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RECEIVED January 8, 2009

Kim Munson
Project Manager
ENSR International
1601 Prospect Parkway
Fort Collins, CO 80525

JAN 09 2009

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**NDSHPO REF. : 09-0305 WAPA Basin Electric Williston to Tioga 230 kV
Transmission Line, Class III CRI Report**

Dear Ms. Munson:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and reporting for: **09-0305 WAPA Basin Electric Williston to Tioga 230 kV Transmission Line**, "Williston to Tioga: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for a Proposed 230kV Transmission Line in Williams and Mountrail Counties, North Dakota," by Damita Hiemstra and Aaron Barth (Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, December 2008) and find it acceptable. We concur with the level and scope of identification efforts undertaken in the project APE, as reported.

If consulted either by a federal agency or a state agency, we would concur with recommended "**No Historic Properties Affected**" and "**No Significant Sites Affected**" determinations provided the avoidance of sites is accomplished as stipulated (rerouting or spanning, Table 28 and pp. 82-84 enclosed) and that the project is of the nature stated and it takes place in locations plotted in the report and WAPA documentation. Also, if consulted by a federal agency we would concur with the NRHP eligibility determinations for the isolated finds listed in Table 27 enclosed. Thank you for the opportunity to review the project. If you have questions please contact either Paul Picha at (701) 328-3574 or Susan Quinnell at (701) 328-3576.

Sincerely,

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

Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota
c: Mark Wieringa, WAPA, Lakewood, CO , with enc.
✓c: Tony Clark, Commissioner, ND PSC, with enc.
c: Suzanne Nelsen, MAC

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**Letter re. Concurrence - No Historic Properties
Affected - Class III CRI Report**

State Historical Society of North Dakota

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

Evaluation of Research Goals

As 63 cultural resources were identified during the inventory for the proposed transmission line, and those cultural resources considered significant were identified for avoidance by either the spanning of the site area or rerouting around site areas, our goal was achieved. In the areas where sites will be spanned between transmission towers, the client is aware of the site boundaries and will not cross those areas with any vehicles. Any areas outside of the survey corridor that will be utilized for either access roads or laydown areas will need to be surveyed in the future.

Conclusions and Management Recommendations

ENSR International, on behalf of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, intends to construct a 230kV transmission line in Williams and Mountrail Counties, North Dakota. In all approximately 60.7 miles will be constructed. The width of the corridor was 200 feet (60m) for a total of 1,651 acres inventoried (with 3.2 additional miles surveyed that will not be utilized for the transmission line). ENSR International requested Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. to conduct an inventory of the project corridor. Two field sessions were conducted to complete the Class III cultural resource inventory: the first between August 18-28, 2008 and the second between September 16-23, 2008.

During the course of the inventory 63 cultural resources were recorded. Of these, nine are isolates, all being prehistoric lithics. The remaining 54 resources are considered sites including six cairn sites, 33 stone circle, stone circle/cairn, or stone circle/other rock feature sites, two lithic scatters, five historic sites, two railroad sites, one architectural site, two historic/prehistoric sites (containing historic depressions, historic cultural material and stone circles) and three previously recorded sites of which one is a stone circle site, one is an historic site and one has both prehistoric and historic components.

Site Number	Field Code	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility
32MN518	MAC-WTT-3	Historic Depressions/Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32MN630	MAC-WTT-4	BNSF Railroad	undetermined/eligible
32MN776	MAC-WTT-5	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32MN777	MAC-WTT-6	Road Bed	not eligible
32W11002	MAC-WTT-1	Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32W11003	MAC-WTT-2	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32W11004	MAC-WTT-7	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible

