



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

Mr. Don L. Klima, Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Federal Agency Programs
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

September 7, 2005

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 429X), BNSF Railway Company –
Abandonment Exemption – in Ramsey County, MN and STB Docket No. AB-882
(Sub. No. 1X), Minnesota Commercial Railway Company – Discontinuance of
Service Exemption – in Ramsey County, MN

Dear Mr. Klima:

I am writing to notify you pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) that the proposed abandonment and discontinuance, as set forth above, may adversely affect historic properties. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) (the office within the Surface Transportation Board (Board) responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act) has been consulting with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, the BNSF Railway Company, and the City of Maplewood regarding the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(b), to resolve any adverse effects to historic properties. We do not seek your participation at this time. You should know that the City of Maplewood is currently seeking to negotiate a trails use agreement with the BNSF Railway Company to convert the line into a trail.

The following documents are enclosed for your review pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(e): 1) the BNSF Railway Company's notice of exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the rail line; 2) the environmental and historic reports submitted by the railroad; and 3) the environmental assessment prepared by SEA.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 565-1542.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Glidden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures (3)

Cc: Dennis Gimmestad, Minnesota SHPO
Charles Ahl, P.E., City of Maplewood
Sarah Bailiff, BNSF