



**Surface Transportation Board  
Uinta Basin Railway Environmental Impact Statement  
Section 106 Consulting Parties Teleconference Notes  
February 26, 2020**

Meeting Participants

Surface Transportation Board (STB), Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) – Alan Tabachnick, Joshua Wayland  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) – Nicole Fresard  
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Kristy Groves, Jeffrey Rust  
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – Chris Secakuku  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) – John Eddins  
Utah State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) – Savanna Agardy, Chris Merritt  
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation – Sonja Willie  
Carbon County – Casey Hopes  
Duchesne County – Gregory Todd  
Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Coalition) – Mike McKee  
HDR – Jennifer Andraesen, Melissa Cano, Andrea Clayton, Catherine Dobbs  
Jones and DeMille – Brian Barton, Jenna Jorgensen  
Venable – Amanda Crawford  
SWCA – Kelly Beck, Anne Oliver  
Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance – Jerry Spangler  
ICF – Colleen Davis, Chris Moelter, Debi Rogers, Mikenna Wolff

Consultation to Date

- Alan Tabachnick (OEA) reviewed the current list of Consulting Parties and noted that the group may periodically revisit this list as Consulting Party status can change throughout the process.
- Alan reminded the group to review the project website (<http://www.uintabasinrailwayeis.com/>) and highlighted new content that has been posted since the last meeting. This includes the meeting materials and notes from the last Consulting Party teleconference, a schedule for future Consulting Party meetings, and copies of the Coalition’s technical reports.
  - The technical reports provided on the website are not being submitted for official 106 consultation or review. These are the Coalition’s submissions and not STB’s final reports. OEA is sharing the preliminary reports for informational purposes at this stage.

- Note that some items in the technical reports have been redacted to maintain confidentiality.

### Undertaking/Project Description

- Josh Wayland (OEA) gave an overview of the project and the three build alternatives that will be considered in the EIS.
- The Final Scope of Study published in December set forth the different environmental issues that the EIS will address in detail.
- OEA anticipates developing a Programmatic Agreement with Consulting Parties pursuant to CFR 800.4(b)(2).

### Project Updates

- Since the last meeting, there has been a slight modification to the Whitmore Park alternative in the area of Emma Park. This alignment change was made in response to landowner and environmental concerns. OEA will post updated KMZ files of the alternatives to the public website. Josh Wayland (OEA) also offered to send GIS shapefiles directly to anyone who requests them.

### Area of Potential Effects

- In June 2019, ACHP issued updated guidance which differentiates between direct effects and indirect effects to be considered in the EIS.
- OEA consulted with a number of resource specialists while considering the appropriate boundaries for the project APE. Specifically, OEA has coordinated with specialists on study area requirements for noise, vibration, hydrology, visual resources, and geology.
- After resource specialist consultation, OEA has defined the APE for archeology as the limits of disturbance plus a 100-foot buffer.
- OEA has defined the APE for the built environment as a 1,500-foot buffer surrounding the centerline.
- The APE is subject to change as the Coalition continues to refine the project.
- OEA will distribute a map set of the draft APE before the next meeting. The APE may still be subject to change throughout the process in order to appropriately account for all effects.
- Identification and Evaluation Preview
  - The Coalition's contractor, SWCA, has done field work and located 81 preliminary resources in the project area. OEA is reviewing these findings to better understand which are new resources and which have previously been identified.
    - Archaeology resources include prehistoric and historic sites, lithic scatters, camp sites, and rock art.
    - Historic architecture resources include dwellings and agricultural resources.

### Next Steps and Action Items

- OEA is still looking to get information from the Tribes on cultural resources. All current information has been provided by the Coalition.
  - Ute Tribe would like to set up a call with OEA next week to further discuss.
- OEA/ICF Actions
  - OEA will distribute a map set of the draft APE prior to the next meeting.
  - OEA will post this call summary on the project website
  - OEA will set up a call with the Ute Tribe during the week of 3/2/20

### Draft Agenda for Next Call

- Provide opportunity for comments on APE
- Review identification and evaluation effort

### Questions

- Sonja Wille (Ute Tribe) asked if OEA could distribute the meeting presentation ahead of the next call.
- Jeffrey Rust (USFS) asked for clarification and whether any action was needed on the current technical reports. OEA confirmed that no action is needed at this time as OEA is not asking for formal 106 consultation or review on these documents. The current versions of the reports are the Coalition's submissions and were provided to Consulting Parties as an informational resource.