



Tribal Historic Preservation Office

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July 27, 2009

Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Glidden,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DM&E site evaluations in June of this year. At this time I am submitting the eligibility recommendations as prepared by Mr. Ben Rhodd, Rosebud Sioux Tribal Archeologist with which we jointly collaborated in the preparation of this document. The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Tribal Historic Preservation Office concurs with the report as written and submitted.

At this time we wish to express our concerns with regard to the number of additional sites which were identified by tribal representatives during the field site visits. Of major concern, is the amount of sites that were not recorded during the initial archeological surveys of the areas in question. The sites we were allowed to visit were sites that had known sites recorded, for example site #39PN1783 initially only 1 cairn was reported and after tribal input 14 cairns were identified as well as 12 stone circles. If the one (identified) site had not been recorded we would not have visited this site. How many other sites were missed during the archeological surveys? How many sites remain unidentified due to the lack of cultural understanding? Had a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) survey been conducted early on there would be less unanswered questions by tribal representatives.

At this time, please consider this our comments and recommendations for the record. Thank you for your attention and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Desrosiers
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Note - This letter has an attachment that is also
IN EI-17839 - Rosebud Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office

CC: Randy Withrow, Louis Berger Group
Paige Hoskinson-Olsen, SD SHPO
Russell Eagle Bear, RST THPO
Waste Win Young, SRST THPO