

FD 33407

EI-14327

CG

Ms. Catherine Glidden
Surface Transportation Board

Washington, D.C.

Sent via

email

RE: DM&E railroad; Traditional Cultural Property evaluations

Dear Ms. Glidden,

Greetings. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe is writing to your office to request a continuance of commitment by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to the protection of archaeological sites that are and or may be determined to be traditional cultural properties (TCP). The criterion utilized to date by contracted archaeological firms for evaluating the significance of sites does not meet the full range of potential for sites to be quantitatively gauged as a TCP. There are six (6) recorded archaeological sites of note that definitively possess other qualities not addressed or included in the National Register Evaluation Criteria nor as described in Bulletin 38.

The aforementioned number of sites, and possibly an additional quantity, are beyond the capacity of archaeologically and empirically trained non-Native personnel to appraise. These sites types of traditional cultural importance have untold capacity to contribute to the present day continuity of Native people. TCP's are affirmations of Native presence within a cultural landscape that encompasses more than the current measurement standards employed.

Therefore, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is requesting a meeting with you to discuss two issues with which we have concerns. First, we are requesting an update on the progress of the archaeological work in those areas not previously surveyed and if there are additional sites not listed in the initial survey report. Secondly, the sites referred to above will need further assessment and we wish to discuss the evaluative process with you.

We thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please respond at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mr. Russell Eagle Bear
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tribal Historic Preservation Program
PO Box 809
Rosebud, South Dakota 57570
Email: rstthpo@yahoo.com

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