



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
134 Union Blvd
Lakewood, Colorado 80228



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/IR05/IR07

December 13, 2021

President Rodney Bordeaux
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 430
11th Legion Avenue
Rosebud, South Dakota 57570

Dear President Bordeaux,

I'm writing in response to the letter dated September 17, 2021 to The U.S. Secretary of Interior, Deb Haaland from Ione Quigley, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, regarding the incidental take permit (ITP) issued for the R-Project Transmission Line (attached). On June 17, 2020, the Court issued a ruling (R-Project in Nebraska – Ruling in Case 1:19- cv -01945-WJM Oregon-California Trails Association et al v. Walsh et al) that vacated the ITP. The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has asked us to begin coordination with them on next steps associated with developing a new ITP application and Habitat Conservation Plan for the proposed project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) review of an ITP application requires the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, and Government-to-Government consultation. The FWS recognizes the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's status as a sovereign nation, and will work diligently to ensure timely communication of opportunities for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's engagement in the process. Once we have a better understanding about NPPD's proposed path forward, we will reach out to you to better understand and incorporate tribal cultural and historic resource information into any future NEPA documents.

The FWS recognizes that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe has a deep spiritual, historical, and cultural connection to the project area and we would greatly appreciate any information and input that you would be willing to provide. We look forward to working with you and the Tribal Council on this project. If you need further information or would like to designate a point of contact for this project, please contact Mark Porath, the Nebraska Project Leader at mark_porath@fws.gov or (308) 216-2077, or Steve Small, the Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services, at (303) 236-4210. In addition, you may contact our Regional Native American liaison, Melissa Castiano at (303) 236-9898 or Melissa_Castiano@fws.gov to facilitate input from you or your Tribal agencies.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hogan
Acting Regional Director

INTERIOR REGION 5 MISSOURI BASIN

KANSAS, MONTANA*, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA,
SOUTH DAKOTA

*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 7 UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING