

Agency Coordination



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

St. Paul District Corps of Engineers  
 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700  
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678

27 April 2012

Operations  
 Regulatory (2012-1328-DAS)

Ms. Anita Benson  
 Steele County Highway Department  
 635 Florence Avenue  
 Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

RECEIVED

APR 30 2012  
 STEELE COUNTY  
 HWY. DEPT.

Dear Ms. Benson:

We have reviewed the information about a project of the Steele County Highway Department to construct a new County Highway Operations Complex consisting of three buildings serving the Highway Department, Sheriff, Veterans Services, and Emergency Management storage. The work includes the grading of a 24 acre site to accommodate the planned project, storm water ponds, and a shelterbelt along the north and west property line. The project site is in the SW ¼, Sec. 5, T. 107N, R. 20W, Steele County, Minnesota.

The work proposed at the location stated is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. No work will be done in a navigable water of the United States, and no dredged or fill material, including that incidental to mechanical land clearing, will be discharged in any water of the United States, including wetlands. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit is not required to do this work.

This letter is valid only for the project referenced above. If any change in design, location, or purpose is contemplated, contact this office to avoid doing work that may be in violation of Federal law. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CONFIRMATION LETTER DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR STATE, LOCAL, OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR COUNTY.

The decision regarding this action is based on information found in the administrative record, which documents the District's decision-making process, the basis for the decision, and the final decision.

If you have any questions, contact David Studenski in our La Crescent Field office at (507) 895-2064. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

for Tamara E. Cameron  
 Chief, Regulatory Branch



## MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

600 North Robert Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 64620  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620

Voice: (651) 361-7900  
TTY: (651) 361-7878  
Fax: (651) 361-7936

April 17, 2012

Kris Busse, City Administrator  
Owatonna City Hall  
540 West Hills Circle  
Owatonna, MN 55060

VIA E-MAIL  
([kris.busse@ci.owatonna.mn.us](mailto:kris.busse@ci.owatonna.mn.us))

Docket Number: A-7794

City of Owatonna  
M.S. 414.033, Subd. 2(3)  
Ordinance No. 1482

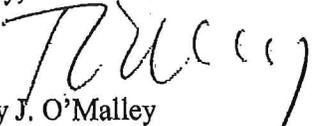
Dear Kris Busse:

On April 17, 2012, the Office of Administrative Hearings approved the above ordinance in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 414, and the Rules of Procedure. The annexation is final upon the date the ordinance is approved.

The law requires that a copy of the annexation ordinance must be delivered immediately by the governing body of the municipality to the appropriate county auditor or auditors, and filed with the township. We recommend that you also file the annexation ordinance with the County Recorder. ***This office will file a copy of the ordinance with the Secretary of State.*** However, you must now complete the election precinct boundary change process in coordination with the Office of the Secretary of State.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Star Holman at 651-361-7909 or [star.holman@state.mn.us](mailto:star.holman@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

  
Timothy J. O'Malley  
Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit

TJO:kjl

c: County Auditor ([laura.ihrike@co.steele.mn.us](mailto:laura.ihrike@co.steele.mn.us))  
Township Clerk  
State Demographer's Office ([jim.hibbs@state.mn.us](mailto:jim.hibbs@state.mn.us))  
Secretary of State (Interoffice)  
Troy Klecker, Community Development Director ([troy.klecker@ci.owatonna.mn.us](mailto:troy.klecker@ci.owatonna.mn.us))

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



## *Division of Ecological and Water Resources (EWR)*

2300 Silver Creek Road Northeast • Rochester, MN 55906 • 507/206-2851

April 12, 2012

Ms. Anita Benson  
anita.benson@co.steele.mn.us  
Steele County Highway Department  
635 Florence Avenue  
Owatonna, MN 55060

Dear Ms. Benson:

Re: Proposed New Steele County Highway Operations Facility  
SW ¼ Sec. 5, T107N, R20W, UTM: Easting 478876 Northing 4882635, Steele County  
Cannon River Watershed, #39

From my brief review of your plans, I note that you are moving out of the facility that is currently located in the mapped floodplain and relocating to a new facility outside of the mapped floodplain. Is there any work being proposed that would be associated with public waters at the current facility? If not, I do not see any need for a public waters permit from the Department of Natural Resources, EWR.

Remember, you are not released from any rules, regulations, requirements, or standards of any applicable federal, state, or local agencies; including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (St. Paul District; Army Corps of Engineers Centre; 190 5th Street East; St. Paul, MN 55101-1638), Board of Water and Soil Resources, MN Pollution Control Agency, watershed district, water management organizations, county, city and township zoning.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the above phone number or address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy J. Bradt".

Randy Bradt, Area Hydrologist

RB/sd

RECEIVED

APR 13 2012

STEELE COUNTY  
HWY. DEPT.

cc: Dale Oolman, Steele County Planning and Zoning  
David Studenski, COE, Regulatory Branch  
Jaime Edwards, DNR EWR  
Brent Ihnen, DNR Enforcement  
Jeanine Vorland, DNR Wildlife

Dan Arndt, Steele County SWCD  
Rob Collett, DNR EWR  
DNR EWR Central Office  
TJ DeBates, DNR Fisheries



# Minnesota Local/State/Federal Application Form for Water/Wetland Projects

For Internal Use Only

Application No.	Field Office Code	Date Initial Application Received	Date initial Application Deemed Complete
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## PART I: BASIC APPLICATION

"See HELP" directs you to important additional information and assistance in Instructions, Page 1.

### 1. LANDOWNER/APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION (See Help 1)

Name: Anita L. Benson, Steele County Engineer Phone: 507.444.7671 E-mail: anita.benson@co.steele.mn.us  
 Complete mailing address: 635 Florence Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060

### 1A. AUTHORIZED AGENT (See Help 1A) (Only if applicable; an agent is not required)

Name: Phone: E-mail:  
 Complete mailing address:

### 2. NAME, TYPE AND SIZE OF PUBLIC WATERS or WETLANDS IMPACTED (Attach Additional Project Area sheets if needed)

Name or I.D. # of Waters Impacted (if applicable; if known): ?  
 (Check all that apply):  Lake  River  Circular 39 Wetland type:  1,  1L,  2,  3,  4,  5,  6,  7,  8  
 Wetland plant community type<sup>1</sup>:  shallow open water,  deep marsh,  shallow marsh,  sedge meadow,  fresh meadow,  
 wet to wet-mesic prairie,  calcareous fen,  open bog or coniferous bog,  shrub-carr/alder thicket,  
 hardwood swamp or coniferous swamp,  floodplain forest,  seasonally flooded basin  
 Indicate size of entire lake or wetland (check one):  Less than 10 acres (indicate size: )  10 to 40 acres  Greater than 40 acres

### 3. PROJECT LOCATION (Information can be found on property tax statement, property title or title insurance):

Project street address: N/A Farmland Fire #: City (if applicable):  
 1/4 Section: SW Section: 5 Township #: T107N Range #: R20W County: Steele  
 Lot #: Block: Subdivision: Watershed (39042PT8) UTM location: N 4882635.9328 E 478876.4083

Attach a simple site locator map. If needed, include on the map written directions to the site from a known location or landmark, and provide distances from known locations. Label the sheet *SITE LOCATOR MAP*.

### 4. TYPE OF PROJECT: Describe the type of proposed work. Attach TYPE OF PROJECT sheet if needed.

Construction of a New County Highway Operations Complex consisting of three buildings serving Highway Department, Sheriff, Veteran Services, and Emergency Management Storage 7 Operational needs.

### 5. PROJECT PURPOSE, DESCRIPTION AND DIMENSIONS: Describe what you plan to do and why it is needed, how you plan to construct the project with dimensions (length, width, depth), area of impact, and when you propose to construct the project. This is the most important part of your application. See HELP 5 before completing this section; see What To Include on Plans (Instructions, page 1). Attach PROJECT DESCRIPTION sheet.

The purpose of the project is to construct facility described in No. 4 above. The entire land area owned by the County is 45 acres of which approx. 24 acres is planned to be graded to accommodate the planned project and construct storm water ponds to control site runoff. Shelterbelt along the North and West property line along with native prairie grass planting will be completed in collaboration with the local SWCB.  
 Footprint of project: 24 acres or square feet drained, filled or excavated.

### 6. PROJECT ALTERNATIVES: What alternatives to this proposed project have you considered that would avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands or waters? List at least TWO additional alternatives to your project in Section 5 that avoid wetlands (one of which may be "no build" or "do nothing"), and explain why you chose to pursue the option described in this application over these alternatives. Attach PROJECT ALTERNATIVES sheet if needed.

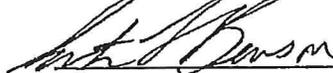
No wetlands identified.

### 7. ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS: For projects that impact more than 10,000 square feet of water or wetlands, list the complete mailing addresses of adjacent property owners on an attached separate sheet. (See HELP 7) N/A

### 8. PORTION OF WORK COMPLETED: Is any portion of the work in wetland or water areas already completed? Yes No. If yes, describe the completed work on a separate sheet of paper labeled WORK ALREADY COMPLETED. (See HELP 8)

### 9. STATUS OF OTHER APPROVALS: List any other permits, reviews or approvals related to this proposed project that are either pending or have already been approved or denied on a separate attached sheet. See HELP 9.

10. I am applying for state and local authorization to conduct the work described in this application. I am familiar with the information contained in this application. To the best of my knowledge and belief, all information in Part I is true, complete, and accurate. I possess the authority to undertake the work described, or I am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

  
 Signature of applicant (Landowner)

4-4-12  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of agent (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

This block must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity and has the necessary property rights to do so. If only the Agent has signed, please attach a separate sheet signed by the landowner, giving necessary authorization to the Agent.



**From:** [Bump, Samantha \(DNR\)](#)  
**To:** [Laura Messman](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NHIS Data Request  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 11:27:35 AM

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Hi Laura,

I have reviewed the NHIS regarding the Steele County Public Works Facility project. There are no new records in the vicinity of the project. As such, the previous Natural Heritage findings of "No Effect" is still valid.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a great day,  
Samantha Bump  
NHIS Review Specialist  
(651) 259-5091  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155

[samantha.bump@state.mn.us](mailto:samantha.bump@state.mn.us)  
[www.mndnr.gov/eco](http://www.mndnr.gov/eco)

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**From:** Laura Messman [mailto:LMessman@wsbeng.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:36 PM  
**To:** \*NHIS, Review (DNR)  
**Subject:** NHIS Data Request

Hello,

I would like to submit a data request for my project. Please let me know if you need further information.

Thanks,

**Laura Messman**  
Intern  
d: 763-762-2833 | c: 612-749-5816  
WSB & Associates, Inc. | 701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300 | Minneapolis, MN 55416



**FEMA**

**Memorandum to:** File  
  
**From:** Nicholas Mueller, Regional Environmental Officer  
**Date:** 11/23/2015  
**Subject:** Section 7 Endangered Species Act Consultation – Steele County Public Works Facility  
– Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has completed an environmental review for the construction of a public works facility, storage yard, fueling facility, stormwater detention, and ancillary roads/parking and security fencing on approximately 45 acres located at 44° 5' 51.58" N, 93° 15' 51.13" W Township 107N, Range 20W, Section 5, in Steele County, Minnesota. Project will include ground disturbance approximately 5 to 15 feet in depth at various locations throughout the 45 acres. In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a review of the potential impacts to federally listed endangered, threatened and candidate species has been completed. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife technical assistance website, the following federally listed species are known to occur in Steele County: Northern long-eared bat (threatened) and Dwarf trout lily (endangered).

The proposed site consists of maintained agriculture land to the northwest of the City of Owatonna. The nearest identified watercourse, Crane Creek, is located approximately 1 mile west of the proposed project site. No wetlands, natural prairies, forest lands or floodplains exist in the proposed project area. No suitable habitat for the federally listed endangered or threatened species is present at the proposed project location.

Based on the site description and project activity, the Proposed Action for Steele County will have "no effect" on the listed species, their habitats or proposed or designated critical habitat.



FEMA

October 30, 2015

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs & Compliance  
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota State Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

Re: Steele County Highway Department Complex, Improved Project, Steele County  
DR-1941-MN, PWs 939, 941, 947, 952, and 959  
Existing Complex 828 Hoffman Drive, Owatonna, MN  
Proposed Complex GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W

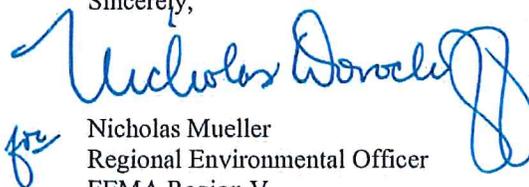
Dear Ms. Beimers:

Pursuant to the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, I am writing this letter to initiate and conclude consultation regarding the captioned Public Assistance grant project.

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.11, I am enclosing documentation regarding the proposed undertaking and its effect on historic properties. The documentation provides the justification for FEMA's finding of no adverse effect on historic properties; the purpose of this communication is to seek concurrence in that finding.

Please provide your final response by fax, email or mail. Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3(c)(4), if we receive no response from your office within thirty (30) days, we will assume your concurrence with our findings. For your convenience, we have included a response area below. If you have questions or comments please contact me at 312-408-5438 or at [Nicholas.Mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Mueller@fema.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas Mueller". To the left of the signature is a small blue "for" written vertically. To the right is a large blue flourish.

Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures

+++++++You may fax this page to 312-408-5551, attn: Nicholas Mueller+++++++

Re: Steele County Highway Department Complex, Improved Project Retaining Walls Repairs, Steele County (DR-1941-MN, PWs 939, 941, 947, 952, and 959)

- Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office *concur*s with FEMA's determination that the captioned project will result in *no adverse effect on historic properties*.
  
- Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office *object*s to FEMA's determination that the captioned project will result in *no adverse effect on historic properties* for the reasons provided below:

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Sarah J. Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs & Compliance

---

Date

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA, Region V  
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security  
536 South Clark Street, Floor 6  
Chicago, IL 60605

Re: FEMA DR-1941-MN, PWs 939, 941, 947, 952, 959  
Steele County Highway Department Complex, Improved Project  
Owatonna, Steele County  
SHPO No. 2016-0380

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Thank you for the opportunity comment on the above project. Information received on 3 November 2015 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

It is our understanding that the Federal undertaking involves construction of a new operations complex for the Steele County Highway Department which would also include eventual rehabilitation or removal of the existing operations building complex.

We have completed our review of your submittal dated 10/30/2015 which included your agency's determination of the area of potential effect (APE), historic property identification efforts, and assessment of effect for the Federal undertaking. Unfortunately we do not feel that we have been provided sufficient documentation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(e), specifically in regards to the identification of historic properties within the APE for the proposed new complex, in order to concur with your agency's "no adverse effect" determination. Our comments and recommendations are provided below.

**Area of Potential Effect**

We agree that the APE determination, as described in your narrative on page 2, is generally appropriate to take into account the potential direct and indirect effects of the proposed undertaking as we currently understand it. As the project's scope of work is further defined, or if it is significantly altered from the current scope, additional consultation with our office may be necessary in order to revise the current APE for the existing complex.

