



EU-820
CC

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Section of Environmental Analysis

March 7, 2008

Ron His Horse Is Thunder, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building 1 North Standing Rock Avenue
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Re: Finance Docket No. 33407, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation
Construction into the Powder River Basin

Dear Chairman Ron His Horse Is Thunder:

Thank you for your letter requesting government-to-government consultations with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation Construction into the Powder River Basin project (project). We gladly accept your invitation to consult with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST), both through our continued interactions with your Tribal Historic Preservation Officer as well as with you and other members of the SRST leadership.

As you know, we are currently in the process of finalizing a Work Plan for Tribal Involvement (Plan) that will memorialize certain agreed upon measures for Tribal involvement in the project. As you note in your letter, the Plan includes the development of an Office of Tribal Involvement (OTI). It is anticipated that the OTI would act in advisory capacity to Tribes currently participating in this project through the coordination of report reviews, contracting of field work, and other duties, as needed. In your letter you recommend that the STB facilitate a meeting with the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association (GPTCA) in part, to discuss the involvement of the GPTCA in the development of the OTI. We would be happy to meet with the GPTCA regarding the OTI and to establish consultations with the GPTCA member Tribes.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-245-0295 (Rutsonv@stb.dot.gov) or Catherine Glidden of my staff at 202-245-0293 (Gliddenc@stb.dot.gov). Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis