



February 2, 2010

Ms. Catherine L. Glidden  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street NW  
Washington DC 20423-0001

**SECTION 106 PROJECT CONSULTATION**

Project: 080515042F – Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation Powder River Basin Expansion Project – Geoarchaeology and Geomorphology of the DM&E Railroad “New Build” Route, Western South Dakota  
Location: Multiple Counties  
(STB)

Dear Ms. Glidden:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report entitled “Geoarchaeology and Geomorphology of the DM&E Railroad ‘New Build’ Route, Western South Dakota,” prepared by Edwin R. Hajic. In consultation with Assistant State Archaeologist, James Donohue, the South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SD SHPO) would like to provide the following comments.

The report appears to be in draft form. The following are omissions we found, but there are likely additional omissions not included in the list below.

- Pages 64, 65, 66, 68, 77, 81, 86, 104, 124 and 126 are blank.
- Both the Cheyenne River Crossing and Battle Creek Valley sections are missing information.
- There is no consistency in the figures or keys for the figures presenting the map data and graphic core logs.
- Many of the figures are illegible.
- There is no citation for Quadrangle, Section, Township or Range on the maps and images.
- The LSAs should be defined, either by table, text or both. The lack of table makes it difficult to understand the “alphabet soup” in the figures and text.
- Data is presented on only six of the 18 radiocarbon dates.
- The geochronology of the Vt2 terrace is the only LSA geochronology discussed at any length.

- The history of landscape evolution is not presented.

Given the above, does your agency intend to submit a final document?

Should you require additional information, please contact Paige Hoskinson Olson at (605) 773-6004. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of South Dakota is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Vogt  
State Historic Preservation Officer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Hoskinson Olson".

Paige Hoskinson Olson  
Review and Compliance Coordinator