



Tribal Historic Preservation Office

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May 6, 2009

**Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
Washington, DC20423-0001
Phone: (202) 245-0293
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RE: *Site Visits*

Dear Ms. Glidden,

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) Tribal Historic Preservation sends you greetings. Per the meeting of April 20th-21st, 2009 with your office and Louis-Berger representative, Randy Withrow, we are responding to your request.

Those sites along the DM&E corridor that contain stone rings, cairns, effigies, or other stone features that have been evaluated or unevaluated by your contract archaeologists will warrant further investigation by the designated tribal monitors. The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate will be providing the names of these individuals as soon as it is determined who will represent the best interests of the (SWO). In providing this service the members appointed will need financial assistance, rooms, travel, and honorarium. I would also like to reiterate that the SWO will be imposing our fee schedule in addition to the above mentioned fees.

Additionally, those sites that may contain unrecognized features or do not meet NHPA criteria and possess inexplicable features are of interest to our Tribe. Archaeologists have the capacity to evaluate only some of these site types solely under the guidelines as designed under the NHPA for application to the NRHP or listing in the state site files. We feel that these site types need some investigation by Native consultants to ascertain

their significance. Our interest is in all the sites in question, those with immediate access and others which may need clearance.

I would also like to comment on the schedule for the site visits. It is my understanding that the site visits are scheduled to take place beginning tentatively on the 17th of May. I know that my monitors are all booked for certain weeks we need to have a little flexibility in the scheduling of these site visits. I understand for the sake access this may not be possible. June 8 – 19th is available and we will work to have someone available for the site visits as best we can. Should the investigations go beyond this time period, perhaps an additional time can be made in the second week of July.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter of great importance to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate.

Sincerely,

DianneDesrosiers
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer