

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY TIFFANY COWNIE, DIRECTOR

In Response, Please Refer to R&C# 001277021



JEROME THOMPSON
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February 17, 2012

Andrew J. Schmidt
Director of Cultural Resources
Summit Envirosolutions
1217 Bandana Boulevard North
St. Paul, MN 55108

RE: STB – POLK COUNTY – DES MOINES – AB-33(SUB-NO.170) – UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY – ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE OF OPERATION BETWEEN MP 222.1 AND 217.38 – CONCURRENCE WITH FINDING OF NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY FOR CHICAGO GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD BRIDGE AT MILEPOST 219.79 AND ADVERSE EFFECT

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

We write in response to your February 17, 2012 submittal on this project on behalf of the Union Pacific Railroad and Surface Transportation Board, which was received on February 13. We have read and reviewed the Iowa Site Inventory Form for the bridge, and we would be willing to concur with a STB determination that this structure appears to be eligible for the National Register under criterion C. Also, because of the UP's intention to demolish the bridge, we would concur with a STB finding that the abandonment of the Bell Avenue Industrial Lead would cause an Adverse Effect to a historic property.

At this junction, we would be willing to work with you and the UP to develop a Memorandum of Agreement that would include a mitigation measure to prepare HAER level documentation for the Chicago Great Western Bridge. Another measure that we propose is that an effort be made to find interested parties willing to relocate the bridge in whole or part elsewhere with a portion of the demolition costs provided as a financial incentive to them. Questions or comments should be directed to me at Ralph.Christian@iowa.gov or 515-281-8697.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Christian, Historian
Review and Compliance Program

Cc: Doug Jones, SHPO
June Strand, SHPO