



EAST RIVER

ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

121 Southeast First St.
Madison, SD 57042

P.O. Box 227
Telephone (605) 256-4536

August 28, 2008

Ms. Kara Semmler, Staff Attourney
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Subject: EL08-010 Stipulation

Dear Ms. Semmler:

The Stipulation for East River Electric Power Cooperative's permit to construct a 115 kV overhead electric transmission line, EL08-010, directs East River Electric to provide the PUC staff with a copy of the completed new level III Cultural Resource Survey and response from the South Dakota State Historical Preservation Office when they are received. (EL08-010 Stipulation 11,f)

We enclose here both the report for the Cultural Resources Survey conducted by Augustana College, dated July 28, 2008 as well as the South Dakota State Historical Society's favorable response dated August 11, 2008.

It is East River's understanding that this information fulfills that portion (11,f) of the Stipulation for EL08-010.

If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact either myself or Dan Wall, East River Manager of Transmission and Engineering Services.

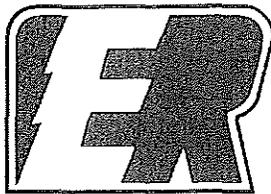
Sincerely,

Bob Sahr
General Counsel

BS/jc

Enc.





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ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
121 Southeast First St. P.O. Box 227
Madison, SD 57042 Telephone (605) 256-4536



COPY-ORIGINAL FILED

REVISED

July 31, 2008

Attn: Paige Hoskinson
Section 106 Review and Compliance
South Dakota State Historical Society
Cultural Heritage Center
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2217

RE: PS-20 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation

Dear Ms. Hoskinson:

Enclosed you will find maps and supportive information concerning the proposed PS-20 115 kV Transmission Line to be constructed by East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

East River Electric Power Cooperative is planning to construct a new 115 kV electric transmission line that will exit the existing Western Area Power Administration substation located in Section 18 (Township 122N, Range 60W) south of Groton, South Dakota, and will terminate at a new 115 to 4.16 kV substation in Section 17 (Township 121N, Range 59W). The new line will be approximately 13 miles in total length, and it's anticipated that construction will start in the fall of 2008 and be completed by the summer of 2009.

The line will be built above ground along the township and county roads. Some tree trimming or removal will need to be done to meet National Electrical Code. The typical structure used for this line will be a single wood pole with stand off insulators. The average height of the poles will be 65' and set into the ground 8.5'. The proposed project would require approximately 17 to 20 structures per mile.

The proposed PS-20 Transmission Line is required by our member, Northern Electric, to meet the demands of new electrical loads being added in this area with the TransCanada Keystone pipeline.



Ms. Paige Hoskinson

-2-

July 31, 2008

Wildlife in the area include, but are not limited to, deer, rabbit, coyote, badger, skunk, raccoon, mink, fox, gopher, and many species of birds.

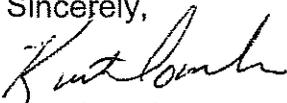
Additional survey locations include Sections 17 and 20, T112N, R60W and Sections 9 and 16, T113N, R59W.

Based on the findings of Archeology Laboratory at Augustana College in a report titled A Level III Cultural Resources Survey of Revisions to East River Electric Power Cooperative's Keystone Transmission Line-Pumping Stations #20 and #21, Brown and Beadle Counties, South Dakota, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. concurs with the findings of "a determination of No Adverse Effect is recommended for the project" and cultural resources clearance for the proposed project is recommended.

I would appreciate receiving your comments based on this information.

If any additional information is required, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kurt Donelan
Land Agent

KD/jc

Enc. (original and one copy of the report)

cc: Jim Haug (one copy of the report)

Pursuant to 36 CFR part 800.13, if historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties found after the agency official has completed the Section 106 process, the agency official shall avoid, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects to such properties and notify the SHPO/THPO, and Indian tribes that might attach religious and cultural significance to the affected property within 48 hours of the discovery.

SECTION 106 DETERMINATION

Based upon the information provided to the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office on 8/11/08, we concur with your agency's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this undertaking.

