

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT 106 SOUTH 15TH STREET OMAHA NE 68102-1618

December 19, 2007

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. Kurt Donelan East River Electric Power Cooperative 121 Southeast First Street Madison, South Dakota 57042

Dear Mr. Donelan:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) has reviewed your letter dated December 4, 2007 regarding the proposed construction of PS-20 115 kV Transmission Lines and Substation for the City of Groton, South Dakota. The Corps offers the following comments:

Brown County, South Dakota participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. According to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), the proposed route for the project crosses several 100-year flood plains. The FIRM's are community-panel numbers 46013C 0375, and 46013C 0450 dated September 30, 1988. The possibility may exist for a flood-hazard that could result from heavy rainfall in the immediate area, which would produce runoff in excess of storm sewer and local drainageway capacities. Flooding which results from this phenomenon is usually quite localized and shallow. Detailed definitions of this hazard would require a site-specific investigation.

If the proposed powerline construction crosses the flood plains of small drainageways and streams, flood-related problems should not occur if the supporting structures for overhead powerlines are located as far from the banks of the drainageways and streams as possible. This will minimize the potential for erosion hazards and floodflow obstruction. Similarly, flood-related problems should not occur with underground powerlines if the lines are buried far enough below the beds of drainageways and streams to prevent exposure due to streambed erosion during periods of high floodflows. If any aboveground construction is subject to flood damage, such as electrical boxes, they should either be placed above, or flood proofed to, a level above the 100-year flood elevation.

Your plans should be coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is currently involved in a program to protect ground water resources. If you have not already done so, it is recommended you consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department regarding fish and wildlife resources. In addition, the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office should be contacted for information and recommendations on potential cultural resources in the project area.

If construction activities involve any work in waters of the United States, a Section 404 permit may be required. For a detailed review of permit requirements, preliminary and final project plans should be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pierre Regulatory Office Attention: CENWO-OD-R-SD/Naylor 28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 120 Pierre, South Dakota 57501

EXHIBIT 17

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dave Crane of my staff at (402) 221-4882.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Janis, Chief

Environmental, Economics, and Cultural Resources Section

Planning Branch