We agree that the proposed APE for potential direct effects at the proposed new complex is appropriate to take into account the potential direct effects caused by the proposed undertaking, which will involve new facility construction, although we would argue that the outlot outlined in orange on the maps on page 3 of your submittal letter may also be considered within the APE for direct effects. Unfortunately, we have not been provided sufficient information regarding the National Register of Historic Places

(NRHP) evaluation for the Ludwig Bartsch House (Field Number BC43), which is located within this outlot, to be able to determine its eligibility and character-defining features, which may or may not include associated farm fields.

#### **Historic Property Identification**

We have completed a review of your agency's efforts in regards to identifying historic properties at the existing highway department operations complex and the proposed new operations site. We have also reviewed the report entitled *Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility, Hoffman Drive, Owatonna, Steel County Minnesota* (Blondo Consulting, September 17, 2015). Our comments are outlined below.

#### **Archaeological Resources**

We agree with your agency's determination that for the existing complex there are no identified archaeological resources and the potential for intact archaeological resources is low. For the proposed new complex, no significant archaeological resources were identified through the pedestrian survey and we agree that no further archaeological investigation is warranted.

#### **Architecture/History Resources**

For the existing complex, we agree with your agency's finding and determination that the Main Highway Department Building and Shop Building, the two structures that are over fifty years old within the complex, are not eligible for listing in the NRHP either as individual properties or as part of a historic district. We request that your agency submit final inventory forms for these two properties. The inventory forms will need to include inventory numbers, as assigned by our Survey and Inventory Coordinator, and location maps in addition to the site plans.

For the proposed complex, the Report appears to meet some, but not all, of the requirements for a Phase I Reconnaissance Survey of architecture/history properties within the APE. We request that your agency, or Federal applicant, finalize and re-submit the *Minnesota Architecture History Inventory Forms* with appropriate inventory numbers which must be assigned by our office's Survey and Inventory Coordinator.

We do not consider this survey sufficient for purposes of determining the NRHP eligibility of two (2) identified potential historic properties:

- **Ludwig Bartsch House** (Field # BC43), 3122 Hoffman Drive Northwest
- **Hamlet** (Field # BC73), 3534 Hoffman Drive Northwest

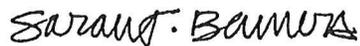
We agree with the Report's recommendations that these two properties should be evaluated for listing in the NRHP. We recommend that this evaluation be prepared in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Evaluation* (Standards) and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office's *Guidelines for History/Architecture Projects in Minnesota*. The evaluation must include a determination of NRHP eligibility and, at a minimum:

- Classification of the property as a district, site, building, structure, or object;
- Determination of the associated historic context(s) of the property;

- Determination and documentation if the property is significant within NRHP Criteria A, B, C and/or D;
- Recommendation for a period of significance and boundary for the historic property;
- Determination of whether the property retains historic integrity to convey its significance.

We look forward to continuing consultation on this project and expect that we will be able to consult with your agency regarding assessment of effects once the documentation regarding historic property status is resolved through additional evaluation. Please feel free to contact me to discuss comments and recommendations included in this letter, or next steps. I may be reached by phone at 651-259-3456 or via e-mail at [sarah.beimers@mnhs.org](mailto:sarah.beimers@mnhs.org).

Sincerely,



Sarah Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: Steven Blondo, Blondo Consulting (email)



**FEMA**

February 1, 2016

Sarah Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs & Compliance  
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota State Historical Society  
345 West Kellogg Boulevard  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

Re: Steele County Highway Department Complex, Improved Project  
SHPO No. 2016-0380 (DR-1941-MN, PWs 939, 941, 947, 952, and 959)

Dear Ms. Beimers:

Pursuant to the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, I am writing this letter to continue and conclude consultation regarding the captioned Public Assistance project.

In response to documentation FEMA submitted dated October 30, 2015, you requested additional information. Enclosed find a copy of the updated cultural resources assessment prepared by Blondo Consulting LLC, which includes the updated survey forms. In light of the information provided therein, we have revised FEMA's determinations of eligibility and findings regarding this undertaking. In accordance with 36 CFR §800.11, I am enclosing documentation which, in combination with materials previously submitted, provides justification for FEMA's finding that this undertaking will result in no historic properties affected; the purpose of this communication is to seek concurrence in that finding.

We look forward to your response to FEMA's finding. Please provide your final response by fax, email or mail. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), if we receive no response from your office within thirty (30) days, we will consider FEMA's responsibilities under Section 106 fulfilled and will move forward with this undertaking.

For your convenience, we have included a response area below. If you have questions or comments please contact me at 312-408-5438 or at [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures:

+++++++You may fax this page to 312-408-5551, attn: Nicholas Mueller+++++++

Re: Steele County Highway Department Complex, Improved Project  
SHPO No. 2016-0380 (DR-1941-MN, PWs 939, 941, 947, 952, and 959)

- Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office *concurs* with FEMA's determination that the captioned undertaking will result in *no historic properties affected*.
- Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office *objects* to FEMA's determination that the captioned undertaking will result in *no historic properties affected* for the reasons listed below:

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Sarah Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs & Compliance  
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

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Date



**FEMA**

February 1, 2016

—Addendum—

*SHPO No. 2016-0380*

*Improved Project Steele County Highway Department*

*FEMA-1941-DR-MN PWs 939, 941, 947, 952, 959*

*Steele County, Minnesota*

*Existing Complex 828 Hoffman Drive, Owatonna, MN*

*Proposed Complex GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W*

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**Description of  
Undertaking and  
APE:**

See original project description in documentation dated October 30, 2015.

The description of the area of potential effects (APE), as defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), is hereby amended. For the proposed project complex, the APE for direct effects has been determined to include the lot on which the Ludwig Bartch House is located. Although this parcel is not owned by the county, it is surrounded on three sides by county-owned property on which the complex is to be constructed. This adjustment to the APE for the proposed complex is reflected on the enclosed revised maps, which should replace the maps dated October 30, 2015. This adjustment does not affect the previously-defined APE for the existing complex.

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**Steps Taken to  
Identify Historic  
Properties:**

See documentation dated October 30, 2015, for the original assessment of properties. In addition to the information provided there, FEMA has worked with the subrecipient to secure additional information as follows:

*Amendment to the Minnesota Architectural History Inventory Forms:*

All forms previously submitted are included in here, along with the updated Cultural Resources Assessment<sup>1</sup>. The forms have been updated to include inventory numbers provided by the Minnesota SHPO Survey and Inventory Coordinator.

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<sup>1</sup> Blondo, Steven, Kelly Wolf and Laura Koski, Blondo Consulting, LLC. A Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility Hoffman Drive, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota, Final Report. January 22, 2016.

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***Further assessment of the Ludwig Bartsch House and Hamlet:***

The revised survey form for the Ludwig Bartsch House (ST-OWA-402) includes additional historic information and notes a historic context for dairy and livestock farming between 1900 and 1940. The house and other outbuildings on the property have been moved a number of times since their construction in the early 20th Century, making the three portal barn the only structure having integrity of location. The survey form notes that the house itself lacks integrity due to extensive alterations. The building has been converted to a duplex, and photos included in the survey report along with information from the Steele County Assessor's office<sup>2</sup> suggest modifications include replacement windows and show the construction of a 12' by 16' deck at the rear of the house. Aerial views show an above ground pool with attached deck extending from the deck on the rear of the house. As noted in the survey form, changes like these preclude the house's eligibility for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Changes to the other structures on the parcel include extensive modifications to the barn, the construction and demolition of a number of buildings between 1938 and 1964, and the relocation and modification of a granary for use as a storage shed. The survey form includes reference to atlases and plat books that would illustrate the original extent of the farmstead and associated fields; however, such analysis is unnecessary in light of the changes to the home and other structures on the property that prevent it from illustrating the composition and functioning of a dairy or livestock farm during the early 20th Century.

