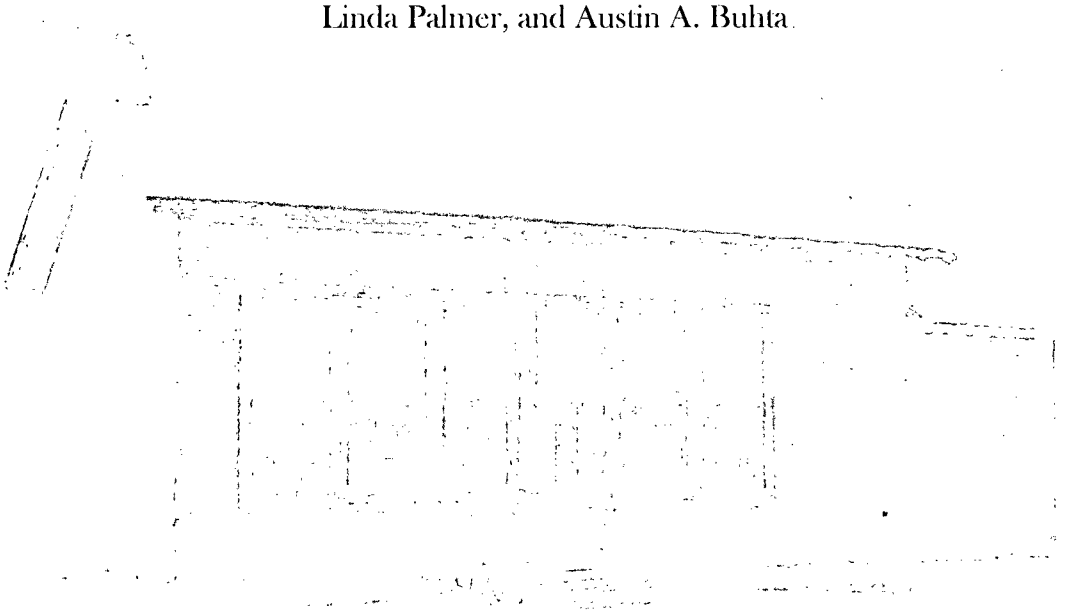
A Level III Cultural Resources Evaluation of Powertech (USA) Incorporated's Proposed Dewey-Burdock Uranium Project Locality within the Southern Black Hills, Custer and Fall River Counties, South Dakota

Black Hills Archaeological Region

SHPO R&C No.:

Volume I:
Cultural Resources Report

Jason M. Kruse, Timothy V. Gillen, John R. Bozell,
Linda Palmer, and Austin A. Buhta



Archeological Contract Series Number 216

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March, 2008

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ABSTRACT

A Level III cultural resources evaluation was conducted in the Black Hills Archaeological Region for Powertech (USA) Incorporated, Centennial, Colorado. Personnel from the Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota conducted on-the-ground field investigations between April 17 and August 3, 2007. The Area of Potential Effect consists of approximately 10,310.97 acres of land associated with the proposed Dewey-Burdock Uranium Project in the southern Black Hills, Custer and Fall River counties, South Dakota. One hundred sixty-one archeological sites were documented and 29 previously recorded archeological sites were revisited during the current investigation. Additionally, five standing structures and one bridge structure were documented. It is recommended that 97 archeological sites and two standing structures be considered not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended for these properties. As are all railroads in South Dakota, sites 39CU2000 and 39FA2000 are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. However, the extant, active segments of sites 39CU2000, and 39FA2000 within the project area will not be impacted as a result of the currently proposed undertaking. No further work is recommended for these sites. It has been determined by the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office that archeological site 39CU271 and standing structures CU02500002, CU02500003, and CU02500004 are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Avoidance of these properties is recommended. In the event that avoidance is not possible, intensive documentation and mitigative excavations are recommended for these properties. The National Register eligibility status of the remaining 87 archeological sites and the bridge structure could not be definitively ascertained within the scope of this Level III evaluation. Additional evaluation is recommended for these sites in a phased approach as the project develops. Documentation of the bridge structure has been provided herein for evaluation by a qualified Architectural Historian.

