



EI-26533

Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

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Date: July 23, 2019

File: 1819-4419KY-6

RE: Surface Transportation Board, Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 791X), CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption, Mason County, Kentucky

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
ATTN: Danielle Gosselin
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Gosselin,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office has received notification of the proposed undertaking referenced as Surface Transportation Board, Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 791X), CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption, Mason County, Kentucky. Mason County, Kentucky is located in the Osage Nation Ancestral Territory. There may be previously recorded archaeological sites and/or sites of cultural or religious significance for the Osage Nation in the vicinity of the undertaking. **The Osage Nation requests consulting party status, that it receive all relevant documentation and correspondence concerning the project, and that all areas affected by the operation of the Project be subjected to a cultural resources survey directed in the field by personnel meeting the Secretary of Interior's standards. The Osage Nation requests one printed color copy of all documentation accompanied with a CD version.**

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [16 U.S.C. 470 §§ 470-470w-6] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in S101 (d) (6) (A), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969).

The Osage Nation has a vital interest in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources, which are protected under the NHPA, NEPA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and Osage law, and appreciates your consideration of the provided information in the planning process. **The Osage Nation anticipates reviewing and commenting on the requested documentation for the proposed undertaking.**

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Sincerely,

James Munkres
Archaeologist