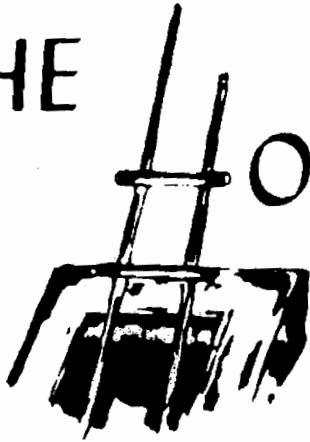


THE



HOPI TRIBE

#E1-2517
BTW

Ivan L. Sidney
CHAIRMAN

Todd Honyaoma, Sr.
VICE CHAIRMAN

August 22, 2006

Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson,

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 7, 2006, regarding Finance Docket No. 34836, Arizona Eastern Railway construction and operation of a 10-mile rail line in Graham County, Arizona. The Hopi Tribe claims ancestral and cultural affiliation to the prehistoric cultural groups in this project area, known to Hopi people as *Hisatsinom*, or People of Long Ago.

As you know from our previous letters, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we request consultation on proposed impacts to archaeological sites and cultural resources that are our ancestral sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Surface Transportation Board's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns, and request additional consultation on this project.

To assist us in determining if this project is likely to adversely affect cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe, please provide us for review and comment with copies of the cultural resources survey report of the area of potential effect, and any subsequent draft treatment plans for mitigation of adverse impacts to prehistoric sites.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you again for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ivan Sidney, Sr. Chairman/CEO
The Hopi Tribe

Xc: Dr. John C. Ravesloot, WSA, Inc., 2424 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 100, Tucson, AZ 85719
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office