



April 23, 2024

Timothy Rogers
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SDCL 1-19A-11.1 Consultation

Project: 240222005S – Brookings Second-Circuit Project

Location: Brookings

PUC - South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 1-19A-11.1. SDCL 1-19A-11.1 outlines a specific process that must be followed prior to any governmental action, including the issuance of permits, that may harm any historic property that is included in the National or State Registers of Historic Places. 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 22, 2024, SHPO received your letter and the report titled "Level I Record Search for the Brookings Second-Circuit Project, Brookings County, South Dakota" prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. On March 15, 2024, SHPO posted questions in the comments section of our Electronic Review & Compliance (ERC) system, asking about the permitting from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and project activities. On April 22, 2024, Angela Julin notified SHPO staff through the ERC comments section that a reply to the March 15th questions had been provided in a March 26th email sent through the ERC system, of which SHPO had not been previously notified. The information provided in your letter, the report, and Ms. Julin's comments indicate that the proposed project has been permitted previously and now is subject to certification of the continued meeting of the conditions of the original permit, as described in SDCL 49-41B-27.

Based upon the information provided, there are no properties listed in the State or National Registers of Historic Places within the areas delineated in the Stantec report as the transmission line route and the temporary workspace and access roads or the immediate vicinity. Therefore, SHPO has determined that the proposal will not encroach upon, damage, or destroy a historic property which is included in the National and State Registers of Historic Places, pursuant to SDCL 1-19A-11.1.

Should the applicant wish to avoid negatively impacting cultural resources which currently are not listed in the State or National Registers and thereby considered under SDCL 1-19A-11.1, SHPO agrees with the recommendation in the report that 39BK0275, a property which has not been fully evaluated for its eligibility the National Register of Historic Places, be avoided by all surficial and any potentially ground disturbing activities associated with the project to avoid impacts to the features of the site. Additionally, if the applicant wishes to avoid impacting all cultural resources, SHPO recommends that the helicopter be maintained at an adequate height above the resources along the entire transmission line route to avoid impacts from the turbulent effects of the rotor blades.





Please note that this letter does not relieve the responsible party/parties of requirements regarding compliance with any other historic preservation laws. Should the project ever be federally funded, licensed, permitted, or approved, the project would be considered a federal undertaking for which the responsible federal agency must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Jenna Carlson Dietmeier at Jenna.CarlsonDietmeier@state.sd.us or at (605)773-8370. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenna Carlson Dietmeier".

Jenna Carlson Dietmeier, PhD
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer, Review & Compliance Coordinator

CC: Angela Julin - Stantec