Gay D. Vogt
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
By: Amy Rubingh
8/11/08 086331008E
Date SHPO Project #

SECTION 106 CONSULTATION

Concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office does not relieve the federal agency official from consulting with other appropriate parties, as described in 36 CFR Part 800.2(c).

**A Level III Cultural Resources Survey of Revisions to East River Electric
Power Cooperative's Keystone Transmission Line-Pumping Stations #20
and #21, Brown and Beadle Counties, South Dakota**

Lower James and Upper James Archeological Regions

SHPO No.:

Prepared by

Edward J. Lueck

July 28, 2008



(Principal Investigator)

Archeology Laboratory
Augustana College
2032 S. Grange Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Submitted to

East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 227
121 SE 1st St.
Madison, SD 57042

Abstract

A reconnaissance/intensive cultural resources survey was conducted in the Lower and Upper James archeological regions for revisions to East River Electric Power Cooperative's Keystone Transmission Line project. The project as a whole involves construction of an overhead powerline that will deliver electricity to two pumping stations associated with the Keystone oil pipeline project. The two revisions involve a total of 2 miles of 30-foot-wide right-of-way. The corridor in Brown County is 1.0 mile long. The Beadle County portion consists of an 0.5-mile-long corridor on both sides of the road. All areas are in private easements. A background records check revealed no previously recorded sites in the project area. Three surveys, two associated with this project, have been previously conducted within portions of the project area. The project will not impact any standing structures. Augustana College Archeology Laboratory personnel conducted the field survey on July 18, 2008. A determination of No Historic Properties Affected is recommended for the project. No additional archeological work is recommended.

1. A reconnaissance/intensive cultural resources survey was conducted in the Lower James and Upper James study units.

A determination of No Historic Properties Affected is recommended for the following reason: no National Register eligible resources will be disturbed.

A total of ca. 7.2 acres was surveyed.

Location: Beadle and Brown counties, South Dakota

Legal Location of Area Surveyed:

Sections 9 and 16, T113N, R59W; and Sections 17 and 20, T122N, R60W.

USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: Ferney (1954), Groton (1975), and Staum Dam (1973).

- 2. Project Description:** The right-of-way for the proposed transmission line in Brown County (PS20-1) runs from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) substation located in Section 18, T122N, R60W, south of Groton. The right-of-way for the proposed transmission line in Beadle County (PS21-1) runs from a proposed Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) substation that will be located in Sections 9 and 16, T113N, R59W, south of Carpenter, to a proposed transmission line in Sections 10 and 15, T113N, R59W. The new lines will follow existing roads and will be installed two feet within private property. This is approximately 31 feet from the center of the road. The proposed project involves the installation of overhead transmission conductors on single wood pole structures, with approximately 17 to 20 structures per mile.

Highway Diggers and Bucket Trucks will be used to install the line. A Highway Digger is used to drill a 30-inch-wide, 8-12-foot-deep hole in the ground. Buckets Trucks are used to string the conductor on the poles. These trucks are large with double axles on the rear. The preference is to span over low areas. Span lengths are 240 feet to 300 feet. If poles are placed in a wet area, pea rock is used to secure the pole in the ground. The only impacts in Section 17, T122N, R60W, will be guy wires to support a power pole in adjacent Section 20.

A 30-foot-wide corridor was walked along the proposed transmission line routes. No short-term or long-term effects are anticipated.

3. Environment/Setting: The project is situated on lowlands and uplands in the James River drainage. There is no native vegetation in the project area. The soils in the lowlands at the north end of the project are primarily formed in lacustrine sediments in the former bed of glacial Lake Dakota (see Schultz 1993). Glacial till is the main type of parent material on the glacial uplands in the project area in Beadle County.

The area in Brown County is shown as being in the Harmony-Aberdeen-Nahon Association (see Schultz 1993). The Harmony-Aberdeen-Nahon Association contains level and nearly level silty soils on glacial lake plains.

The following soils are mapped in the project area in Brown County: Exline-Aberdeen-Nahon silt loams (Ex) and Nahon-Aberdeen-Exline silt loams (Na).

