



LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

*Amy Burnette, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Sheila Gotchie, Office Manager*

October 23, 2018

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Adam Assenza
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Proposed Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption
Norman and Polk Counties, Minnesota
Docket No. AB 497 (Sub-No. 7X)
LL THPO No. 18-373-NCRI

Dear Mr. Assenza,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992, and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

I have reviewed the documentation. After careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any known recorded sites of religious or cultural importance in this area.

Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately: County Sheriff's Office and the Office of the State Archaeologist. If any human remains or culturally affiliated objects are inadvertently discovered, this will prompt the process to which the Band will become informed.

Please note the above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying us of concerns for a specific project, we may reenter into the consultation process.

You may contact me at (218) 335-2940 if you have questions regarding our review of this project. Please refer to the LL-THPO Number as stated above in all correspondence with this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Burnette

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Melissa Cerda, MN Indian Affairs Council, Cultural Resources Unit