



**Surface Transportation Board
Uinta Basin Railway Environmental Impact Statement
Section 106 Consulting Parties Teleconference Notes
May 27, 2020**

Meeting Participants

Surface Transportation Board (STB), Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) – Alan Tabachnick, Joshua Wayland
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) – Erin Hess
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Kristy Groves, Jeffrey Rust
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Roger Bankert
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) – John Eddins
Utah State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) – Chris Merritt
Utah Public Land Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) – Kris Carambelas
Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA) – Joel Boomgarden
Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) – Liz Robinson
Carbon County – Casey Hopes
Duchesne County – Gregory Todd
Uintah County – Ross Watkins
Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Coalition)
 HDR – Andrea Clayton, Catherine Dobbs, Kevin Keller
 Jones and DeMille – Brian Barton, Melissa Cano
 Venable – Amanda Crawford
 SWCA – Kelly Beck, Anne Oliver
Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance – Jerry Spangler
Nine Mile Canyon Coalition – Dennis Willis
Utah Rock Art Research Association – Troy Scotter
ICF – Colleen Davis, Debi Rogers, Mikenna Wolff

Introductions, Background, and Project Updates

- There have been a few tweaks to project design such as moving access road locations or the location of one communication tower. No other updates to project design at this time.

Area of Potential Effects – Update

- OEA has refined the definitions for "Rail line footprint", "Temporary footprint", and "Project footprint". These definitions will be used consistently across 106 documents and the NEPA analysis.

Identification and Evaluation – Approach

- OEA is going through the phased identification and evaluation process and is reviewing the Coalition's technical reports, including their eligibility recommendations. OEA will produce their own technical memo in which they will adopt many of the Coalition's recommendations and will make some new eligibility determinations.
 - For example, the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad and segments of historic roads in Indian Canyon and along Emma Park Road will be recommended as eligible by OEA where they were not recommended eligible in the Coalition-provided reports.

Assessment of Effects – Approach

- Resources in the APE will be differentiated by above-ground resources and below-ground resources.
 - Below-ground resources will include both at-ground and below-ground resources. These resources are likely to be affected by physical changes.
 - Above-ground resources may be affected by physical changes and are also subject to effects from noise or visual setting.
- Analytical considerations include the adverse effect criteria, property type, character-defining features, construction activity, and location relative to the rail-line, temporary, and project footprints.

Programmatic Agreement

- OEA has started drafting a Programmatic Agreement (PA), drawing from some example documents previously provided by Consulting Parties.
 - Example documents include the Energy Gateway South transmission project PA, Sigurd to Red Butte transmission project PA, TransWest Express transmission project PA, and the Tongue River railroad project PA.
- OEA presented their current PA outline. More detail on the draft PA will be presented during next month's meeting. OEA plans to circulate a draft to Consulting Parties in mid to late June 2020.
 - Chris Merritt (Utah SHPO) appreciates the use of example documents and OEA's efforts to include tribal input.

Questions

- Jerry Spangler (Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance) noted that many resources may contain both surface and sub-surface elements. He encouraged OEA to consider these resources in their entirety, rather than delineate them into above-ground and below-ground resources.
 - OEA agrees and clarified that resources are being delineated at this stage to ensure they are being correctly classified as to what types of effects the

resource may be subject to. OEA will include more detail on how resources should actually be analyzed in its identification and evaluation document.

- Kevin Keller (HDR) asked about the proposed timetable for review of the PA.
 - OEA suggested a 30-day Consulting Party review period and hosting work-sessions to go through any comments and changes in real-time.
 - Jerry Spangler (Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance) reminded the group that it will be increasingly difficult for archaeologists to participate in draft PA reviews due to archaeologists being in the field during the summer field season.
 - If any Consulting Party wants to discuss participation methods in the upcoming months, please reach out to Alan Tabachnick.

Next Steps

- The Coalition-provided Archaeology Report will be properly redacted and posted to public website
- OEA will continue drafting the PA and technical memo. These documents will benefit from Consulting Party input.
- The next regularly scheduled call will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.
- Consulting Party Actions
 - Consulting Parties should send any comments and questions directly to Alan Tabachnick.

Draft Agenda for Next Call

- Opportunities for comment on identification and evaluation effort
- Preliminary effects analysis discussion
- Programmatic Agreement
 - Section presentations
 - Timetable for review of PA