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December 18, 2007

Mr. Dirk Shulund
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Region
PO Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

ND SHPO Ref.:08-0223 WAPA/Basin Electric Power Cooperative Belfield-Rhame 230-kV Transmission Line Project, Stark, Slope and Bowman Counties, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Shulund,

We received your correspondence regarding ND SHPO Ref.:08-0223 WAPA/Basin Electric Power Cooperative Belfield-Rhame 230-kV Transmission Line Project, Stark, Slope and Bowman Counties, North Dakota. We concur with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination for the **interim action of geotechnical activities only**, provided the project is of the nature specified and takes place in the legal descriptions outlined and mapped in the correspondence.

We look forward to reviewing the report on the Class III intensive pedestrian survey conducted by Metcalf Archaeology for this project. Please include the ND SHPO reference number listed above in further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Quinnell at 701-328-3576, or squinnell@nd.gov

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)