



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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April 24, 2014

Mr. Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager
Department of Commerce
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: ITC Midwest Huntley-to-Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Faribault, Martin, and Jackson Counties
SHPO Number: 2012-2157

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It is being reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Search by Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal license or permit, it should be submitted to our office by the responsible federal agency.

If you have questions regarding our review of this project, please call Kelly Gragg-Johnson at (651) 259-3455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah J. Beimers'.

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: David Grover, Regulatory Strategy, ITC Midwest LLC

RECEIVED

APR 25 2014

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