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Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

August 2, 2006

Mr. Paul Picha
Chief Archaeologist
North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
State Historical Society of North Dakota

Re: TransCanada Keystone Pipeline
NDSHPO# 06-0088

Dear Mr. Picha

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 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 47.8 of the 49.5 miles of proposed Class III pedestrian inventory, as defined in the Research Design, were surveyed. The remaining 1.7 miles were not surveyed because land access was denied. The inventory covered a width of 300 feet (150 feet on either side of centerline). Currently we have documented four prehistoric sites, 13 historic sites, one architectural site, and eight archaeological isolated finds. The prehistoric sites are two surface lithic scatters in Barnes and Pembina counties [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. These were documented while shovel probing. One yielded several pieces of pottery and one an obsidian blade like broken flake. The historic sites include one school foundation, one possible earthwork, one depression, and 11 railroad crossings. The isolated finds are all chipped stone artifacts. Attached is a table providing more site details.

The majority of the shovel probes have been completed and we anticipate final completion of shovel probing by mid-to-late August. At this time, none of the historic sites will be impacted by the project as boring is planned at the railroad crossings and standing structures will be by-passed with only short-term visual disturbance during trenching operations. 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 that will be avoided. These re-routes will be reported on with an addendum report shortly after their inventories are completed. By late August

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we also anticipate preparing treatment plans for evaluative testing of the prehistoric sites within the pipeline path. Evaluative testing is expected to commence after crops have been harvested.

The northern most six miles of the pipeline corridor have been re-routed approximately one-quarter mile to the west of the original route. Two miles at the Tongue River crossing have been re-routed approximately one-quarter mile to the east. Other re-routes in Pembina County have been minor (100 to 250 feet). These re-routes did not result in mileage changes to the Class III inventory as it was adjusted either west or east but crossed the same terrain as anticipated in the original research design. There may be additional route changes for wetlands, wildlife, or cultural resource avoidance where inventory is required but none have yet been identified.

Finally, on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, Mr. Paul Picha (NDSHPO), [REDACTED] (private landowner), and Ed Stine and Amy Bleier of MAC met at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office to discuss the proximity of the Keystone Pipeline to [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] a local landowner, provided the general location of the [REDACTED]. A segment of the project corridor had originally been surveyed in the SW¼ of Section 11 on June 23, 2006 and no cultural resources were observed at that time. The segment was re-surveyed on July 10, 2006 and no cultural resources were observed.

Sincerely,

Amy Bleier and Ed Stine
Staff Archaeologists

attachment

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