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December 13, 2012

Mr. James Todd
Bartlett & West Engineers
3456 East Century Avenue
Bismarck ND 58503

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ND SHPO Ref: 11-0238D BLM/PSC BakkenLink "Addendum 3 to Bakkenlink Pipeline: A Class II and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Billings, Stark, Dunn, McKenzie and Williams County, North Dakota: Continuing Reroute Options and Site Staking"

Dear Mr. Todd,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref: 11-0238D BLM/PSC BakkenLink "Addendum 3 to Bakkenlink Pipeline: A Class II and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Billings, Stark, Dunn, McKenzie and Williams County, North Dakota: Continuing Reroute Options and Site Staking," and find the report acceptable, with project review on-going. Compliance with lead federal agency (i.e. BLM) regulations and attendant federal agency review, comment, recommendations, and permitting also is a contingent condition that applies in this case, and that action awaits agency determination of project effect and SHPO concurrence on findings. Regarding the state regulatory process, (PSC) we concur with a "No Significant Sites" recommendation, provided all project reroutes are followed and provided all staked sites are avoided, (see pages 3-4 of report, attached).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project to date. Please include the ND SHPO Reference number listed above in further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions please contact Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator at (701) 328-3576, or squinnell@nd.gov

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

C: Patrick Fahn, PSC
C: Justin Peters, BLM Dickinson
C: Kimball Banks, MAC, Bismarck

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Letter concurrence - No Significant Sites recommendation



Addendum Survey Report

Submitted by Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

PO Box 2154, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502

Phone: (701) 258-1215, Email: macnodak@metcalfarchaeology.com

Site	T/R-Sec	Comments	Map
32MZ793	150/95-18	Site relocated during the Levang survey; staked at that time	15
32MZ1311	147/98-18		9
32MZ1484	147/99-25		11
32MZ2311	146/99-1		11
32MZ2313	148/99-10		13
32MZ2351	150/97-13		18
32MZ2353	149/98-15		14
32MZ2356	148/99-25	Site impacted (see text)	12
32MZ2357	145/99-12		7
32MZ2358	145/99-12		7
32MZ2359	145/99-12		7
32MZ2360	147/98-18		9

11. **Field Personnel:** These inventories were conducted by Andrea Kulevsky, Bill Bates, Cat Cael, Bill Christensen, Laura Evilsizer, Jeremiah Hull, and Kimberly Troendle. Kulevsky served as project director and Kimball Banks served as principal investigator.
12. **Field Methods and Conditions:** The cultural resource inventory conformed to *North Dakota SHPO Guidelines Manual for Cultural Resource Inventory Projects* (SHSND 2012) and followed the methodology used on the other cultural resource inventories for the BakkenLink Pipeline (Kulevsky and Stine, 2012, Kulevsky 2012a, 2012b). Three of the reroute options were not intensively inventoried because they fall within the surveyed corridors from previous routes of the BakkenLink pipeline.

The reroute options were largely in areas of native prairie (Figure 1). Vegetation consisted of mixed prairie grasses and forbs with ground surface visibility ranging from 5 to 25 percent. At the Stevenson reroute option, much of the reroute option was tree covered. The Schroeder reroute option was a plowed agricultural field, which at the time of the survey was covered with mowed hay. Portions of the Levang reroute option have been plowed, parts of which had been turned sometime shortly before the inventory and parts of which were covered with wheat stubble. On the Lillibridge reroute option, a small agricultural outbuilding, probably a feed station of some kind, was encountered. This building did not appear to be more than 50 years old and was not recorded.

The 12 sites within or near the construction right of way (ROW) staked for avoidance include 32MZ793, 32MZ1311, 32MZ1484, 32MZ2311, 32MZ2313, 32MZ2351, 32MZ2353, 32MZ2356, 32MZ2357, 32MZ2358, 32MZ2359, and 32MZ2360. Fencing had been recommended as an avoidance measure for these sites. This list does not exactly match sites listed for fencing in the recommendations of Addendum 1 (Kulevsky 2012a: Appendix B). Changes in the pipeline routing resulted in these changes. Site 32MZ793 was not within the original ROW but was encountered during the survey of the Levang reroute option and was staked at the time of the survey.

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Staking was accomplished using a combination of metal T-stakes and wood lath. Stakes (either metal or wood) were placed approximately 7 meters apart along the edge of the sites and spray painted blue. Bartlett & West or the construction contractors will actually place the fence.

On August 8, 2012, MAC archaeologists visited 32MZ2356 to stake it for avoidance. At that time, geotech crews associated with the pipeline were boring on land outside the pipeline ROW. The archaeologists observed that a geotech crew had driven across the site to access their current boring location and that they had drilled one bore hole in the site area (Figures 2-4).

The archaeologists evaluated the impact and determined that use of the site area for access appears to have resulted in little if any disturbance to the site. While vegetation had been knocked down, driving across the site has not created any ruts. At worst, minor compression may have resulted.

Boring has impacted the site, but that impact also appears to be minor. The bore hole is 8 inches in diameter. Three small areas of tire ruts are adjacent to the hole but none of the ruts is longer than 1 meter and none are deeper than 2-4 cm. The entire area disturbed by the boring is less than 100 m² and appears larger than it actually is because mud, brought up in the coring, had dried on the surface. Oil had apparently been spilled over an area approximately 1 m².

13. **Results and Recommendations:** One site was encountered during the inventory. Site 32MZ793 has been recorded previously. When it was originally recorded, it was described as a sparse cultural material scatter with numerous rock "clusters," some of which were clearly field clear piles, though others were clearly older (Metcalf 1985). Preliminary testing indicated that there were buried cultural deposits, though no NRHP recommendation was made. An update in 2011 resulted in the formal recording of three cairns, though the site as a whole was not investigated (Stine 2011). When the site was revisited during this investigation, five possible cairns were recorded along the south and east portions of the site (Figure 5), though again the site as a whole was not investigated. The possible cairns are approximately 1 meter in diameter and contain from six to twenty stones. Generally they are located on the edge of the landform so it is possible that they are natural erosional features. The site was fenced during this inventory and the centerline has been moved 180 feet (55 meters) to the south and west of the site.

A finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* is recommended for the portions of the project as herein surveyed, mapped, and described.

14. References

Kulevsky, Andrea

2012a Addendum 1 to BakkenLink Pipeline: A Class II and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Billings, Stark, Dunn, McKenzie, and Williams County, North Dakota.