

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.
Montana
Historical Society

*Historic Preservation
Museum
Outreach & Interpretation
Publications
Research Center*

October 30, 2012

VICTORIA RUTSON
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E ST, SW
WASHINGTON DC 20423

RE: Docket No FD 30186 Tongue River Railroad

Dear Director Rutson:

Thank you for initiating consultation with our office for the renewed consideration of Historic Properties which may be affected should the proposed Tongue River Railroad be approved and constructed. We look forward to further discussion regarding the APE, methodology for identification efforts and development of a Programmatic Agreement. We agree that the Northern Cheyenne, Crow and the various Lakota tribes of North and South Dakota should be invited to consult. We suggest that the Three Affiliated Tribes, Wind River Shoshone and Fort Peck Tribes should also be invited. As your tribal consultation proceeds please inform us of issues and concerns elicited (with the permission of tribes of course) so we can include those considerations in our determinations or findings. As tribal issues are a matter of record we will need that information to move forward just as STB will. The issue of potential eligible landscape scale Historic Properties – ethnographic, traditional cultural, or recreational and ranching/farming/homesteading should be included in the mix of identification efforts as early as possible.

Sincerely,



Stan Wilmoth, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist/Deputy, SHPO

225 North Roberts Street
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
(406) 444-2694
(406) 444-2696 FAX
montanahistoricalsociety.org