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June 20, 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



**NDSHPO REF.: 10-0173h USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV  
Transmission Line Project: Temporary Access Roads and Extra Work Space ROW  
(Summary 002 and 003)**

Dear Mr. Plank:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and documentation for: **10-0173h  
USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project,  
Temporary Access Roads and Extra Work Space ROW (Summary 002 and 003)** by  
Erika Eigenberger and Michelle Porwoll (HDR, June 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, that it takes in the locations  
plotted, and that sites are avoided as recommended 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](mailto:squinnell@nd.gov) or Paul Picha at [ppicha@nd.gov](mailto: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: Erika Eigenberger, HDR Engineering

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