



**MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office**

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February 6, 2007

Ms. J. Signe Snortland  
U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Dakotas Area Office  
PO Box 1017  
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Red River Valley Water Supply Project  
SHPO Number: 2006-0114

Dear Ms. Snortland:

Thank you for your review update on the above referenced project. We apologize for the tardiness of our response.

We appreciate the attention to cultural resource identification at an early stage in the planning process. We note that the preferred alternative, The GDU Import to Sheyenne River, has a number of cultural resource sites.

We look forward to working with you to finalize a programmatic agreement for this project. We have two comments on the draft PA included in the review submittal:

1. Section 203 Resource Documentation. This section references the Standards for Historical Documentation, Architectural and Engineering Documentation, and Archaeological Documentation to be used during the inventory process. In general, we view the above standards as treatment levels of documentation for resources that have already been evaluated as significant. The use of these higher-level standards for all inventoried sites does not seem necessary. Rather, we would suggest that the inventory documentation be done pursuant to the Standards for Identification and Evaluation.
2. Section 2-6 Collection and Disposition of Archaeological Materials. We would suggest an alternative approach to a non-collection policy. As a general procedure, diagnostic artifacts should be collected. If certain landowners do not wish to donate, a policy of documenting collections should be formulated. In such a case, the Standards for Archaeological Documentation may be appropriate.

Contact me at 651-259-3456 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Gimmestad  
Government Programs & Compliance Officer