

E0-1054



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

January 16, 2008

Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34658, The Alaska Railroad Corporation – Petition for Exemption to Construct and Operate a Rail Line Between North Pole and Delta Junction, Alaska

Dear Ms. Bittner:

Please find enclosed the 2007 cultural resources survey and evaluation for the above-referenced project for your review pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C § 470f). This report was prepared for the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) by our third-party contracting team including ICF International and Northern Land Use Research, Inc. (NLUR). The *Results of the 2007 Cultural Resource Survey of Proposed Alaska Railroad Northern Rail Extension Routes, Alaska* includes all cultural resource survey results, site forms, and determination of eligibility recommendations for the above undertaking for 2007. This report meets the stipulations under State of Alaska Field Archaeology Permit 2007-12 (as well as BLM Fieldwork Authorization/USDOI Cultural Resource Use Permit AA-87527).

Please note that the enclosed report serves as a supplement to the 2006 Level 2 survey report (*Results of the 2006 Cultural Resource Survey of Proposed Alaska Railroad Northern Rail Extension Routes and Ancillary Facilities, Alaska*), which was prepared by the same third-party contracting team and submitted for your review in August, 2007. In response to your comments on the 2006 report, the graphics in the 2007 report are provided in color. In addition to the hard copy of the 2007 report, we have also enclosed a CD containing the 2006 and 2007 reports in color. Please let us know if you would like a hard copy of the 2006 report in color as well.

If you have any questions about the project please contact Dave Navecky, SEA Project Manager, at (202) 245-0294 or Alan Summerville, ICF Project Manager, at (703) 934-3616. Specific technical questions may be directed to our cultural resources third-party subcontractor (NLUR), Peter Bowers or Dr. Ben Potter at (907) 474-9684.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Rutson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

cc: Bob King, BLM