

8.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This chapter describes the historical, architectural and archaeological properties found within the Preferred Alternative's area of potential effect (APE) and anticipated effects to these historical properties, as required by Minnesota Statute Chapter 138 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). The chapter has been updated to reflect the post-DEIS design modifications outlined in Chapter 3. Refer to the DEIS for additional detail on the requirements of state and federal legislation regarding cultural resources.

Consultation and coordination for the identification of significant cultural resources and potential effects to those resources has been coordinated with the Minnesota SHPO and with Native American tribes.

8.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES

Refer to the DEIS for a detailed discussion of the four cultural resource studies that were conducted to identify cultural resources within the project study area, and the findings of those studies. No eligible or listed sites were located within the Preferred Alternative's APE by any of the four studies. The Minnesota SHPO reviewed the four reports and concurs with these findings (refer to letters in Appendix A of the DEIS).

8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

As discussed above, no eligible or listed sites were located within the Preferred Alternative's APE by any of the four cultural resource studies that were conducted. However, during the comment period of the DEIS, a potential pioneer burial ground was identified within proximity to the Preferred Alternative corridor. Based upon coordination with the Minnesota State Archaeologist, avoidance of the potential site was recommended. The revised alignment of the Preferred Alternative does avoid this potential site; no further review is anticipated until the right of way acquisition process. At that time, the Minnesota State Archaeologist will be contacted to confirm that all impacts have been avoided.

The Preferred Alternative corridor was re-reviewed after the DEIS for structures that will be over 50 years old in 2015 (the project's anticipated build date). No such resources were observed; no further review is necessary and no additional action is anticipated. Refer to Appendix A for copies of the SHPO and CRU correspondence regarding this subsequent survey.

If any eligible or listed sites are identified within the project area henceforth, coordination with the appropriate authorities will be initiated according to state and federal regulations.

8.3 MITIGATION

Two of the four Build Alternatives that were evaluated in the DEIS had potential to impact potential cultural resources. The Preferred Alternative will not directly or indirectly affect any National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed or eligible properties or resources; this was one of the factors that lead to its being identified as the project's Preferred Alternative. As described above, the alignment avoids a potential resource that was identified in the comment phase of the DEIS. If any subsequent eligible or listed sites are identified within the project area prior to or during construction, coordination with the appropriate agencies will be initiated in accordance with state and federal regulations.

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