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February 17, 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 16 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NDSHPO REF.: 10-0173c USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project: Class III CRI Supplemental Addendum 2

Dear Mr. Plank:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and documentation for: 10-0173c 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 2," by Michael Justin and Erika Eigenberger (HDR, February 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 the two unevaluated sites are avoided from impacts. Likewise, we concur with the report recommendations provided (Table 1-3, pp. 10) regarding newly identified sites, 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

133 PU-09-670 Filed: 2/16/2012 Pages: 1
Letter concurrence - no historic properties and no significant sites affected

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