

AB 33-255
EI-17818

 Minnesota
Historical Society
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

June 22, 2009

Victoria Rutson
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Ms. Tamara Cameron
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
190 5th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

Mr. Roger Wiebusch
U.S. Coast Guard, Eighth District
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2398

RE: Proposed Union Pacific Railroad abandonment from milepost 38.6 near Merriam to Milepost 33.0 near Chaska
Carver & Scott Counties
SHPO Number: 2007-1869

Dear Ms. Rutson, Ms. Cameron, and Mr. Wiebusch:

The Union Pacific Railroad has submitted information to our office relative to the Section 106 review of the above abandonment. We wrote Mr. Charles Saylor on 18 June 2007 with our comments relative to cultural resource survey/assessment needs for the abandonment area. An area of potential effect needs to be established, and a survey needs to be completed.

More recently, we have learned that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or the U.S. Coast Guard may be involved in the treatment of the Minnesota River Bridge at mile point 36.17 on the line.

We note that the City of Carver requested consulting party status under Section 106 in their 11 January 2008 letter to the Surface Transportation Board. We do not have a record of a response from the Surface Transportation Board to that request. The City of Chaska may also be interested in participating in this review.

We are writing at this time to urge that the cultural resource survey and assessment for this project be initiated promptly, and that the various federal agencies consult to coordinate any Section 106 reviews.

June 22, 2009

Contact us at (651) 259-3456 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis A. Gimmestad', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

cc: Gabriel Meyer, Union Pacific Railroad
Charlie Blair, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Jim Elmquist, City of Carver
Cindy Olness, Collaborative Planning
Matt Podhradsky, City of Chaska
Jim Ische, Carver County Regional Railroad Authority