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Governor of North Dakota

January 11, 2012

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Mr. Alex Yuan
OES/ENV
US Department of State
Room 2726
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dr. Peggy J. Boden
Cultural Resources Specialist
Merjent
800 Washington Avenue North, Suite 315
Minneapolis, MN 55401

NDSHPO REF.: 10-1999a DOS/PSC Vantage Pipeline Project: Class III CRI Report and Appendix E: Cultural Resources Contingency Plan

Dear Mr. Yuan and Dr. Boden:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and documentation for: 10-1999a DOS/PSC Vantage Pipeline Project: Class III CRI Report: "Vantage Pipeline: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Divide and Williams Counties, North Dakota," by Sierra A. Mandelko, Jonathan G. Hardes, Jennifer L. Thomas, Renea D. Martinson, and Lynelle A. Peterson (Ethnoscience, December 2011) and find it acceptable. If as indicated (pp. 7.9-7.10), unevaluated and eligible sites are avoided, we concur with "No Historic Properties Affected" and "No Significant Sites Affected" determinations. Likewise, we concur with the resource recommendations provided in Table 7.1. Also, we find appended Appendix E: "Cultural Resources Contingency Plan for the Vantage Pipeline Project in Divide and Williams Counties, North Dakota" 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: Patrick Fahn, ND PSC, Bismarck