

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

July 14, 2004

EO -141
FB

Mr. Don L. Klima
Director
Office of Planning and Review
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Re: AB-6 (Sub-No. 417X) - The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company - Abandonment Exemption - between M.P. 18.09 near Glyndon and M.P. 34.00 near Felton, in Clay County, Minnesota
Minnesota SHPO Number: 2004-0866

Dear Mr. Klima:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, I am notifying you that the proposed abandonment, set forth above, may adversely affect historic properties. As indicated in the letter (copy enclosed) from Dennis Gimmestad, Minnesota Historical Society (MN SHPO) dated March 30, 2004, the line may have significance as an important early rail link. The line's construction as the St. Vincent Extension of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, begun in 1872, provided a link to Winnipeg via the Canadian Pacific Railway by 1879.

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental and Historic Reports filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company with their notice of exemption, describing the proposed action and containing information about the rail line.

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the National Historic Preservation Act. I will be working with the MN SHPO's office, as well as the railroad, and other concerned or affected parties as needed. I have enclosed a copy of the environmental assessment for this proceeding, and seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

If you need further information or have questions, please contact me at (202) 565-1554.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth H. Blodgett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kenneth H. Blodgett
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Sims, BNSF
Mr. Dennis Gimmestad, MN SHPO