



Minnesota
Historical Society

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

April 14, 2010

Mr. Paul Labovitz, Superintendent
National Park Service
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256

RE: US Bureau of Mines, Twin Cities Research Center Main Campus
Minneapolis, Hennepin County
SHPO Number: 1996-0884

Dear Mr. Labovitz:

We have signed the final Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the above referenced project and are returning it with this letter.

While the MOA is silent on the matter, we wish to put on record our opinion that Coldwater Spring meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). Our staff has reviewed the ethnographic resources study prepared by your cultural resources consultant (June 2006) and are in agreement with their findings that the site does qualify as a TCP. We were surprised that the National Park Service has disagreed with this determination. We will be happy to discuss our reasoning. We want to be clear that signing the MOA in no way implies that we concur with the National Park Service's opinion on this matter. We fully expect to revisit this discussion during the separate Section 106 process referenced in Stipulation II.C. of the MOA that will be undertaken before determining the final treatment plan for Coldwater Spring.

In addition, we have some concerns regarding the extent and nature of future land restoration and landscape modification for this site. Stipulation II.B. of the MOA commits the National Park Service to sharing with us in advance any such landscape plans, and incorporating our review comments. We anticipate a continued discussion as your plans take shape.

Finally, we were pleased to learn that the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community signed the MOA as a concurring party. We urge you to maintain communication and consultation with all the interested tribes as the conversation about treatment of this important site continues into the future.

Should you have any further questions about this matter, do not hesitate to call me at (651) 259-3466.

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer