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February 7, 2012
Mr. Mark S. Plank, Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Development-Rural Utilities Service
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Mail Stop 1571 Room 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NDSHPO REF.: 10-0173b USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission
Line Project: Class III CRI Addendum Report

Dear Mr. Plank:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and documentation for: 10-0173b USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project: Class III CRI Addendum Report, "Class III Intensive Archaeological Resources Inventory Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Line, Supplemental Addendum 1," by Michael Justin and Erika Eigenberger (HDR, January 2012) and find it acceptable with SITS designations provided in future reports. We concur with "No Historic Properties Affected" and "No Significant Sites Affected" determinations provided the project is of the nature stated and that it takes in the location plotted in the report addendum and that unevaluated and eligible sites are avoided from impacts. Likewise, we concur with the report recommendations provided (Tables 2, 3, and 4, pp. 37-40) regarding Areas Remaining for (Inventory) Survey, Avoidance Areas, and National Register Status, respectively. In accordance with the executed Programmatic Agreement (PA), a phased approach to identification, evaluation, and mitigation is acceptable. Thank you for the opportunity to review the project, and we look forward to further consultation and to the review of (outstanding) project documentation on it. If you have questions please contact either Susan Quinnell at (701) 328-3576 or squinnell@nd.gov or Paul Picha at ppicha@nd.gov or (701) 328-3574.

Sincerely,

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

Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota
c: Dennis Rankin, RUS, Washington, DC
c: Barry G. Williams, USFWS, Bismarck
✓ c: Patrick Fahn, ND PSC, Bismarck
c: Michael Justin: HDR Engineering

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Letter concurrence - no historic properties and no significant sites affected

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