Table 28: Summary of Sites in Mountrail and Williams Counties, North Dakota

Site Number	Field Code	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility
32WI1005	MAC-WTT-8	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1007	MAC-WTT-10	BNSF Railroad	undetermined/eligible
32WI1008	MAC-WTT-11	Small Bridge/Dump	not eligible
32WI1009	MAC-WTT-12	Lithic Scatter	not eligible
32WI1010	MAC-WTT-13	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1011	MAC-WTT-14	Stone Circle/Cairn/Lithic Scatter	undetermined/eligible
32WI1012	MAC-WTT-15	Stone Circle/Cairn/Lithic	undetermined/eligible
32WI1013	MAC-WTT-16	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1014	MAC-WTT-17	Stone Circle/Cairn/Stone Arc	undetermined/eligible
32WI1015	MAC-WTT-18	Historic Cultural Material Scatter	not eligible
32WI1016	MAC-WTT-19	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1017	MAC-WTT-20	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1018	MAC-WTT-21	Historic Cemetery	eligible
32WI1019	MAC-WTT-22	Stone Circle/Cairn/Stone Arc	undetermined/eligible
32WI1020	MAC-WTT-23	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1021	MAC-WTT-24	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1022	MAC-WTT-25	Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1023	MAC-WTT-26	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1024	MAC-WTT-27	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1025	MAC-WTT-28	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1026	MAC-WTT-29	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1027	MAC-WTT-30	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1028	MAC-WTT-31	Lithic Scatter	undetermined/eligible
32WI1029	MAC-WTT-32	Stone Circle/Cairn/Lithic	undetermined/eligible
32WI1030	MAC-WTT-33	Stone Circle/Cairn/Lithic Scatter	undetermined/eligible
32WI1031	MAC-WTT-34	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1032	MAC-WTT-35	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1033	MAC-WTT-36	Architectural/Historic School	not eligible

Table 28: Summary of Sites in Mountrail and Williams Counties, North Dakota			
Site Number	Field Code	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility
32WI1034	MAC-WTT-37	Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1035	MAC-WTT-38	Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1036	MAC-WTT-39	Stone Circle/Stone Arc	undetermined/eligible
32WI1037	MAC-WTT-42	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1038	MAC-WTT-43	Historic Depression/Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1039	MAC-WTT-44	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1040	MAC-WTT-45	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1041	MAC-WTT-46	Stone Circle/Cairn/Stone Groups	undetermined/eligible
32WI1042	MAC-WTT-47	Historic Mine "Head Mine"	not eligible
32WI1043	MAC-WTT-48	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI1006	MAC-WTT-49	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1044	MAC-WTT-50	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1045	MAC-WTT-51	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1046	MAC-WTT-52	Stone Circle/Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1047	MAC-WTT-53	Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI1048	MAC-WTT-54	Cairn	undetermined/eligible
32WI450	MAC-WTT-9	Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible
32WI454	none	Historic Graves	undetermined/eligible
32WI969	MAC-WTT-40/41	Historic Dump/Depression/Stone Circle	undetermined/eligible

The proposed transmission line will avoid all of the sites by either spanning across the site or avoiding any driving or other impacts to the area between transmission towers. In the rare case the site cannot be avoided by spanning, the transmission line will be rerouted to avoid the site. Due to the avoidance of all of the significant cultural resources, a finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* is recommended for this proposed transmission line as surveyed, described and mapped herein.

Isolates

Isolates are defined as a cultural material scatter containing fewer than five artifacts with no possibility of additional materials buried in the immediate area. Nine isolates were located during the survey, one of which was in Mountrail County and the rest in Williams County. All of the isolates were prehistoric in nature consisting of chipped stone. The isolates are considered *not eligible* for the NRHP and are provided here in table format.

Table 27: Isolates Located in Mountrail and Williams Counties, North Dakota				
Simthsonian Number	T/R-Section	QQQ/QQ/Q	Material Type	Artifact Type
32MNx549	157/94-31	SE/NE/NW	light purple/cream chert	SG1 secondary flake
			quartzite	Tested Raw Material
32Wlx3	156/95-11	SE/SE/SW	Chalcedony	Shatter
			Knife River flint	Flake
32Wlx34	156/97-17	NW/NE/SW	Knife River flint	Secondary flake w/hinge fracture
32Wlx74	156/97-10	SE/SE/NE	Knife River flint	tool base-possible drill
32Wlx93	156/96-11	SW/SW/NW	Knife River flint	Flake
			Chalcedony	SG3 pebble flake
32Wlx97	156/100-33	NE/SE/SW	Tongue River Silicified Sediment	Biface fragment
32Wlx159	156/100-32	SE/NE/SW	Knife River flint	Exhausted biface core
32Wlx335	155/101-20	SW/SW/SW	Chalcedony	SG2 tested raw material/flake tool
32Wlx386	155/101-31	NE/NE/SE	Chalcedony	Primary flake