

189



T RIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
S TANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

Administrative Service Center
North Standing Rock Avenue
Fort Yates, N.D. 58538
Tel: (701) 854-2120
Fax: (701) 854-2138

January 22, 2007

Ms. Signe Snortland
Dakotas Area Office
US Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 1017
Bismarck ND 58502-1017

RE: Red River Valley Water Supply Project Class I Cultural Resource Inventory and Assessment, Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota.

OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
JAN 24 2007		
REPLY:	YES	NO
INFO. COPY TO:		
DATE	INITIAL	TO
29 I. 07	RN	Signe Snortland
CLASSIFICATION		
PROJECT		
OFFICE NO.		
SERIAL I.D.		

Ms. Snortland:

The most pertinent conclusion of the above report is that, "one must be cognizant of the fact that none of the alternative study areas has received anything like comprehensive cultural resources survey coverage. Intensive survey specific to the selected alternative is likely to result in the discovery and recording of many currently unknown sites, findings that could substantially change the conclusions of the cultural resource assessments made here" (p. 6.2, emphasis added). Given that this is the case, it is inappropriate to limit intensive cultural resources inventories to just the preferred alternative. If cultural resources are to be realistically considered as one of the significant factors influencing route selection, more data must be obtained before a preferred route is selected. Therefore, we strongly recommend that a statistically representative sample be surveyed along each of the routes prior to selection of a preferred alternative.

The SRST THPO office is committed to the preservation of cultural resources and we would like to know which alternative will do the least damage. Project managers also have a vested interest in selecting the least-damaging route since rerouting to avoid sites and/or mitigation of sites can result in large expenditures of project funds.

Sincerely,

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

Byron Olson
Tribal Archaeologist