



Tribal Historic Preservation Office

P.O. Box 907
205 Oak St. East, Suite 121
Sisseton, SD 57262
(605) 698-3584 phone
(605) 698-4283 fax

November 2, 2010

**Kevin Hsueh, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Branch B
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T-8F05
Washington, DC 20555**

***Re: Invitation for Formal Consultation Under the National Historic Preservation Act;
Proposed Dewey Burdock In Situ Recovery Facility near Edgemont South Dakota***

Dear Mr. Hsueh,

We are in receipt of your correspondence dated September 20, 2010. *Invitation for Formal Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.*

Thank you for inviting the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) to participate as a consulting party as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) works to satisfy its statutory obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to review impacts to cultural and historic resources potentially impacted by the proposed Powertech, Inc. Dewey-Burdock In-Situ Leach Uranium Mine. As you are aware, the proposed mine is located within the traditional and treaty lands of the Great Sioux Nation, which includes the Dakota bands. The SWO is interested in working with the NRC to identify and protect the cultural and historic resources threatened by the project.

As you may be aware the project is in a high probability and highly sensitive area. The effects to the land and resources include not only site-specific physical impacts, but also broader landscape-level impacts along with more intangible impacts to the integrity of the area from cultural, historical, spiritual, and religious perspectives.

The area of potential effect is located within the traditional and treaty lands of the Great Sioux Nation and other nations which consider this area, traditional homelands. We are interested in working with the NRC to identify and protect the cultural and historic resources threatened by the project.

At this time the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate is requesting formal group consultation with regard to the above mentioned project. I would encourage you to make every effort to contact tribes that place religious and cultural significance to properties within the Black Hills (APE) which they deem significant to their existence. In an earlier conversation with a representative from your office (Haimanot Yilma), I suggested contacting the Oglala Sioux Tribe to afford them the opportunity to host such a meeting at the Prairie Winds Casino (which is the tribal nation in closest proximity to the site) and invite tribes to this group consultation. This would offer tribes an opportunity to discuss and share information to better preserve areas of religious and cultural significance.

We look forward to meeting with you in the near future. Together, we will protect and preserve our irreplaceable cultural resources. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.



Dianne Desrosiers
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Rosebud Sioux Tribe THPO
Oglala Sioux Tribe THPO
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe THPO
Santee Sioux Tribe THPO
Yankton Sioux Tribe THPO
Northern Cheyenne, THPO
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe THPO
Crow Tribe THPO