Hamlet (ST-OWA-405) is the name given to a collection of houses and outbuildings standing less than ¼ mile west of the Bartsch House, within the ½ mile APE for indirect effects. This group of buildings includes six houses, two converted Quonset buildings, a barn, shed and a garage, all with successive periods of construction between 1900 and 1976.

In addition to information previously provided, the updated Cultural Resources Assessment includes a revised survey form for Hamlet, citing the Railroads and Agricultural Development context (1870-1940). The descriptions of the buildings previously provided, along with the information on the revised survey form, show that this collection of buildings does not include significant structures dating to the farm's establishment by George Morford in the 1850s. Of nine buildings extant in 1938, only three still stand. Acquired by the Owatonna Canning Company in 1968, some of Hamlet's buildings were adapted for use by the company or new buildings were constructed; however, seven buildings dating to this period were removed sometime before 1991. The remaining properties either lack integrity due to changes in design and materials, or have been constructed after 1966, therefore not meeting

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<sup>2</sup> Steele County Assessor < <http://steele.minnesotaassessors.com/parcel.php?gid=289420>>, accessed January 29, 2016.

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the age criterion for listing. These facts support the contention that Hamlet, although connected to the history of the area through its original owners and its role in the development of a prominent canning concern, does not retain sufficient historic resources or the integrity to represent the history of either the Morford farm or the period during which it was part of the Owatonna Canning Company.

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**Determination  
of Eligibility:**

FEMA's previous determination of eligibility for the buildings in the current Owatonna Municipal complex remains unchanged.

However, based on the information provided here, in addition to the assessment previously submitted, FEMA has determined that the *Ludwig Bartsch House (ST-OWA-402) and Hamlet (ST-OWA-405) are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.*

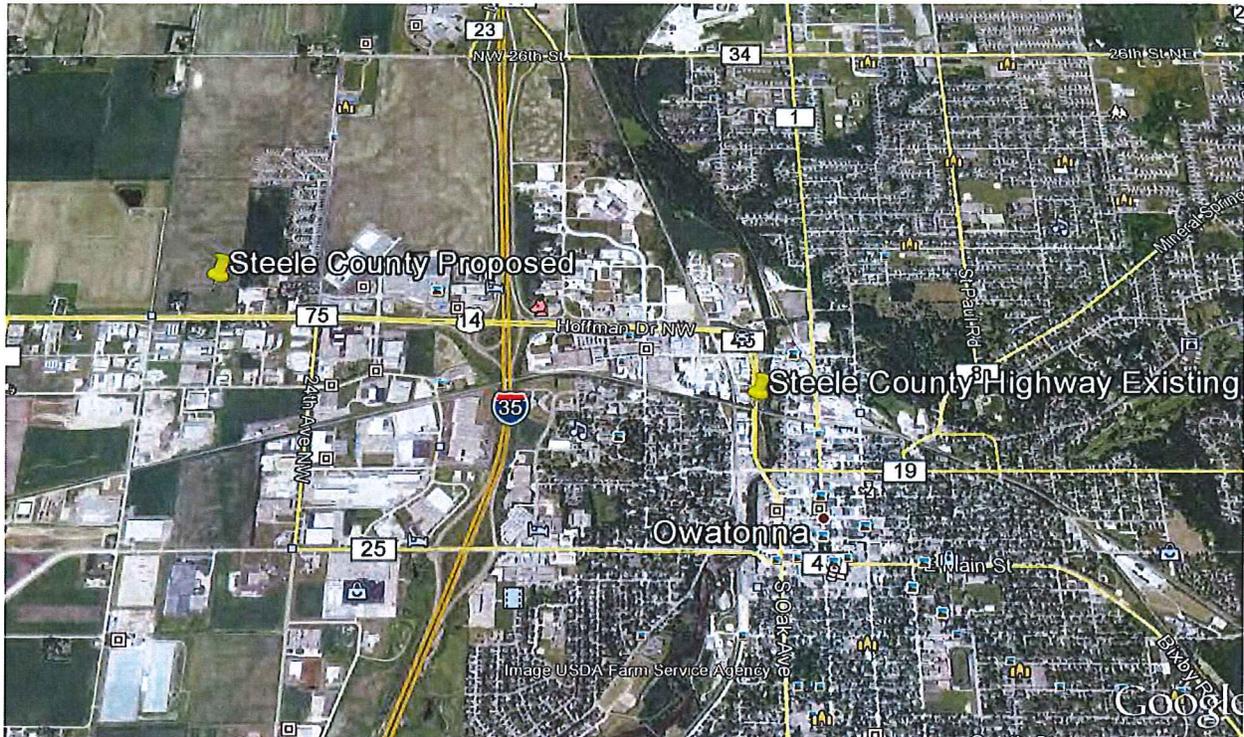
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**Finding:**

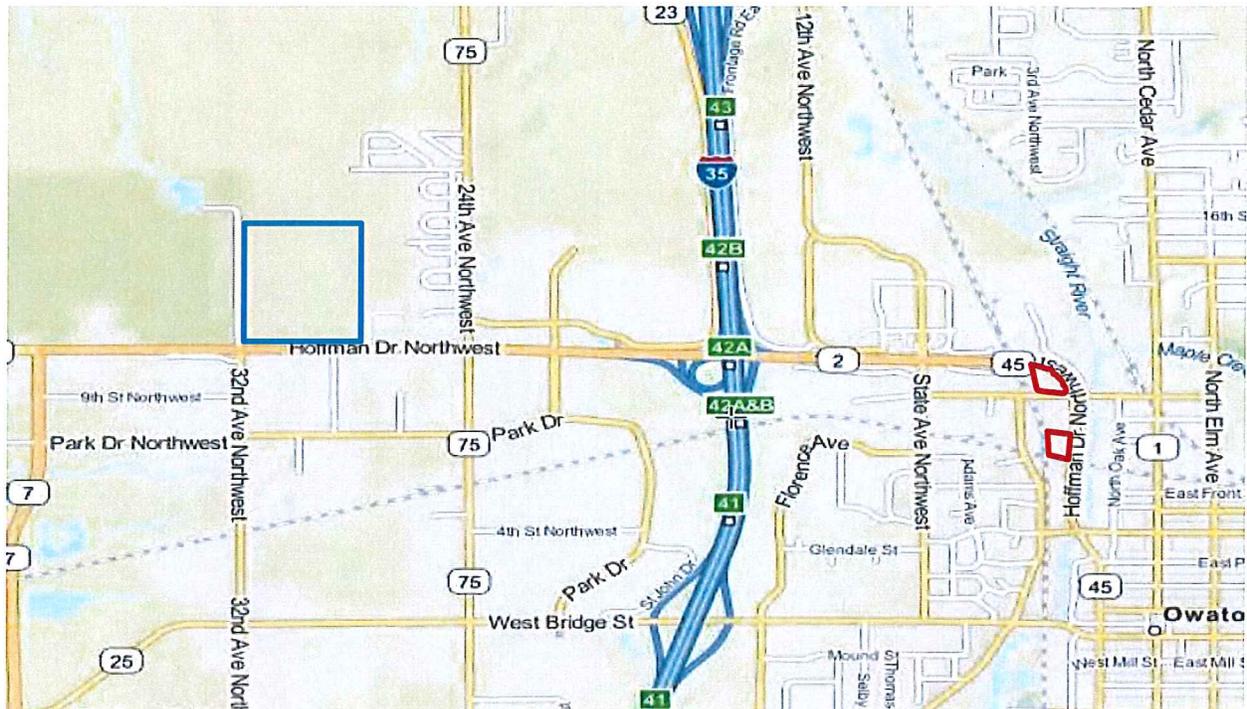
Based on the revised determinations of eligibility provided above and materials previously presented, FEMA rescinds the finding provided on October 30, 2015.