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7.1 Percentage (and number) of historic, prehistoric, and historic/prehistoric multi-component sites documented in the APE 7.8
7.2 Graph comparing the number and variation of historic contexts identified in the APE 7.9

CHAPTER 1:
PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES OF INVESTIGATION

An intensive, Level III cultural resources survey was conducted on behalf of Powertech (USA) Incorporated (Powertech), Centennial, Colorado, by personnel from the Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College (ALAC), Sioux Falls, South Dakota. On-the-ground field investigations for Powertech's proposed Dewey-Burdock Uranium Project were undertaken by ALAC between April 17, 2007, and August 3, 2007. The proposed project is located in the southern Black Hills in Custer and Fall River counties, South Dakota (Figure 1.1). Approximately 10,310.97 ac (4,172.70 ha) were systematically examined during the current investigation.

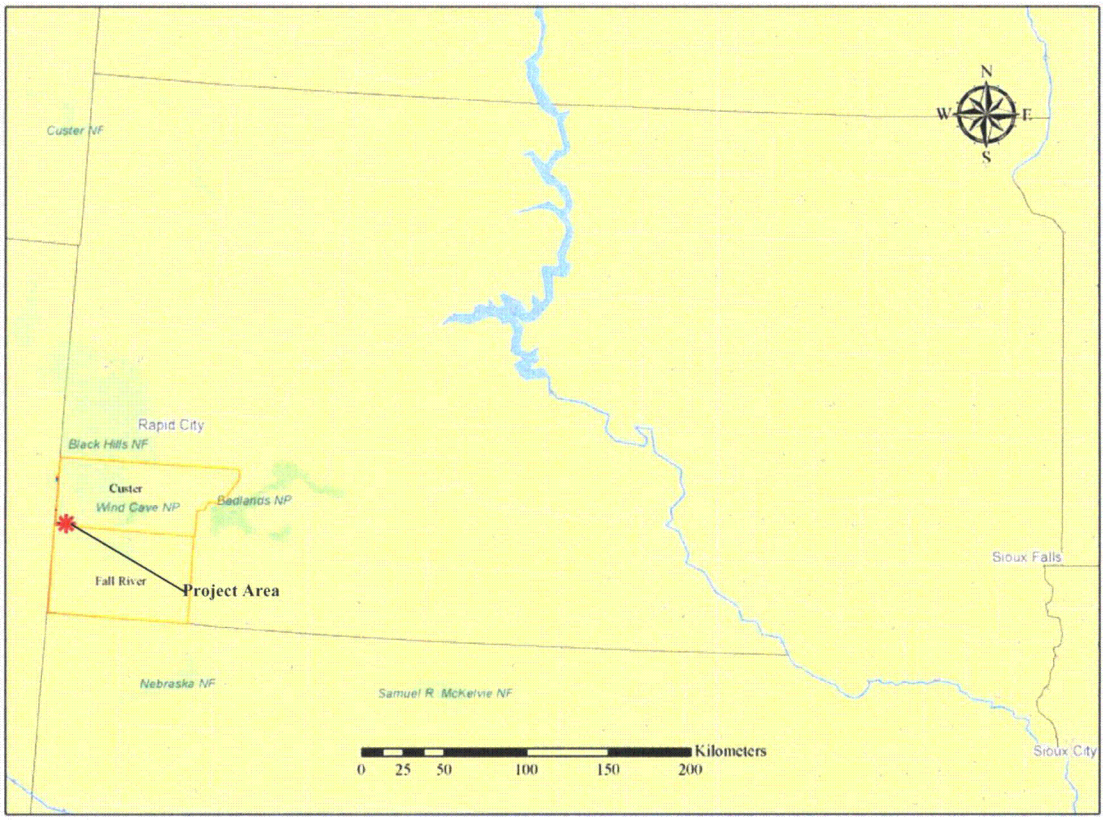

Figure 1.1. State map of South Dakota highlighting Custer and Fall River counties and the proposed Dewey-Burdock Uranium Project locale (adapted from ESRI ArcGIS 9 United States Data and Maps Media Kit 2005).

Powertech's application for a Uranium Exploration Permit was approved by the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment on January 17, 2007. Archeological field investigations were conducted within the proposed Dewey-Burdock Uranium Project Area of Potential Effect (APE) pursuant to the South Dakota Codified Laws (SDCL) governing