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October 8, 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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OCT 08 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**NDSHPO REF.: 10-0173i USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV
Transmission Line Project: Class III CRI (Addendum 3-Appendix 3)**

Dear Mr. Plank:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and documentation for: **10-0173i USDA-RUS/PSC Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project: "Class III CRI (Addendum 3-Appendix 3),"** by Erika Eigenberger and Michelle Porwoll (HDR, October 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 concur that 32OLX254 is not significant and is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. 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: 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**

State Historical Society of North Dakota

Merlan Paaverud, Jr.