Based on the information provided here, along with the materials previously submitted, FEMA finds that this undertaking will result in *no historic properties affected.*

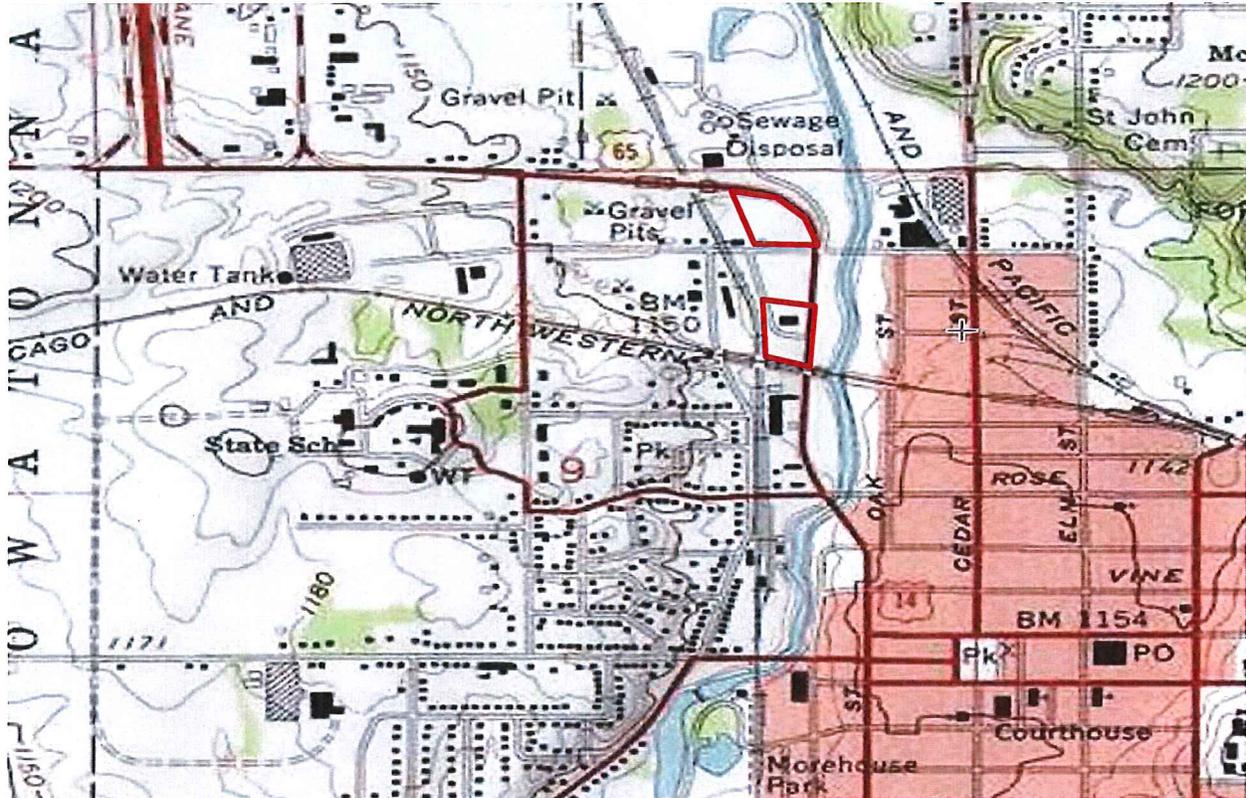
Steele County Highway Department Complex Proposed Improved Project Location in Relationship to Existing Steele County Highway Department Complex.



Steele County Highway Department Complex Proposed Improved Project in blue in Relationship to Existing Steele County Highway Department Complex in red.



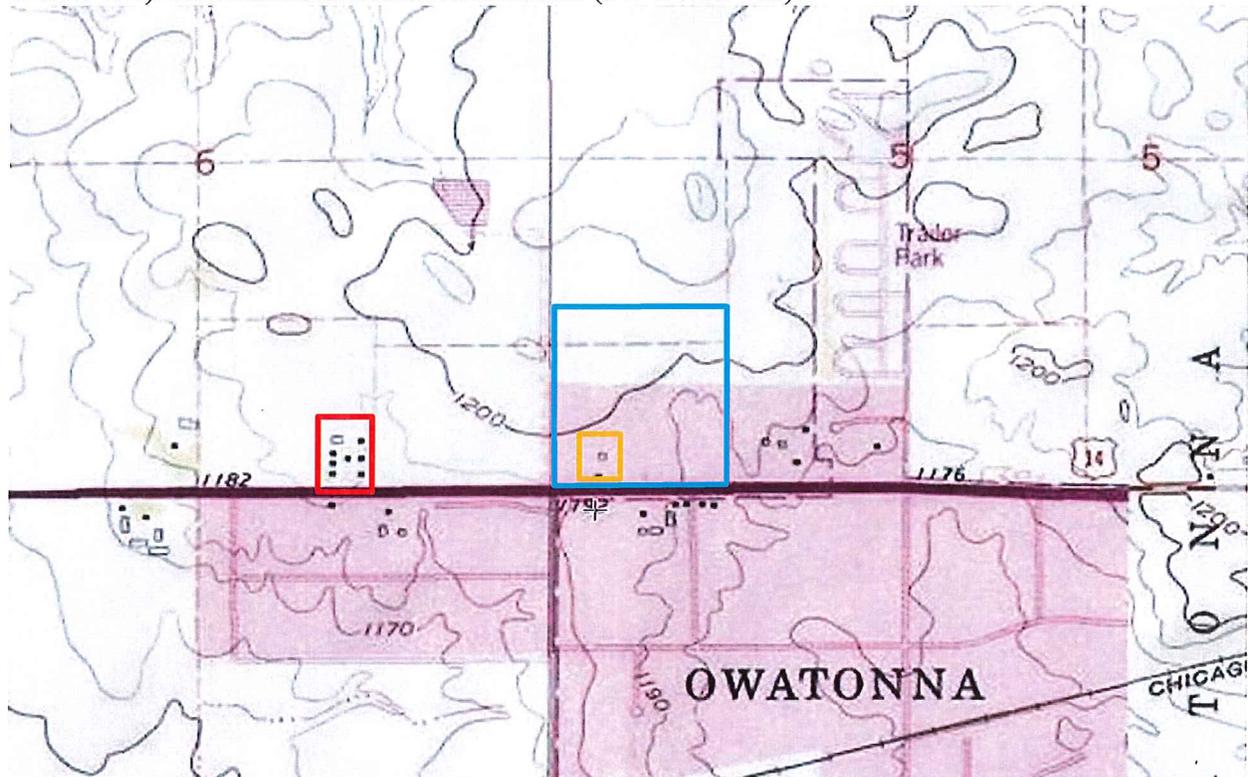
USGS Map "Saco" 1:24000, enlarged to show detail. Steele County Highway Department Existing Complex discontinuous Area of Potential Effect in red.



Steele County Highway Department Existing Complex discontinuous Area of Potential Effect in Red.