The Beadle County project area (see Heil 1979) is shown as being in the Beadle Soil Association, with somewhat poorly drained to excessively drained soils formed mainly in glacial till and glacial drift. The following soils are mapped in the project area in Beadle County: Beadle loam (0-2 percent slopes) (BaA); Beadle-Dudley complex (0-2 percent slopes) (BdA); and Houdek-Dudley complex (3-6 percent slopes) (HdB).

There are no water sources in the project area.

Cultivation has impacted most of the project area. Other impacts have resulted from construction of roads. The ground surface visibility ranged from 30 to 60 percent, with an average visibility of 40 percent. At the time of the survey, the project area was characterized by corn and soybeans (50% visibility); previous farm yard reseeded to brome (30% visibility); and wheat (30% visibility).

Elevation ranges from ca. 398 meters (ca. 1305 feet) near the north end of the project area in Brown County to a high of ca. 442 meters (ca. 1450 feet) in northern Beadle County. Elevations are above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.

Terri Holts conducted a files search for the current project on July 18, 2008 at the Archaeological Research Center, Rapid City, SD. This files search was an update to one conducted for this project in 2007. The background records check revealed three previously recorded surveys in the project area, two of which (Lueck 2008a, 2008b) are also associated with the Keystone project. Buechler (2004) examined an area at the east end of the corridor in Section 9, T113N, R59W. Lueck (2008a, 2008b) examined areas in Sections 19 and 29, T122N, R60W that adjoin the current survey area in Brown County, and in Sections 10 and 15, T113N, R59W at the east end of the current project in Beadle County. Three atlases (Andreas 1884; Midwest Atlas Co. 1964; Peterson 1904) were checked. No buildings are shown in the project area.

Field work: Date: July 18, 2008. Personnel: Edward J. Lueck and Jessica Kleinschmit.

Type of Survey: Reconnaissance (Level III).

The 30-foot-wide project corridor was surveyed with one pedestrian transect. The surface visibility ranged from 30 to 60 percent.

The depth to the top of the B horizons in most of the soils mapped in the project area(s) is relatively shallow (3-30 cm), suggesting that cultural materials, if any, would be exposed on the surface. The presence of gravels in much of the project area supports the latter statement. These conditions suggest a low potential for cultural resources.

No artifacts or samples were collected.

4. **Results:** No sites were recorded in the project area. A determination of No Historic Properties Affected is recommended. No further work is recommended.
5. **Recommendations:** No further work is recommended because no cultural resources will be affected by the project, and because of previous disturbances there is little potential for buried, undiscovered remains in the APE. The project should proceed as planned. A determination of No Historic Properties Affected is recommended. However, if the proposed work uncovers items that might be of archeological, historical or architectural interest, the State Historic Preservation Office of South Dakota should be contacted.
6. **State Planning:** This part of the Lower and Upper James study units contained no sites. This finding contributes negative location information to the management of the study unit.
7. **List of Attachments:** Figures 1-3; Appendix A (NADB form).

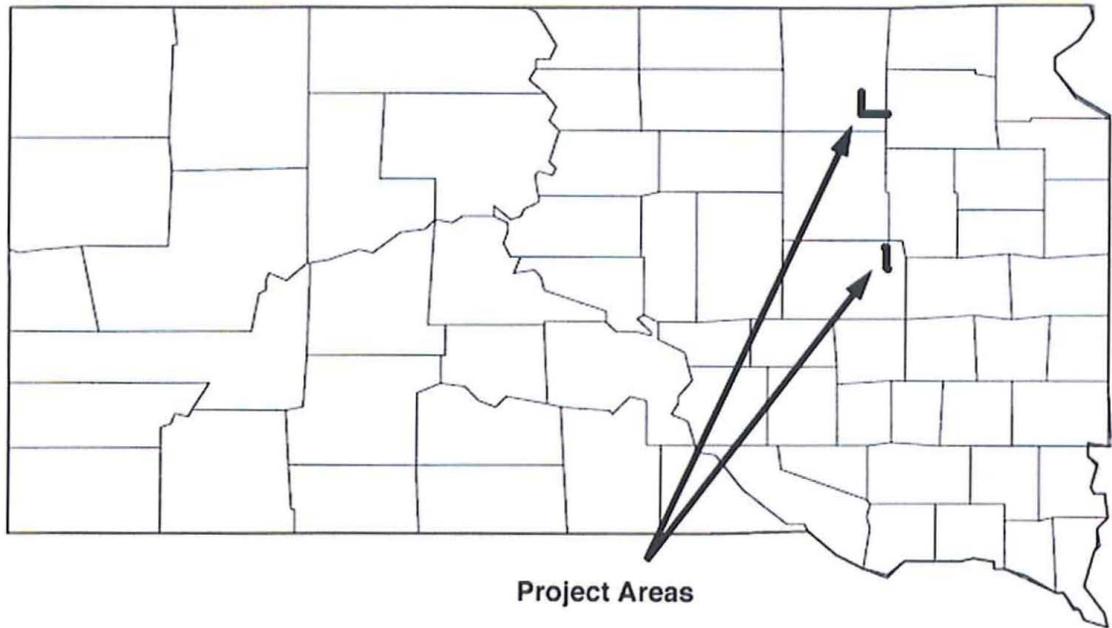


Figure 1. Location of project areas, Beadle and Brown counties, South Dakota.

References

Andreas, A. T.

1884 *Andreas's Historical Atlas of Dakota*. A. T. Andreas, Chicago, IL.

Buechler, Jeff

2004 *Results of a Stratified Disproportionate Sample Survey of Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc.'s Contract 4-3, Schedules 2-3 Project Area in Beadle, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Sanborn, and Spink Counties, South Dakota*. Project No. 04-54. Dakota Research Services, Rapid City, SD. Submitted to Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Gettysburg, SD.

Heil, Dennis

1979 *Soil Survey of Beadle County, South Dakota*. U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Lueck, Edward J.

2008a *A Level III Cultural Resources Survey of East River Electric Power Cooperative's Keystone Transmission Line-Pumping Stations #20 and #21, Brown, Day and Beadle Counties, South Dakota*. Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD. Submitted to East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., Madison, SD.

2008b *A Level III Cultural Resources Survey of a Revision to East River Electric Power Cooperative's Keystone Transmission Line-Pumping Station #21, Beadle County, South Dakota*. Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD. Submitted to East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., Madison, SD.

Midwest Atlas Co.

1964 *South Dakota State Atlas*. Midwest Atlas Co., Fergus Falls, MN.

Peterson, E. Frank

1904 *Historical Atlas of South Dakota*. E. Frank Peterson, Vermillion, SD.

Schultz, Loren D.

1993 *Soil Survey of Brown County, South Dakota*. U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

1954 Ferney. USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C.

1973 Staum Dam. USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C.

1975 Groton. USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C.

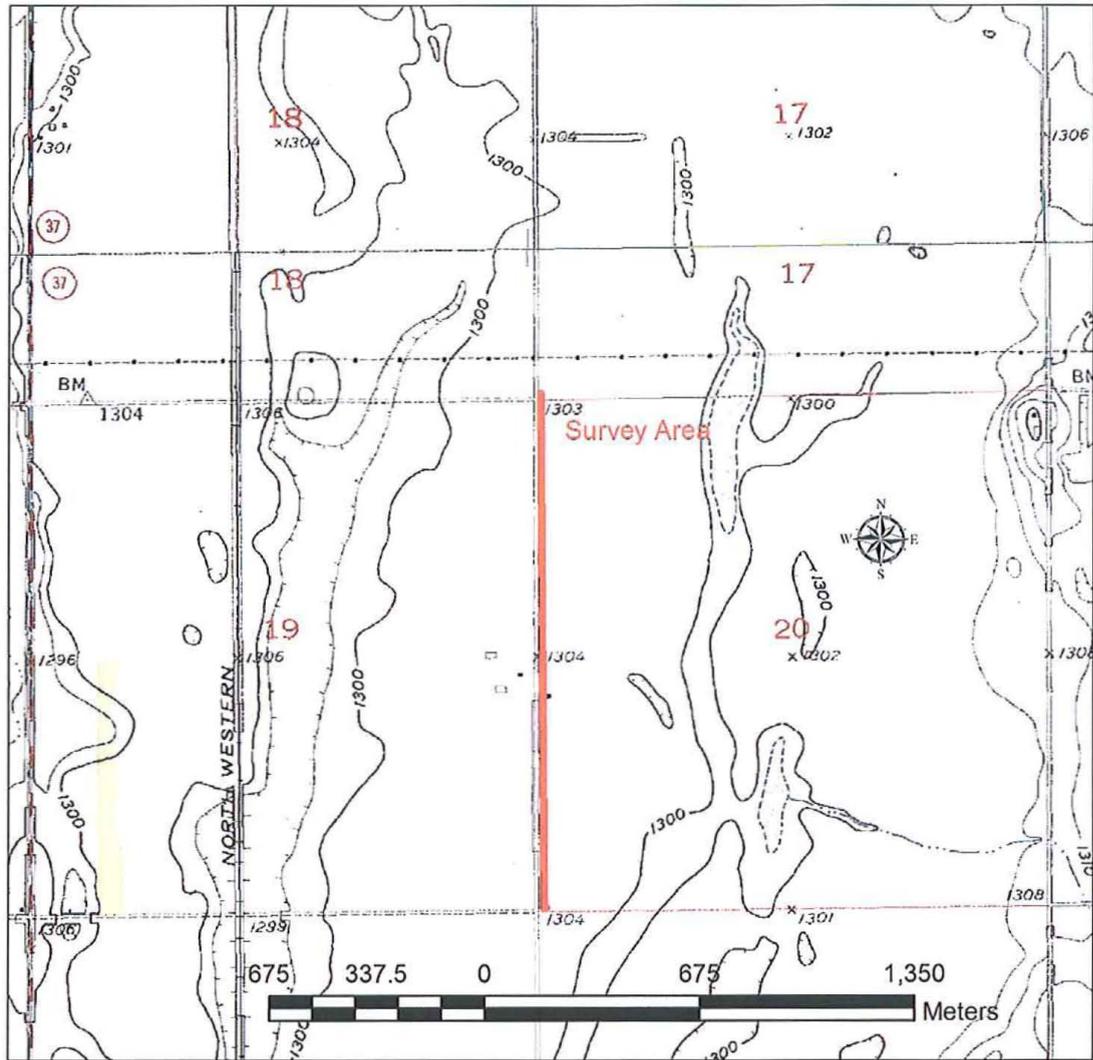


Figure 2. Location of survey area in Sections 17 and 20, T122N, R60W, shown on USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles Groton (1975) and Ferney (1954).

