



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

TOM WHEELER
CHAIRMAN

April 18, 2014

Mr. John M. Fowler
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 803
Washington DC 20004

Dear Mr. Fowler,

I am in receipt of your April 16, 2014 request for a 28-day extension of the required 45-day review period for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to take action on the draft Program Comment regarding positive train control (PTC) submitted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 5, 2014.

As I have said before, PTC is a transformative technology that has the power to save lives, prevent injuries, and avoid extensive property damage. It is a top priority of the Commission to work with all parties to help them fulfill their various legal obligations and responsibilities and advance the deployment of PTC within the timeframe prescribed by the Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA). We are committed to doing what is necessary to allow for an efficient and timely review process that ensures full consideration of the effects of PTC wayside poles on historic properties, including sites of religious and cultural significance to Tribal Nations, in a manner that allows the railroads to complete construction by the statutory deadline.

I am concerned that this extension will delay the process, yet I understand that the ACHP received significant substantive comments from stakeholders on the draft Program Comment that were not submitted to the FCC during our public comment process. I appreciate that the ACHP needs additional time to address these comments, and that ACHP's process requires an additional comment period on the revised draft.

The FCC is committed to achieving the appropriate balance between the competing statutory mandates of positive train control and environmental and historic preservation. I look forward to an expedient resolution of the remaining issues with the Program Comment, and hope the additional time will enable the ACHP to finalize a Program Comment that reflects our shared goals.

I therefore grant ACHP's request for an extension to act on the draft Program Comment regarding PTC until May 16, 2014.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler