



December 4, 2012

Mr. Darrin Lahr
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Project: New Construction 70 Miles of Transmission Line - Big Stone South to Brookings
County Project
Location: Multiple Counties

Dear Mr. Lahr:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. The South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurs with Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company's approach to the treatment of cultural resources.

We appreciate Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company following the current project related stipulations as outlined in the programmatic agreement signed by my office on December 7, 2006, for the construction of the proposed Big Stone II Power Plant and Transmission Lines Project. The specific stipulations to be followed include those outlined in your letter dated December 4, 2012.

We look forward to working with your company in the future. Should you require any additional information, please contact Paige 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

Paige Olson
Review and Compliance Coordinator