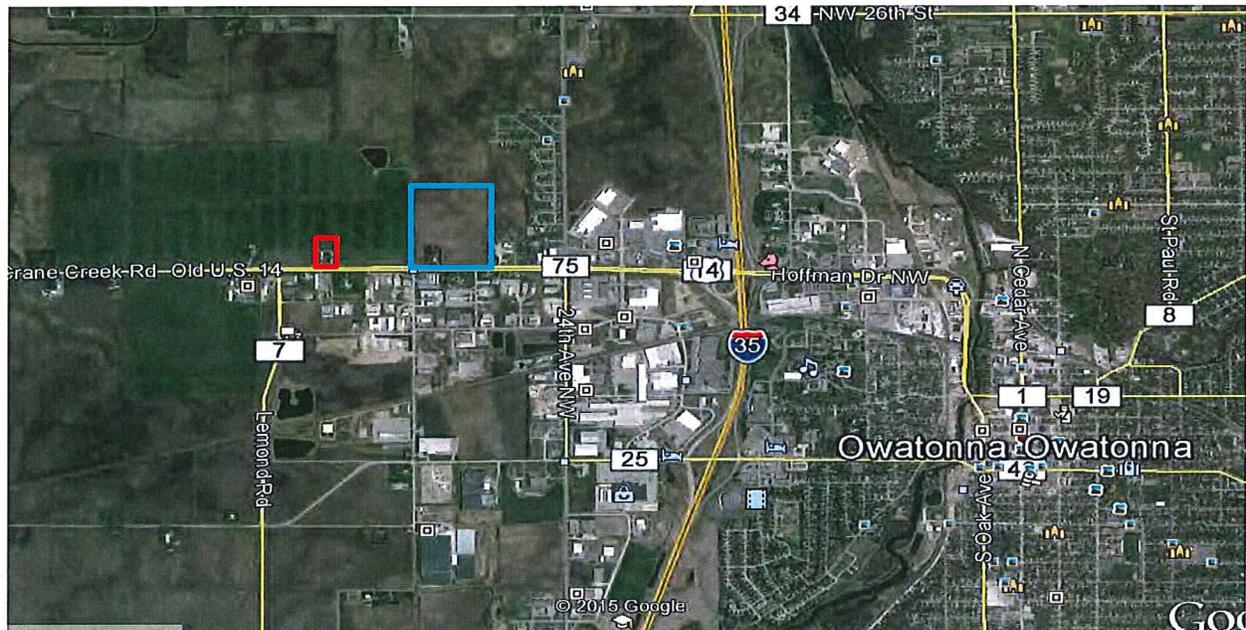
USGS Map "Saco" 1:24000, enlarged to show detail and Google Earth Aerial. Steele County Highway Department Improved Project Complex area of potential effect in blue. Orange indicates parcel not owned by the county on which is located the Ludwig Bartch House (ST-OWA-402). Red indicates Hamlet Farmstead (ST-OWA-405).



View of the parcel containing the Ludwig Bartsch House (GoogleEarth Aerial).



Steele County Highway Department Complex Overall Context Map.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA, Region V  
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security  
536 South Clark Street, Floor 6  
Chicago, IL 60605

Re: FEMA DR-1941-MN, PWs 939, 941, 947, 952, 959  
Steele County Highway Department Complex, Improved Project  
Owatonna, Steele County  
SHPO No. 2016-0380

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Thank you for continuing consultation on the above project. Information received on 8 February 2016 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

The Federal undertaking involves construction of a new operations complex for the Steele County Highway Department which would also include eventual rehabilitation or removal of the existing operations building complex.

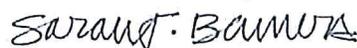
We have completed our review of your agency's revised Section 106 findings as indicated in your letter dated 2/1/2016 including the addendum narrative and revised history/architecture survey forms and report. We concur with your agency's determination that the following properties are **not eligible** for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):

- Ludwig Bartsch House (ST-OWA-402)
- Hamlet (ST-OWA-405)

Therefore, taking into account historic property identification efforts within the area of potential effect which were completed earlier, as well as these additional evaluations, we concur with your agency's determination that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking, as currently proposed.

Please contact our Compliance Section at 651-259-3455 with any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,



Sarah Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs and Compliance



**FEMA**

October 21, 2015

Samuel H. Allen, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota  
P.O. Box 283  
Flandreau, South Dakota 57028

Re: Improved Project Request Steele County Highway Department  
DR-1941 PWs 939, 941, 947, 952 and 959, Steele County, Minnesota  
Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility,  
GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W

Dear Mr. Allen:

The purpose of this communication is to provide background regarding the captioned undertaking and to invite comment on any potential impacts in areas traditionally used by or sacred to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota or other Native American groups.

As a result of severe storms and flooding affecting areas of the State of Minnesota, President Obama signed the 1941-DR-MN Disaster Declaration on October 13, 2010. Under this declaration, the following counties were eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program funding: Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmstead, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona and Yellow Medicine.

FEMA notified resident and non-resident tribes of the disaster declaration on October 22, 2010. FEMA invited comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota and other Native American groups. No Tribal Nations expressed an interest in any of the counties or in Steele County in response to FEMA's invitation for comments. As an outcome of March 2012 USACE Tribal Consultation Training in Chicago, the Ho-Chunk Nation indicated an interest in Steele County, Minnesota and are included in this improved project consultation.

On June 5, 2015 the Steele County Highway Department, the subgrantee, submitted an Improved Project request to FEMA to construct a new operations complex consisting of site grading, storm

water ponds, underground utilities, access road, building pad construction, stand-alone salt/sand storage hoop structure along with a brine building, fueling facility and a new public works building. All forty-five acres targeted for the new complex are cultivated farmland and are not considered to be previously disturbed soils.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that the improved project constituted a federally-assisted undertaking, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Therefore, a Cultural Resource Assessment was requested of the subgrantee by FEMA prior to construction. The Cultural Resource Assessment resulted in a finding of no archaeological resources encountered within the forty-five acres surveyed and no historic properties within the direct area of potential effect. Two previously unidentified potentially eligible architectural properties, the Ludwig Barsch House (1918) and the Hamlet farmstead (1900 and 1976), were identified within ½ mile of the proposed public works complex. Both these architectural properties are not within the direct area of potential effect, mature vegetation surrounding these make indirect visual effects limited and resulted in a FEMA overall finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Copies of the cultural resource assessment are available upon request from FEMA. FEMA submitted a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrently with Tribal Nation consultation.

FEMA recognizes the special and unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal Government and federally-recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes). FEMA also recognizes that Tribes may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties located on aboriginal, ancestral or ceded lands that are not contiguous with reservation lands. For this reason, FEMA consults with Tribes regarding the possible effects of FEMA-funded undertakings on cultural properties of historic or traditional significance, referred to as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

We invite your comments on the potential impacts the Steele County Highway Department operations complex may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county:

- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
- Santee Sioux Tribe
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota
- Ho-Chunk Nation

Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an interest in the

area of potential effect and the improved project request would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the areas noted on the enclosed map.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties having cultural importance, do not hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures



**FEMA**

October 21, 2015

Richard Thomas, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Santee Sioux Tribe  
108 Spirit Lake Avenue West  
Niobara, Nebraska 68760

Re: Improved Project Request Steele County Highway Department  
DR-1941 PWs 939, 941, 947, 952 and 959, Steele County, Minnesota  
Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility,  
GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The purpose of this communication is to provide background regarding the captioned undertaking and to invite comment on any potential impacts in areas traditionally used by or sacred to the Santee Sioux Tribe or other Native American groups.

As a result of severe storms and flooding affecting areas of the State of Minnesota, President Obama signed the 1941-DR-MN Disaster Declaration on October 13, 2010. Under this declaration, the following counties were eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program funding: Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmstead, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona and Yellow Medicine.

FEMA notified resident and non-resident tribes of the disaster declaration on October 22, 2010. FEMA invited comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Santee Sioux Tribe and other Native American groups. No Tribal Nations expressed an interest in any of the counties or in Steele County in response to FEMA's invitation for comments. As an outcome of March 2012 USACE Tribal Consultation Training in Chicago, the Ho-Chunk Nation indicated an interest in Steele County, Minnesota and are included in this improved project consultation.

