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May 3, 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

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MAY 01 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**NDSHPO REF.: 10-0173e USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV
Transmission Line Project: Class III CRI Supplemental Addendum 4: Access Roads
and Lay Down Areas**

Dear Mr. Plank:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and documentation for: 10-0173e
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 4," by Erika
Eigenberger and Michelle Porwoll (HDR, April 2012) and find it acceptable. 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
locations plotted in the report addendum. We also look forward to the final
cumulative report on this activity as discussed in teleconference call on April 26, 2012.
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: Patrick Fahn, ND PSC, Bismarck
c: Erika Eigenberger, HDR Engineering

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**Letter concurrence no historic properties affected
and no significant sites affected**

State Historical Society of North Dakota
Merlan Paaverud, Jr.