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***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

June 17, 2005

Mr. Charles Miller  
Rail Operations Manager  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
National Life Building, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-444 (Sub-No. 1X), Lamoille Valley Railroad  
Company – Abandonment Exemption – in Caledonia, Washington,  
Orleans, Lamoille, and Franklin Counties, VT

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing to supplement the letter sent to you on May 13, 2005. In that letter we stated that the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) had provided a letter to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) making a finding of no adverse effect to historic resources provided that three conditions were met. We stated that these conditions included the following: (1) evaluation of structures along the line by a qualified architectural historian to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; (2) review, by a qualified architectural historian, to determine the effects of the project on historic resources; and (3) maintenance of structures identified as historic.

Mr. Eric Gilbertson of the Vermont SHPO's office recently telephone me to clarify that the conditions recommended by the Vermont SHPO's office pertain only to structures that "may be impacted by any work" and not to all the structures along the line, as specified in the Vermont SHPO's February 3, 2005 letter to SEA. The exact wording of the conditions recommended by the Vermont SHPO is as follows:

1. Structures associated with the Lamoille Valley Railroad Company Line from Swanton, Vermont to St. Johnsbury, Vermont and along the Hardwick & Woodbury connecting track in Hardwick, Vermont that may be impacted by any work will be evaluated by a 36 CFR 800-qualified architectural historian to determine whether they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the Division [Vermont Division for Historic Preservation] will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the findings of the architectural historian;

2. Any projects that have the potential to affect historic resources identified during the above evaluation process will be reviewed by a 36 CFR 800-qualified architectural historian to determine the effects of the project on the historic resources and the Division will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the findings of the architectural historian;
3. Structures associated with the Lamoille Valley Railroad Company Line from Swanton, Vermont to St. Johnsbury, Vermont and along the Hardwick and Woodbury connecting track in Hardwick, Vermont identified by the consultant and the Division as being historic will be maintained.

As stated in our May 13, 2005 letter to you, we request that you provide us with a written response stating the railroad's position regarding the conditions recommended by the Vermont SHPO, so that we can determine the appropriate next steps for the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Please let me know if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rini Ghosh  
Attorney-Adviser  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
(202) 565-1539

cc: Mr. Eric Gilbertson, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation