

SHPO Acceptance Letter, dated June 12, 2024



June 12, 2024

Kevin Gilmore
HDR, Inc.
369 Inverness Parkway, Suite 325
Englewood, CO 80112

SDCL 1-19A-11.1 Consultation

Project: 240109007S – Otter Tail Power Company - Big Stone South to Alexandria (BSSA) Transmission Line Project
Location: Grant
PUC - South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Dear Mr. Gilmore,

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 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 effect of the proposed project on the non-renewable cultural resources of South Dakota.

On June 4, 2024, SHPO received your letter, the report titled " A Level III Cultural Resource Survey Addendum for the Big Stone South to Alexandria 345-kV Transmission Line Project" by Thomas Lux and Megan Mueller of HDR, and shapefiles. Previously, in a letter dated April 2, 2024, SHPO provided comments on the report titled "A Level III Cultural Resource Survey for the Big Stone South to Alexandria 345-kV Transmission Line Project" by Lars Boyd of HDR and requested to review the results of any additional efforts to identify cultural resources. According to your June 4, 2024, letter and the addendum report, the addendum report includes the results of survey of the remaining parcels of land within the project's "flex area," the results of Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Cultural Specialist surveys of the undisturbed portions of the flex area, and an analysis of potential visual effects on historic properties. The addendum report indicates that Tribal Cultural Specialists identified FLA-01 during the survey of the flex area. Based upon the information provided in the report regarding this property, FLA-01 should be considered Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D.

Based upon the information provided in the previous report and the addendum report, there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places within the proposed project's flex area. Additionally, there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places which will be visually affected by the proposed project. Therefore, SHPO has determined that the proposal will not encroach upon, damage, or destroy a historic property which is included in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, pursuant to SDCL 1-19A-11.1.

As the proposed project seeks a Facility Permit from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the proposal will also be subject to the requirements outlined in the Administrative Rules of South





Dakota (ARSD) at 20:10:22:23. SHPO agrees that avoidance fencing should be placed around FLA-01 and that Tribal Cultural Specialists should monitor construction activities in the vicinity of FLA-01 to ensure that the resource is not damaged during project implementation. Additionally, as previously stated in the April 2, 2024, letter, SHPO agrees that spanning the transmission line across 39GT2007 will not cause ground disturbance within the site boundary and will not adversely affect the eligibility of the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Jenna Carlson Dietmeier at Jenna.CarlsonDietmeier@state.sd.us or at (605)773-8370.

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: Megan Mueller - HDR, Inc.
Jennifer Hanley - HDR, Inc.
Jason Weiers - Otter Tail Power Company
Jon Thurber - PUC
Darren Kearney - PUC
Garrie Kills a Hundred - Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Dianne Desrosiers - Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer