



February 13, 2019

Mr. Scott Phillips
SWCA Environmental Consultants
295 Interlocken Blvd. Suite 300
Broomfield, CO 80021

RE: SDCL 1-19A-11.1 Consultation

Project: 150904001S – Archaeological and Traditional Cultural Property Inventory, Crowned Ridge Transmission Line

Location: Multiple Counties
(PUC)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 1-19A-11.1. The South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) would like to provide the following comments concerning the effect of the proposed project on the non-renewable cultural resources of South Dakota.

On February 1, 2019, the Archaeological Research Center provided my office with the report entitled “Level III Intensive Archaeological and Traditional Cultural Property Resources Inventory of Codington and Grant Counties, South Dakota,” prepared by Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), Spirit Lake THPO, Yankton Sioux THPO, HDR, Inc. and SWCA Environmental Consultants.

Based on the information provided in the report, we agree with the following recommendations. Newly recorded archaeological properties 39CD0168, 39GT0399, 39GT0400, 39GT0401, 39GR0402, 39GT0403, 39GT0404, 39GT0405, 39GT0406 and 39GT0407 do not meet any of the National Register criteria. The newly recorded portion of 39GT2042, an abandoned railroad spur, should be considered non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the property. A total of 150 properties were identified and evaluated as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate THPO, Spirit Lake THPO and Yankton Sioux THPO. These properties are considered eligible for listing in the National Register for Criterion A.

Additionally, the report indicates the THPOs have determined the proposed project will impact the integrity of the TCPs. As a result, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER) and the THPOs developed measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate these impacts, which are outlined in the report. NEER and the THPOs will also coordinate the development of an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan.

Given the above, we have determined that the proposed project will not encroach upon, damage or destroy any archaeological property or TCP that is listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places or the environs of such property pursuant to SDCL 1-19A-11.1.

We appreciate the efforts made by NEER to acknowledge the special expertise American Indian tribes possess in identifying and assessing cultural properties that hold religious and cultural significance to them. We also appreciate NEER's willingness to consider the effects of the transmission line project on the non-renewable cultural resources of South Dakota. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paige Olson at Paige.Olson@state.sd.us or (605) 773-6004.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Vogt
State Historic Preservation Officer



Paige Olson
Review and Compliance Coordinator

cc: Jane Watts and Renee Boen, Archaeological Research Center
Dianne Desrosiers, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Erich Longie, Spirit Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Kip Spotted Eagle, Yankton Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office