

Exhibit 11

State Historical Society of North Dakota Correspondence



STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA

HISTORY FOR *everyone.*

August 13, 2026

Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 408
Grand Forks, ND 58203

SHSND Ref.: 25-9017 North Plains Connector Project, PU-26-82

Dear Sir or Madam,

We recently received notifications of an upcoming technical hearing and a public hearing for case number PU-26-82. As the applicant notes in their application, they are still working on writing the cultural resources reports and we can confirm they have not provided us with this cultural resources information that we need. The application goes on to provide numbers of resources and make claims that their eligibility has been determined, which is not accurate.

We recommend no decision be made until the cultural resource reports have been completed and effects on cultural resources can be considered.

Please include the SHSND Reference number listed above in further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions please contact Lorna Meidinger, Lead Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-2089 or lbmeidinger@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

26 PU-26-82 Filed 08/14/2026 Pages: 1
Agency Correspondence

State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHS)
William D. Peterson, PhD, Director

25-9017

From: [Damien Reinhart](#)
To: [Robinson, Andrew J.](#); [Meidinger, Lorna B.](#)
Cc: [John Kuba](#); [Lindsey Churchill](#)
Subject: NPC Meeting Minutes and Shapefiles
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 12:21:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[North Plains Connector NDSHPO Merjent Grid United meeting minutes 08192026.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

Attached are the notes I kept from the meeting yesterday. Since the nd gov emailing system doesn't allow for zipped shapefile packages to be sent, the shapefiles for the PSC project route and corridor have been left on the ftp site under the Merjent "MANUSCRIPTS" folder, for when you go to retrieve them. We have submitted all site forms from 2022-2025 so any sites should be within your GIS database. Please let me know if you have any questions, need anything else, or if anything was missed in the meeting notes.

Sincerely,

Damien Reinhart

701.997.5577 direct
612.499.1142 mobile
damien.reinhart@merjent.com



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Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660 main
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Good afternoon,

Below are the meeting notes that I captured of our recent (8/18/2026) in-person meeting about the North Plains Connector project.

Meeting Date and Time: 8/18/2026 at 10:00 am central standard time

Personnel Present: Andrew Robinson (NDSHPO), Lorna Meidinger (NDSHPO), John Kuba (Grid United), Lindsey Churchill (Merjent), and Damien Reinhart (Merjent)

- John Kuba began with a brief discussion of where the project is at with federal permitting, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), the various cultural resources reports, the Programmatic Agreement (PA) process, and the letter the PSC received from the NDSHPO about the project.
- Lorna Meidinger mentioned the PSC and NDSHPO have their own relationship and that the NDSHPO makes recommendations to the PSC. John Kuba noted that North Plains has been following the PA process due to the multiple federal agencies involved and the lead agency role of DOE. NDSHPO acknowledged the PA and noted that the PSC also has to consider sites listed in the North Dakota State Historic Site Register (NDSHSR) and the federal agencies may not consider those when they're considering historic properties as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). North Plains noted it had reviewed NDSHSR sites as part of its review of potential "Exclusion and Avoidance Areas" under NDAC Section 69-06-08-02.
- Some of the concern from the NDSHPO was the use of the word "determination" instead of "recommendation" concerning sites that had been recorded or revisited and the current recommendations about NRHP site eligibility. John Kuba agreed that the wording was not accurate. While Class I data did identify existing site as "determined" all newly identified sites would have recommendations. North Plains' reports will reflect recommendations, and any determinations will be made through the PA process.
- John outlined that the project has not been controversial at this point and it has likely been due to early engagement with landowners and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. He and Lindsey described the process that has been taking place with all stakeholders in the project and the frequency of meetings and seeking of stakeholder input.
- Damien provided insight on how surveys were handled, methodology regarding shovel probes, avoidance measures for sites, and the approach to historic sites. He then summarized the current status of each report. John mentioned that we would have some general dates of when the NDSHPO may start seeing reports and would be able to share that soon.
- Lorna and Andrew both agreed that it would be good to get shapefiles of the current project route and PSC Corridor so they can do a preliminary review and see if there are NDSHSR in the Project Corridor that should be considered to determine if there could be impacts to those sites.

- Lorna and Andrew requested summary tables for the sites discussed in each report that include site numbers, site type, eligibility recommendation, whether the site is located along the current route, and avoidance distance if the site is along the current route. The tables would be helpful to include with the cover letter and Class III reports as they are finalized and provided to the NDSHPO by the Department of Energy.
- Lorna stated that if she had the route and corridor GIS shapefiles, they could start to look it over before the reports start arriving. She also mentioned that once she had the data, she could provide a project update letter to the PSC prior to the September 1st hearing that would give an update to the status and indicate that they have the GIS shapefiles, have been part of the PA process, and would be reviewing all Class III reports for compliance with the PA and Section 106, but also for the state PSC process.
- Attached are the GIS shapefile data, which include the current PSC Project Route, Project Corridor, areas of permanent and temporary disturbance and all cultural data. Merjent will also work with the Department of Energy to provide site summary tables, as described above, that will accompany each Class III report. It is envisioned that a complete list of all sites within the final project alignment will be part of future Historic Property Treatment Planning.

Sincerely,

Damien Reinhart

701.997.5577 direct

612.499.1142 mobile

damien.reinhart@merjent.com

From: [Damien Reinhart](#)
To: [Meidinger, Lorna B.](#); [Robinson, Andrew J.](#)
Cc: [John Kuba](#); [Lindsey Churchill](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: NPC Meeting Minutes and Shapefiles
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 3:05:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[North Plains Connector NDSHPO Merjent Grid United meeting minutes 08192026.pdf](#)

Thanks, Lorna. Yes, I agree. I think the wording was just done poorly. I've revised that bulleted statement a bit and have attached an updated version.

Sincerely,

Damien Reinhart

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From: Meidinger, Lorna B. <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Damien Reinhart <damien.reinhart@merjent.com>; Robinson, Andrew J. <andrewrobinson@nd.gov>
Cc: John Kuba <john.kuba@gridunited.com>; Lindsey Churchill <lindsey.churchill@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: NPC Meeting Minutes and Shapefiles

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Good afternoon Damien,

Looking at the meeting notes you sent, bullet three needs a little adjustment. You state "While Class I data did identify existing site as "determined" all newly identified sites would have recommendations." However, the site forms and reports consulted as part of the Class I would also have been recommendations and not determinations. Determinations are done either by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places making an official determination of eligibility or the NDSHPO and a federal agency concurring on eligibility. These concurrences would be done in letters and filed in our office with the review folder, not in site forms or reports.

I was able to download the shapefiles from our ftp site and checked that they opened properly.
I will look closer when I return to the office next week.

Respectfully,

Lorna Meidinger
Lead Historic Preservationist
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505
701.328.2089

From: Damien Reinhart <damien.reinhart@merjent.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 12:21 PM
To: Robinson, Andrew J. <andrewrobinson@nd.gov>; Meidinger, Lorna B. <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>
Cc: John Kuba <john.kuba@gridunited.com>; Lindsey Churchill <lindsey.churchill@merjent.com>
Subject: NPC Meeting Minutes and Shapefiles

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- John outlined that the project has not been controversial at this point and it has likely been due to early engagement with landowners and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. He and Lindsey described the process that has been taking place with all stakeholders in the project and the frequency of meetings and seeking of stakeholder input.
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