Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

OCT 19 2000

Mr. Charles W. Murphy, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux
Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing agency of the Department of Energy, is the lead Federal agency for two projects. The first project is a rebuild and upgrade of two miles of Western's existing Boyd-Valley 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which is connected to Platte River Power Authority's (Platte River) Boyd and Valley 115-kV substations. This project is located in Loveland, Colorado (Loveland map enclosed). The second project is the rebuild and upgrade of two miles of Western's Flatiron-Poudre 115-kV transmission line. This project is located in Fort Collins, Colorado (Fort Collins map enclosed).

For the project in Loveland, Platte River plans to replace Western's existing H-frame wood pole 115-kV single-circuit transmission line with two new circuits constructed on double-circuit single-pole steel structures. The new circuits will be designed for the capability of future operation at 230 kV, but initially will be operated at 115 kV.

For the project in Fort Collins, Platte River plans to add additional generation at its Rawhide Power Plant, which is located approximately 30 miles north of Fort Collins, Colorado. In order to accommodate the additional generation, the high-voltage transmission system in the Fort Collins area needs to be upgraded. Platte River proposes to rebuild and upgrade Western's existing 115 kV wood pole line as a double-circuit line from the LaPorte Tap to Western's Poudre Substation. It is proposed to construct one side for 115 kV operation and to terminate this circuit in the existing bay at Poudre Substation. The second side will be designed and constructed for 230 kV operation and will be connected at the LaPorte Tap. Platte River will also add to its system a new 230 kV conductor on existing structures between Rawhide and LaPorte Substation, and convert one side of its existing double circuit LaPorte Substation to LaPorte Tap to 230 kV operation. Platte River will string a second circuit on its existing double-circuit line between the Timberline and Poudre Substations and terminate the new 230 kV line at Timberline.

Both the Loveland and Fort Collins projects are located in developed metropolitan areas.

Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc. is assisting Western in preparing the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act documentation for both projects. Related to this, and because of Western's federal trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes, we are contacting you to determine if you have any issues with this project as it relates to sacred sites, ethnographic use or archaeological concerns. Once an archaeological inventory is completed for these projects, Western will consult with your tribe if any prehistoric cultural resources are located. Greystone will be preparing two environmental documents, one for each project.

The Rocky Mountain Region Office is a signatory to Western's Memorandum of Agreement with the North Dakota Intertribal Reinterment Committee. Also, your contact for these projects is Rodney Jones in Western's Rocky Mountain Region Office.

Please feel free to telephone Rodney Jones at (970) 461-7371 or Mary Barger at (720) 962-7253 with questions, concerns or issues on this project.

Sincerely,

for Joel K. Bladow
Regional Manager

cc: (with enclosure)
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