

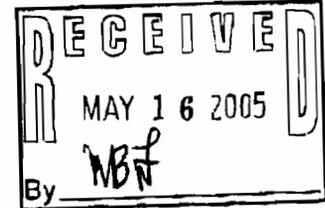


SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

E0-399

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

April 14, 2005



Mr. Ricky Running Wolf Bruner
Croatan-Pee Dee Indian Tribe of Orangeburg
P.O. Box 357
Cordova, SC 29039

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34421, HolRail LLC- Construction and Operation Orangeburg
and Dorchester Counties, South Carolina
Request to Initiate Section 106 Consultation Process

Dear Mr. Bruner:

On November 13, 2003, HolRail LLC (HolRail) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 for authority to construct and operate a new rail line in Orangeburg and Dorchester counties, South Carolina (SC) (see Figure 1). The project would involve the construction of an approximately 2-mile rail line to connect a cement production factory near Holly Hill, SC, owned by HolRail's parent company, Holcim (US) Inc. (Holcim), with an existing rail line of the Norfolk Southern Railway Company, located near Giant, SC.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended (NEPA) and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and the reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposal, including the no-build alternative, as discussed below. The purpose of this letter is to request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed project, as well as any permits and approvals that may be required.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide competitive rail service to Holcim's Holly Hill facility. Holcim is one of the largest suppliers of Portland and blended cements and related mineral components in the United States. The Holly Hill production facility manufactures a variety of cement and masonry products and relies on rail transportation to receive inbound raw materials and to ship outbound products.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.9(c) (1)(ii)), SEA has implemented a staged approach to identifying cultural resources. Elements of this approach include the identification of relevant resource protection laws, the review of existing sources of information regarding cultural resources, and a determination of the potential for impacts to cultural resources.

According to a letter, dated May 11, 2004, from Chad C. Long of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), no historic properties are likely to be affected by the proposed project (see attached letter). Since preliminary candidate build alternatives have been selected (see Figure 2), information on cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be refined for those specific alternatives and presented in the Draft EIS.

We would like to formally initiate Section 106 consultation with your office. It is anticipated that we will be submitting the Draft EIS to your office for review and comment. In accordance with the 1999 revised regulations (36 CFR 800.0(c)(2)(i)), this Draft EIS will serve as the Determination of Effect for cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

We look forward to working through the Section 106 process with you. Parsons Transportation Group is serving as SEA's independent third-party consultant in this proceeding, and will assist SEA in the preparation of the EIS. Their contact information is:

Mr. Winn Frank
Parsons Transportation Group
1133 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Please copy Parsons Transportation Group at the above address on all correspondence. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Winn Frank, Project Manager for Parsons Transportation Group, at 202-775-3382, or Dave Navecky, SEA Project Manager, at 202-565-1593. Thank you for your time and anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Attachments (3)

Figure 1 – Project Area

Figure 2 – Potential Routes

Letter dated May 11, 2004 from Chad C. Long (SCDAH) to Winn B. Frank (Parsons)

Cc: Marta Matthews, Review and Compliance Coordinator, SCDAH
Chad C. Long, Staff Archaeologist, SCDAH
Matthew Creel, Chief (Four Hole Indian Organization, Edisto Tribal Council)
Gilbert Blue, Chief (Catawba Nation)