On June 5, 2015 the Steele County Highway Department, the subgrantee, submitted an Improved Project request to FEMA to construct a new operations complex consisting of site grading, storm

water ponds, underground utilities, access road, building pad construction, stand-alone salt/sand storage hoop structure along with a brine building, fueling facility and a new public works building. All forty-five acres targeted for the new complex are cultivated farmland and are not considered to be previously disturbed soils.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that the improved project constituted a federally-assisted undertaking, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Therefore, a Cultural Resource Assessment was requested of the subgrantee by FEMA prior to construction. The Cultural Resource Assessment resulted in a finding of no archaeological resources encountered within the forty-five acres surveyed and no historic properties within the direct area of potential effect. Two previously unidentified potentially eligible architectural properties, the Ludwig Barsch House (1918) and the Hamlet farmstead (1900 and 1976), were identified within ½ mile of the proposed public works complex. Both these architectural properties are not within the direct area of potential effect, mature vegetation surrounding these make indirect visual effects limited and resulted in a FEMA overall finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Copies of the cultural resource assessment are available upon request from FEMA. FEMA submitted a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrently with Tribal Nation consultation.

FEMA recognizes the special and unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal Government and federally-recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes). FEMA also recognizes that Tribes may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties located on aboriginal, ancestral or ceded lands that are not contiguous with reservation lands. For this reason, FEMA consults with Tribes regarding the possible effects of FEMA-funded undertakings on cultural properties of historic or traditional significance, referred to as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

We invite your comments on the potential impacts the Steele County Highway Department operations complex may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Santee Sioux Tribe or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county:

- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
- Santee Sioux Tribe
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota
- Ho-Chunk Nation

Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Santee Sioux Tribe, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an interest in the area of potential effect and

the improved project request would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the areas noted on the enclosed map.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties having cultural importance, do not hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Santee Sioux Tribe and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures



**FEMA**

October 21, 2015

Charles Vig, Chairman  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372-9077

Re: Improved Project Request Steele County Highway Department  
DR-1941 PWs 939, 941, 947, 952 and 959, Steele County, Minnesota  
Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility,  
GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W

Dear Chairman Vig:

The purpose of this communication is to provide background regarding the captioned undertaking and to invite comment on any potential impacts in areas traditionally used by or sacred to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota or other Native American groups.

As a result of severe storms and flooding affecting areas of the State of Minnesota, President Obama signed the 1941-DR-MN Disaster Declaration on October 13, 2010. Under this declaration, the following counties were eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program funding: Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmstead, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona and Yellow Medicine.

FEMA notified resident and non-resident tribes of the disaster declaration on October 22, 2010. FEMA invited comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota and other Native American groups. No Tribal Nations expressed an interest in any of the counties or in Steele County in response to FEMA's invitation for comments. As an outcome of March 2012 USACE Tribal Consultation Training in Chicago, the Ho-Chunk Nation indicated an interest in Steele County, Minnesota and are included in this improved project consultation.

On June 5, 2015 the Steele County Highway Department, the subgrantee, submitted an Improved Project request to FEMA to construct a new operations complex consisting of site grading, storm

water ponds, underground utilities, access road, building pad construction, stand-alone salt/sand storage hoop structure along with a brine building, fueling facility and a new public works building. All forty-five acres targeted for the new complex are cultivated farmland and are not considered to be previously disturbed soils.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that the improved project constituted a federally-assisted undertaking, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Therefore, a Cultural Resource Assessment was requested of the subgrantee by FEMA prior to construction. The Cultural Resource Assessment resulted in a finding of no archaeological resources encountered within the forty-five acres surveyed and no historic properties within the direct area of potential effect. Two previously unidentified potentially eligible architectural properties, the Ludwig Barsch House (1918) and the Hamlet farmstead (1900 and 1976), were identified within ½ mile of the proposed public works complex. Both these architectural properties are not within the direct area of potential effect, mature vegetation surrounding these make indirect visual effects limited and resulted in a FEMA overall finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Copies of the cultural resource assessment are available upon request from FEMA. FEMA submitted a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrently with Tribal Nation consultation.

FEMA recognizes the special and unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal Government and federally-recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes). FEMA also recognizes that Tribes may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties located on aboriginal, ancestral or ceded lands that are not contiguous with reservation lands. For this reason, FEMA consults with Tribes regarding the possible effects of FEMA-funded undertakings on cultural properties of historic or traditional significance, referred to as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

We invite your comments on the potential impacts the Steele County Highway Department operations complex may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county:

- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
- Santee Sioux Tribe
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota
- Ho-Chunk Nation

Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an

interest in the area of potential effect and the improved project request would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the areas noted on the enclosed map.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties having cultural importance, do not hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures



**FEMA**

October 21, 2015

Marlow LaBatte, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota  
P.O. Box 147  
Granite Falls, Minnesota 56241-0147

Re: Improved Project Request Steele County Highway Department  
DR-1941 PWs 939, 941, 947, 952 and 959, Steele County, Minnesota  
Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility,  
GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W

Dear Mr. LaBatte:

The purpose of this communication is to provide background regarding the captioned undertaking and to invite comment on any potential impacts in areas traditionally used by or sacred to the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota or other Native American groups.

As a result of severe storms and flooding affecting areas of the State of Minnesota, President Obama signed the 1941-DR-MN Disaster Declaration on October 13, 2010. Under this declaration, the following counties were eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program funding: Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmstead, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona and Yellow Medicine.

FEMA notified resident and non-resident tribes of the disaster declaration on October 22, 2010. FEMA invited comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota and other Native American groups. No Tribal Nations expressed an interest in any of the counties or in Steele County in response to FEMA's invitation for comments. As an outcome of March 2012 USACE Tribal Consultation Training in Chicago, the Ho-Chunk Nation indicated an interest in Steele County, Minnesota and are included in this improved project consultation.

On June 5, 2015 the Steele County Highway Department, the subgrantee, submitted an Improved Project request to FEMA to construct a new operations complex consisting of site grading, storm

water ponds, underground utilities, access road, building pad construction, stand-alone salt/sand storage hoop structure along with a brine building, fueling facility and a new public works building. All forty-five acres targeted for the new complex are cultivated farmland and are not considered to be previously disturbed soils.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that the improved project constituted a federally-assisted undertaking, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Therefore, a Cultural Resource Assessment was requested of the subgrantee by FEMA prior to construction. The Cultural Resource Assessment resulted in a finding of no archaeological resources encountered within the forty-five acres surveyed and no historic properties within the direct area of potential effect. Two previously unidentified potentially eligible architectural properties, the Ludwig Barsch House (1918) and the Hamlet farmstead (1900 and 1976), were identified within ½ mile of the proposed public works complex. Both these architectural properties are not within the direct area of potential effect, mature vegetation surrounding these make indirect visual effects limited and resulted in a FEMA overall finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Copies of the cultural resource assessment are available upon request from FEMA. FEMA submitted a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrently with Tribal Nation consultation.

FEMA recognizes the special and unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal Government and federally-recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes). FEMA also recognizes that Tribes may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties located on aboriginal, ancestral or ceded lands that are not contiguous with reservation lands. For this reason, FEMA consults with Tribes regarding the possible effects of FEMA-funded undertakings on cultural properties of historic or traditional significance, referred to as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

We invite your comments on the potential impacts the Steele County Highway Department operations complex may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county:

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- Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota
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Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an interest in the area of

potential effect and the improved project request would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the areas noted on the enclosed map.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties having cultural importance, do not hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures



**FEMA**

October 21, 2015

William Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
P.O. Box 667  
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615

Re: Improved Project Request Steele County Highway Department  
DR-1941 PWs 939, 941, 947, 952 and 959, Steele County, Minnesota  
Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility,  
GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W

Dear Mr. Quackenbush:

The purpose of this communication is to provide background regarding the captioned undertaking and to invite comment on any potential impacts in areas traditionally used by or sacred to the Ho-Chunk Nation or other Native American groups.

