



HEI-25832

**The Culture Center**  
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EEO/AA Employer

March 3, 2017

Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Director  
Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
Attention: Diana Wood  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington DC 20423

RE: Abandonment Notice of Exemption Docket AB 55 (Sub-No. 768X)  
FR#: 17-69-MULTI-1

Dear Ms. Rutson:

We have reviewed the above-mentioned project to determine its effects to cultural resources. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR § 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

According to submitted information, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX), is considering filing an Abandonment Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to abandon approximately 6.0 miles of rail line between Railroad Milepost CAF 21.0 to Railroad Milepost CAF 27.0. This stretch of rail line, located near the community of Rainelle and running through Greenbrier and Fayette Counties, is also known as the Sewell Valley Subdivision. The abandonment of this line will result in the removal of the rail, crossties, and possibly upper layer of ballast, but CSX does not plan on disturbing the sub grade or any sub grade structures. The abandoned line is planned to be incorporated into the Meadow River Trail, and any trail related structures, such as bridges, trestles, culverts, and tunnels, will not be salvaged as part of this proposed abandonment project.

In a letter dated November 18, 2016, our office responded to a project submittal regarding this rail line abandonment from CSX. In that letter, we determined that Sewell Valley Subdivision rail line, which is encompassed by the proposed project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), was not eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places. In our opinion, the rail line lacked the integrity and significance necessary to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. We remain in concurrence with this finding. No further consultation is necessary regarding architectural resources; however, we ask that you contact our office if your project should change.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. *If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Benjamin M. Riggle, Structural Historian, at (304) 558-0240.*

Sincerely,

  
Susan M. Pierce

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/BMR