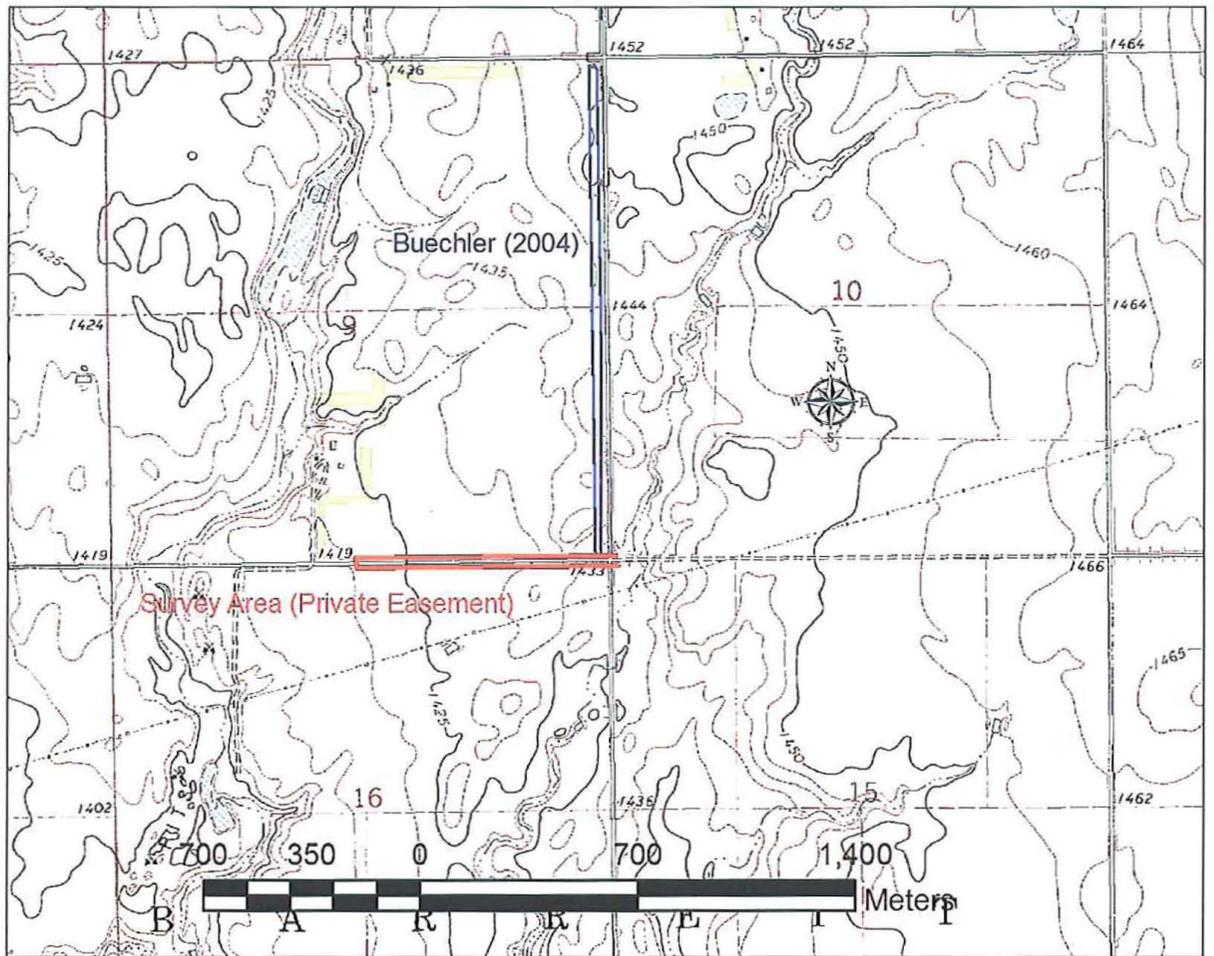


Figure 3. Location of survey area in Sections 9 and 16, T113N, R59W, shown on USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle Staum Dam (1973). Previous survey by Buechler (2004) shown.

APPENDIX A
NADB FORM

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE - REPORTS: DATA ENTRY FORM

1. R and C # _____
2. Authors: Edward J. Lueck

Year of Publication 2008

3. Title: A Level III Cultural Resources Survey of Revisions to East River Electric Power Cooperative's Keystone Transmission Line-Pumping Stations #20 and #21, Brown and Beadle Counties, South Dakota.

4. Report Title: _____
Volume #: _____ Report #: _____ NTIS: _____
Publisher: _____
Place: _____

5. Unpublished
Sent From: Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Sent To: East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., Madison, SD 57042
Contract #: _____

6. Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

7. State: SD SD _____
County: Beadle Brown _____
Town: _____

8. Work Type: 31 _____

9. Keyword: 0 - Types of Resources/Features 1 - Generic Terms/Research Questions
2 - Taxonomic Names 3 - Artifact Types/Material Classes
4 - Geographic Names/Locations 5 - Time Periods
6 - Project Names/Study Unit 7 - Other Key Words
7.2 acres [7] _____ []
Beadle County [4] _____ []
Brown County [4] _____ []
Middle James Region [4] _____ []
Upper James Region [4] _____ []
_____ [] _____ []
_____ [] _____ []

10. UTM Zone: Easting: _____ Northing: _____

11. Township: 113N 122N _____
Range: 59W 60W _____

Other Publication Types:

12. Monograph:

Name: _____
Place: _____

13. Chapter: In: _____ First: _____ Last: _____

14. Journal: Volume: _____ Issue: _____ First: _____ Last: _____

15. Dissertation: Degree: Ph.D. LL.D. M.A. M.S. B.A. B.S. Institute: _____

16. Paper: Meeting: _____
Place: _____ Date: _____

17. Other
Reference Line: _____

18. Site #: _____

19. Quad Map: Name _____ Date: _____
Ferney _____ 1954
Groton _____ 1975
Staum Dam _____ 1973

