

To Federal Agents
+ Tribes

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SD 2a report

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Section of Environmental Analysis

May 30, 2008

Mr. Gordon L. Yellowman Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 145
Concho, OK 73022

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 33407, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad
Corporation Construction into the Powder River Basin

Dear Mr.. Yellowman,

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is pleased to provide you with a draft report entitled *A Level III Cultural Resources Evaluation of the Proposed Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation's Powder River Basin Expansion Project Corridor, Custer, Fall River, and Pennington Counties, South Dakota, Addendum 1, Volumes 1 & 2*, Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College (ALAC), February 2008, (SHPO No. 990223006F) LBG-SD2a. The report has been prepared as part of the cultural resources studies being completed to comply with the provisions of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) and Identification (ID) Plan executed in May 2003 pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14 (b) for the above-referenced project.

The report presents the results of a Level III cultural resource survey for three land parcels along the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation's proposed Powder River Basin Expansion Project New Build Segment in Custer and Fall River counties, South Dakota. This report serves as an addendum to ALAC's report: *A Level III Cultural Resources Evaluation of the Proposed Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation's Powder River Basin Expansion Project Corridor, Custer, Fall River, and Pennington Counties, South Dakota* (Buhta and Kruse 2007). The Addendum 1 report consists of two volumes. Volume 1 contains the cultural resources report while Volume 2 contains the report appendices.

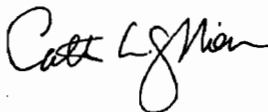
Fieldwork was completed on September 12 and 13, 2007. The Area of Potential Effect surveyed during the current investigations totaled approximately 99 acres (40.1 hectares) of land situated within the South Fork Cheyenne Archaeological Region. The surveys resulted in the identification of one previously undocumented prehistoric

archaeological site (39FA1876) and one previously recorded historic site (39FA2003). The report includes the consultant's recommendations regarding National Register eligibility for the identified sites. STB will make its final National Register evaluations pending receipt of comments from participating tribes, agencies, and the South Dakota Historic Preservation Officer.

Your comments and/or suggested changes must be provided within 30 days of receiving this letter. Please send your written comments directly to David Bibler, Project Manager for the Louis Berger Group Inc. (SEA's third-party contractor). If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the above, please feel free to contact me at 202-245-0293 (Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov) or David Bibler at 319-373-3043 (dbibler@louisberger.com). Pursuant to the PA, SEA will assume that the lack of comments provided within the review period will mean your concurrence with its content and findings.

Thank you taking the time to review the enclosed report. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catt L Glidden".

Catherine Glidden
Section of Environmental Analysis

Cc: distribution list
Enclosure: ALAC (Draft Report, February 2008)
Report Review and Comment Form