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August 23, 2012

Mr. Dennis Rankin  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
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: Two addendum reports "Class III Intensive  
Archaeological Resources Inventory Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Line  
Supplemental Addendum 3 - Appendix 2" and "Class III Intensive Archaeological  
Resources Inventory Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Line Supplemental Addendum 3  
- Appendix 1"

Dear Mr. Rankin:

We reviewed correspondence and documentation for NDSHPO REF.: 10-0173h  
USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project: Two  
addendum reports as detailed above. We concur with your "No Historic Properties  
Affected" determination provided the project is of the nature stated and that it takes in  
the locations plotted in the report addendums. 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)

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: Brian Hunker, HDR Engineering

**RECEIVED**

AUG 24 2012

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Letter concurrence no historic properties affected  
and no significant sites affected

State Historical Society of North Dakota

Merlan Paaverud, Jr.