

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

August 2, 2006

Ms. Paige Hoskinson
Review and Compliance Coordinator
South Dakota State Historical Society
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2217

Re: TransCanada Keystone Pipeline

Dear Ms. Hoskinson,

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (MAC) has been conducting a cultural resource inventory of selected stretches of the proposed TransCanada Keystone Pipeline corridor. To date, we have completed the initial pedestrian survey and initial shovel test probe excavations in areas that have low ground surface visibility and moderate to high site potential, primarily at stream crossings. A reconnaissance drive-by inventory of the entire line was completed by Michael McFaul, geoarchaeologist of LaRamie Soils Services. His recommendations regarding areas that should receive closer investigations are included in the shovel probing or, where deposits may be deeply buried, in a soil coring program.

Approximately 30 of the 38.5 miles of proposed Level II pedestrian inventory, as defined in the Research Design, were surveyed. The remaining stretches were not surveyed because land access was denied or in the case of a dune field at the extreme north end of the project because a re-route is planned to avoid the area as it has wetlands/wildlife sensitivity issues. The inventory covered a width of 300 feet (150 feet on either side of centerline). Currently we have documented two prehistoric sites, four historic sites, six architectural sites, and two archaeological isolated finds. The prehistoric sites are both single rock cairns in Yankton and Day counties. The historic sites include one farmstead and three railroad crossings. The isolated finds are both chipped stone artifacts. Attached is a table providing more site details.

None of the historic sites will be impacted by the project as boring is planned at the railroad crossings and standing structures will be bypassed with only short-term visual disturbance during trenching operations. We do not anticipate any test excavations in South Dakota and are recommending avoidance of the two cairn sites. We will submit site forms for the documented sites and a draft report detailing the results of the inventory. This report should be completed by mid-September. There are several re-routes anticipated along the line, as there are cultural resources, wetlands, and sensitive wildlife areas to be avoided. These re-routes will be reported in an addendum report shortly after those inventories are completed. It is possible that additional shovel probing will be conducted along some of the re-route stretches.

Sincerely,

Amy Bleier
Staff Archaeologist

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