

H3015(YELL)

CERTIFIED

JAN 08 2014

Ms. Mary Hopkins  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Barrett Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
2301 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Subject: Electric Transmission/Distribution System Communication and Automation Plan  
Environmental Assessment (WYSHPO Project #1201RLC001; MT SHPO #2013082617; NPS  
PEPC Project: 47258)

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

On November 5, 2013, the National Park Service (NPS) submitted for your review an Environmental Assessment and a Class III archeological inventory and evaluation for the NorthWestern Energy Electric Transmission/Distribution System Communication and Automation Plan project. On December 4, 2013, WY SHPO responded to NPS that SHPO would comment on NRHP eligibility and project effects upon receipt of documentation meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42) and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office's Format, Guidelines, and Standards for Class III Reports.

Enclosed for your review and comment is a revised Class III Historic Properties report for the NorthWestern Energy Electric Transmission/Distribution System Communication and Automation Plan. This revised report documents our efforts to identify historic properties within the area of potential effect, effect determinations, and recommendations for both archeological resources and the historic built environment. This revised report replaces the portion of the Environmental Assessment dealing with the historic built environment and also the Class III archeological report submitted to SHPO on November 5, 2013. The determinations and recommendations in this revised report are identical to those documented in the earlier submittals.

The inventory concludes that no archeological resources have been recorded within the area of potential effect for direct effects, and that nine Historic Districts, two Cultural Landscapes, and two National Historic Landmark properties are present within the area of potential effect for indirect effects. No previously unrecorded historic properties were identified in either area of

potential effect (direct or indirect). Indirect effects consist of visual effects only, which will occur to three historic properties (Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District, Grand Loop Road Historic District, and Fort Yellowstone NHL Historic District). No direct effects to any historic properties will occur. Indirect visual effects will not rise to the level of adverse as the proposed upgrades are peripheral to the historic districts. Accordingly, the NPS has determined that the proposed project will not adversely affect historic properties and we seek your concurrence with this determination.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Tobin Roop, Chief, Branch of Cultural Resources, at (307) 344-2224 or Jennifer Carpenter, Chief, Branch of Environmental Quality and Science Communication, at (307) 344-2528. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Wenk  
Superintendent

Enclosure

Identical Letter Sent with Enclosure to:  
Mark Baumler, Montana SHPO

cc (w/o enclosures – digital version only):  
Katy Harris, ACHP

Bcc: (w/o enclosures)  
Central Files  
Superintendent's Office Files  
Steve Iobst  
Dave Hallac  
Nancy Ward  
Jim Knoelke  
L Doug Madsen  
Bret DeYoung  
Tobin Roop  
Jennifer Carpenter  
Staffan Peterson  
Zehra Osman  
YCR Files  
No Reading Files

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