



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 28TH BOMB WING (ACC)
ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE SOUTH DAKOTA

Colonel Mark E. Weatherington
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing
1958 Scott Drive, Suite 1
Ellsworth AFB SD 57706-4710

Mr. Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. SHPO
North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505

Dear Mr. Paaverud

As you know, the Air Force has been consulting with various federal agencies and state and tribal historic preservation offices on the proposed Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). As a result of this consultation, we acknowledge agency and tribal concerns with impacts to sensitive cultural, historic, and religious properties on tribal lands and elsewhere within the affected area. The 28th Bomb Wing proposes to develop and execute a Section 106 programmatic agreement (PA), prepared in accordance with 36 CFR 800.14(b)(3), with the consulting parties. This PA would legally bind the Air Force with commitments to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects to historic properties. The attached draft PA is intended to document past consultation regarding measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects. We welcome your input in refining these commitments and in identifying additional appropriate and feasible measures.

After consultations with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), we have decided to make use of their tele- and web-conferencing technical capabilities in order to facilitate Section 106 consultation for the PRTC action, including the draft PA. The ACHP's system will allow all concerned parties to participate by phone. Participants will also be invited to log onto a secure website to view discussion materials and real-time editing of the PA document. To that end, we request your office be represented in a tele-/web-meeting, hosted by the ACHP, currently scheduled for the week of September 17, 2012. Please let us know if this will be possible. My point of contact for this action is Mr. George Stone, george.stone@ellsworth.af.mil, 605-385-1230; he can provide further details on accessing the teleconference site.

Thank you for your cooperation and comments in the consultations to date.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Weatherington", is positioned above the typed name.

MARK E. WEATHERINGTON, Colonel, USAF