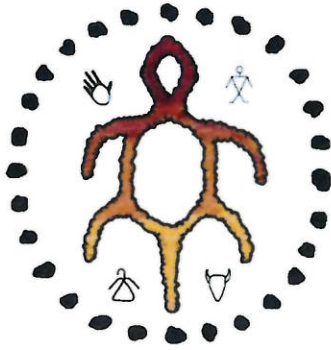




Tribal Historic Preservation Office

P.O. Box 509
Agency Village, SD 57262

(605) 698-3584 phone

September 23, 2015

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423
ATTN: Office of Environmental Analysis
Docket No. 30186

RE: Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Comments to Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Docket No. 30186

Mr. Blodgett,

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate is in receipt of correspondence re: the above mentioned project.

At this time the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate has had opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The DEIS is deficient in its assessment of impacts to cultural resources within the project area. The disparity between the archeological resources in comparison to tribal identified resources is a serious concern for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. During the cultural resource survey tribally identified sites were adamantly refuted by archeologists in the field. The Surface Transportation Board (STB) failed in its role as the lead federal agency to recognize numerous culturally significant sites that may be impacted by the proposed project. There are also significant flaws with the documentation of the cultural sites that were identified during the cultural resource survey performed for this project. The DEIS attests to this fact. The failure to accurately identify and document cultural resources in the project area is inconsistent with the STB's obligations under

the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is our view that the requirements to 36 CFR Part800 have not been met. Please consider these comments to the above mentioned project. If you have any questions please contact our office.

Respectfully,



Dianne Desrosiers
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer