

Tongue River Railroad Environmental Impact Statement

Docket No. FD 30186

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Teleconference

February 10, 2014

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Invitees: Please see meeting agenda for list of invited parties.

Attendees:

800.2(a) Surface Transportation Board, Office of Environmental Analysis, Lead Agency Official

Catherine Nadals	Office of Environmental Analysis
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Other Federal Agencies

Chris Jenkins	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Todd Tillinger	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Doug Melton	Bureau of Land Management
Mark Petersen	USDA Agriculture Research Station – Miles City, MT

800.2(b) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Najah Duvall-Gabriel	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
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800.2(c) Consulting Parties

800.2(c) (1) Montana State Historic Preservation Office

Stan Wilmoth	Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
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800.2(c) (2) (ii) Indian Tribes (off tribal lands)

Conrad Fisher	Northern Cheyenne
Terry Clouthier	Standing Rock Sioux
Steve Vance	Cheyenne River Sioux

800.2(c) (3) Representatives of Local Governments

Lisa Axline	Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Jean Riley	Department of Transportation (DOT)

800.2 (c) (4) Applicants for Federal Assistance, Permits, Licenses, or Other Approvals

David Coburn	Step toe & Johnson, Attorney for Applicant
Jennifer Sunley	Hanson Professional Services, Consultant to Applicant
Matt Jones	BNSF
Barbara Ranf	BNSF

800.2(c) (5) Additional Consulting Parties

Amy Cole	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Betsy Merritt	National Trust for Historic Preservation

800.4(a) (3) Other Parties Likely to Have Knowledge of/Concerns about Historic Properties

Chere Jiusto	Montana Preservation Alliance
Beth Kaeding	Northern Plains Resource Council
Shane Newman	Northern Plains Resource Council
Maggie Zaback	Northern Plains Resource Council
Alexis Bonogofsky	National Wildlife Federation

ICF International, Third-Party Contractor to the Surface Transportation Board

Susan Blaine	ICF International
Colleen Davis	ICF International
Alisa Reynolds	ICF International
Mark Robinson	ICF International
Richard Starzak	ICF International
Alan Summerville	ICF International

Rick Starzak, ICF, opened the teleconference by welcoming participants. He stated that discussion of the details regarding the February 13 and 14, 2014 Section 106 consulting party in Billings is the purpose of the teleconference. A draft meeting agenda including a list of anticipated attendees was sent to teleconference invitees via email. The primary purpose of the upcoming in-person meeting is to review project status and discuss next steps. The emphasis will be on discussion rather than presentations.

Steve Vance, Cheyenne River Sioux, asked if Section 106 consultation has been initiated. Rick Starzak explained that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) sent Section 106 initiation letters in late 2012, has been hosting monthly Section 106 update teleconferences since February 2013, and held an in-person consultation meeting in April 2013. Field survey work, which included Native American representatives, occurred during summer 2013.

Jean Riley, DOT, asked if a synopsis of the Billings meeting will be available. Rick Starzak stated that the court reporter will transcribe the meeting and transcripts will be made available.

Amy Cole, National Trust for Historic Preservation, asked for a description of the meeting logistics for remote participants. Rick Starzak and Susan Blaine, ICF, explained that the meeting agenda distributed via email contains a link allowing participants to access a webinar that will show the meeting handouts.

The agenda also contains a teleconference call-in number allowing remote participants to access the audio portion of the meeting.

Rick Starzak stated that Najah Duvall-Gabriel, ACHP, and Stan Wilmoth, Montana SHPO, plan to attend the meeting. Representatives of 16 tribes plan to participate live and representative of three tribes intend to participate remotely via telephone and webinar.

Conrad Fisher, Northern Cheyenne, hoped that the meeting will include a discussion of the project and its activities. He stated that it is important for meeting participants to have a voice regarding important issues related to the project. There are many important energy development projects occurring across the Northern Plains and in the Tongue River/Powder River area. He approved of the agenda, opined that the attendees represent a diverse group, and looks forward to a good discussion.

Rick Starzak and Susan Blaine explained that the meeting can extend to 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

Terry Clothier, Standing Rock Sioux, stated that he will want to discuss how National Register eligibility determinations for tribal sites will be handled.