineligible
AZ CC:2:370 – Prehistoric artifact scatter with rock features.	Yes	Recommended ineligible
AZ CC:2:172 – The Union Canal	Yes	Recommended eligible

The draft supplemental report was completed by WestLand Resources, Inc. on November 26, 2007 (consultants for the railroad) and peer reviewed by William Self Associates, Inc. (WSA) of Tucson, AZ, on behalf of SEA.

On April 7, 2008, Diana Wood, SEA Project Manager for this proceeding, spoke with JoAnne Medley, Archaeologist/Compliance Specialist of your staff and provided an overview of the information contained in the supplemental report. It was agreed that the next steps in the process would be to develop a Memorandum of Agreement followed by a Treatment Plan.

I have enclosed the original report as a reference and the supplemental report for your review and comment. I would appreciate your comments within 30 days of receiving this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Diana Wood, SEA Project Manager, at 202-245-0302, email [woodd@stb.dot.gov](mailto:woodd@stb.dot.gov). You may also contact John Ravesloot of WSA at 520-624-0101, email [jravesloot@williamself.com](mailto:jravesloot@williamself.com). Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson  
Chief  
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures (2)

cc: John Cook, CirclePoint  
Kim Otero, WestLand Resources  
John Ravesloot, WSA