As a result of severe storms and flooding affecting areas of the State of Minnesota, President Obama signed the 1941-DR-MN Disaster Declaration on October 13, 2010. Under this declaration, the following counties were eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program funding: Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmstead, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona and Yellow Medicine.

FEMA notified resident and non-resident tribes of the disaster declaration on October 22, 2010. FEMA invited comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Ho-Chunk Nation and other Native American groups. No Tribal Nations expressed an interest in any of the counties or in Steele County in response to FEMA's invitation for comments. As an outcome of March 2012 USACE Tribal Consultation Training in Chicago, the Ho-Chunk Nation indicated an interest in Steele County, Minnesota and are included in this improved project consultation.

On June 5, 2015 the Steele County Highway Department, the subgrantee, submitted an Improved Project request to FEMA to construct a new operations complex consisting of site grading, storm

water ponds, underground utilities, access road, building pad construction, stand-alone salt/sand storage hoop structure along with a brine building, fueling facility and a new public works building. All forty-five acres targeted for the new complex are cultivated farmland and are not considered to be previously disturbed soils.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that the improved project constituted a federally-assisted undertaking, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Therefore, a Cultural Resource Assessment was requested of the subgrantee by FEMA prior to construction. The Cultural Resource Assessment resulted in a finding of no archaeological resources encountered within the forty-five acres surveyed and no historic properties within the direct area of potential effect. Two previously unidentified potentially eligible architectural properties, the Ludwig Barsch House (1918) and the Hamlet farmstead (1900 and 1976), were identified within ½ mile of the proposed public works complex. Both these architectural properties are not within the direct area of potential effect, mature vegetation surrounding these make indirect visual effects limited and resulted in a FEMA overall finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Copies of the cultural resource assessment are available upon request from FEMA. FEMA submitted a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrently with Tribal Nation consultation.

FEMA recognizes the special and unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal Government and federally-recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes). FEMA also recognizes that Tribes may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties located on aboriginal, ancestral or ceded lands that are not contiguous with reservation lands. For this reason, FEMA consults with Tribes regarding the possible effects of FEMA-funded undertakings on cultural properties of historic or traditional significance, referred to as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

We invite your comments on the potential impacts the Steele County Highway Department operations complex may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Ho-Chunk Nation or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county:

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- Santee Sioux Tribe
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota
- Ho-Chunk Nation

Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Ho-Chunk Nation, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an interest in the area of potential effect and

the improved project request would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the areas noted on the enclosed map.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties having cultural importance, do not hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Ho-Chunk Nation and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures



**FEMA**

October 21, 2015

Grace Goldtooth-Campos, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota  
PO Box 308, Res. Hwy 1  
Morton, Minnesota 56270

Re: Improved Project Request Steele County Highway Department  
DR-1941 PWs 939, 941, 947, 952 and 959, Steele County, Minnesota  
Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Steele County Public Works Facility,  
GPS 44.09567 -93.26372, Section 5, Township 107N, Range 20W

Dear Ms. Goldtooth-Campos:

The purpose of this communication is to provide background regarding the captioned undertaking and to invite comment on any potential impacts in areas traditionally used by or sacred to the Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota or other Native American groups.

As a result of severe storms and flooding affecting areas of the State of Minnesota, President Obama signed the 1941-DR-MN Disaster Declaration on October 13, 2010. Under this declaration, the following counties were eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program funding: Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmstead, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona and Yellow Medicine.

FEMA notified resident and non-resident tribes of the disaster declaration on October 22, 2010. FEMA invited comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota and other Native American groups. No Tribal Nations expressed an interest in any of the counties or in Steele County in response to FEMA's invitation for comments. As an outcome of March 2012 USACE Tribal Consultation Training in Chicago, the Ho-Chunk Nation indicated an interest in Steele County, Minnesota and are included in this improved project consultation.

On June 5, 2015 the Steele County Highway Department, the subgrantee, submitted an Improved Project request to FEMA to construct a new operations complex consisting of site grading, storm

water ponds, underground utilities, access road, building pad construction, stand-alone salt/sand storage hoop structure along with a brine building, fueling facility and a new public works building. All forty-five acres targeted for the new complex are cultivated farmland and are not considered to be previously disturbed soils.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that the improved project constituted a federally-assisted undertaking, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Therefore, a Cultural Resource Assessment was requested of the subgrantee by FEMA prior to construction. The Cultural Resource Assessment resulted in a finding of no archaeological resources encountered within the forty-five acres surveyed and no historic properties within the direct area of potential effect. Two previously unidentified potentially eligible architectural properties, the Ludwig Barsch House (1918) and the Hamlet farmstead (1900 and 1976), were identified within ½ mile of the proposed public works complex. Both these architectural properties are not within the direct area of potential effect, mature vegetation surrounding these make indirect visual effects limited and resulted in a FEMA overall finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Copies of the cultural resource assessment are available upon request from FEMA. FEMA submitted a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrently with Tribal Nation consultation.

FEMA recognizes the special and unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal Government and federally-recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes). FEMA also recognizes that Tribes may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties located on aboriginal, ancestral or ceded lands that are not contiguous with reservation lands. For this reason, FEMA consults with Tribes regarding the possible effects of FEMA-funded undertakings on cultural properties of historic or traditional significance, referred to as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

We invite your comments on the potential impacts the Steele County Highway Department operations complex may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county:

- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
- Santee Sioux Tribe
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
- Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota
- Ho-Chunk Nation

Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an interest

in the area of potential effect and the improved project request would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the areas noted on the enclosed map.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties having cultural importance, do not hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V

enclosures

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING**

<b>PART I</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <b>October 20, 2015</b>				
Name of Project <b>Steele County Public Works Facility</b>		Federal Agency Involved <b>FEMA</b>				
Proposed Land Use <b>Public Works Facility</b>		County and State <b>Steele County, Minnesota</b>				
<b>PART II</b> (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS <b>11/09/2015</b>		Person Completing Form: <b>D. Nath</b>		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated <b>644</b>	Average Farm Size <b>299</b>	
Major Crop(s) <b>Corn, Soybeans</b>	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: <b>99.2</b> % <b>274503</b>	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>96.9</b> % <b>268028</b>				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used <b>LE part of LESA</b>	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System <b>None</b>	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>11/18/2015</b>				
<b>PART III</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		<b>22</b>				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		<b>0</b>				
C. Total Acres In Site		<b>45</b>				
<b>PART IV</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		<b>45.3</b>				
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland		<b>0</b>				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		<b>0.00162</b>				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		<b>10.3</b>				
<b>PART V</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		<b>96.6</b>				
<b>PART VI</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	<b>4</b>			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	<b>9</b>			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)	<b>20</b>			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	<b>0</b>			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)	<b>0</b>			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)	<b>0</b>			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	<b>0</b>			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)	<b>10</b>			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	<b>5</b>			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)	<b>0</b>			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)	<b>0</b>			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	<b>0</b>			
<b>TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PART VII</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	<b>96.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		<b>260</b>	<b>144.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Site Selected: <b>Site A</b>		Date Of Selection <b>11/18/2015</b>		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Reason For Selection: <b>Site meets the project's purpose and needs and allows for sufficient space for all of the Public Works equipment.</b>						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: <b>Nicholas Mueller (FEMA)</b>					Date: <b>11/25/15</b>	