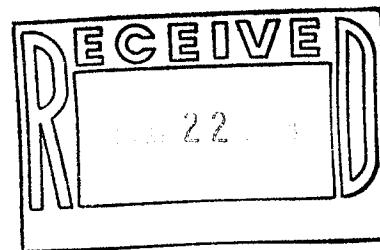




REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OMAHA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
OAHE PROJECT, ROOM #105
28563 POWERHOUSE ROAD
PIERRE, SD 57501

December 21, 2004



Field Archaeologist

Mr. Woody Corbine
Executive Director
Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition, Inc.
514 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57709-2890

Dear Mr. Corbine:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to expand rock-gathering areas for the WW7 site protection project. The work will consist of gathering rock from the shoreline downstream of the original WW7 site protection project. Equipment such as bulldozers, trackhoes and haultrucks will be used to remove the shallow rock-bearing layer from the surface of the shoreline. Estimated depth of disturbance will range from 12 to 18 inches. The proposed project location is in Section 17, Township 121N, Range 78W, Walworth County, SD, USGS 7.5 min. Quadrangle 7.5 Moreau SE, near the Swan Creek Recreation Area (see map 1).

Weather and water conditions have combined to undermine efforts to protect the north end of this island site. This is the area where the majority of burials are located. In order to prevent further damage to already completed work in that area, it is imperative that more rock be procured and placed prior to freeze-up. Current supplies of rock from borrow areas previously cleared have been exhausted. More rock exists along the shoreline adjacent to the previously cleared haul road and staging area. Up to 200 yards of shoreline may be required for this action (see map 2). This additional proposed borrow area has been field checked by Oahe Project archaeological staff and found to contain no cultural material or human remains. The potential for buried deposits is low due to the eroded nature of the shoreline. As a precaution, rock gathering activities will be monitored by Oahe Project archaeological staff.

Due to the emergency nature of this action we request that you contact us immediately should you have any concerns or comments. It will be necessary to begin rock collection within the next 7-10 days in order to complete protection of the compromised portion of the island, prior to weather conditions ending the construction season. If we are unable to complete this action prior to freeze-up (due to Threatened and Endangered Species restrictions) it may be impossible to continue the project until after August 15th 2005, and re-exposure of burials may occur.

Please feel free to contact Richard Harnois at (605) 224-5862 x. 3269 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



for Richard D. Harnois
Sr. Field Archaeologist
Oahe Project

Enclosures:

Map 1

Map 2

CF:

(Internal corps Distribution List, via e-mail)

CENWO-OD-OA (Bartel)

CENWO-OD-OA (Key)

CENWO-PM-AE (Janis)