



Minnesota
Historical Society

State Historic Preservation Office

October 17, 2008

Robert Whiting
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
190 5th Street East, Suite 401
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

Victoria Rutson
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Minnesota Steel Industries Butler Taconite Mine Reactivation
Itasca County
SHPO Number: 2005-2320PA

Dear Mr. Whiting and Ms. Rutson:

In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (and other parties) executed a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the above referenced project. In 2008, the Corps and the Surface Transportation Board (and other parties) executed Amendment #1 to that agreement.

Together, these two agreements call for the survey of ten project areas (five locations for project construction and mining operations, and five locations for associated infrastructure improvements).

The survey of the five locations for project construction and mining operations was completed by 10,000 Lakes Archaeology and Soils Consulting (August 27, 2007). It did not identify any National Register eligible historic properties. We concurred with the findings on 27 September 2007.

We have now received the survey of the rail line. The rail line is one of the five locations for associated infrastructure improvements. The survey was completed by Burns & McDonnell. The survey did not identify any National Register historic properties. We concur with the findings for the areas surveyed.

We do note that the cover letter to the survey of the rail line indicates that a portion of the rail route was changed after the survey was completed, and that the new area is part of Hill Annex State Park. The letter indicates that, although the new area was not included in the survey, observation of the new area during the survey did not identify any cultural resources. The letter indicates that the new routing is documented in correspondence among the Corps, the STB, and our office. We are unable to identify this correspondence. Because a portion of Hill Annex State Park is listed on the National Register as a historic district, we would like to consult with you further about this new area before the survey of the rail route can be considered complete.

ET-16014

We note that the surveys of the other four locations for associated infrastructure improvements (access road, natural gas pipeline, water and sanitary sewer service, and power transmission line) are yet to be submitted.

We look forward to working with you to complete this review. Contact us at 651-259-3456 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Gimmestad", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

cc: Steve Thornhill, Burns & McDonnell
Anne Ketz, The 106 Group
Amanda Gronhøvd, 10,000 Lakes Archaeology
Christy Hohman-Caine, Soils Consulting
Mark Mansich, Itasca County Regional Rail Authority
Dave Radford, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources/State Parks