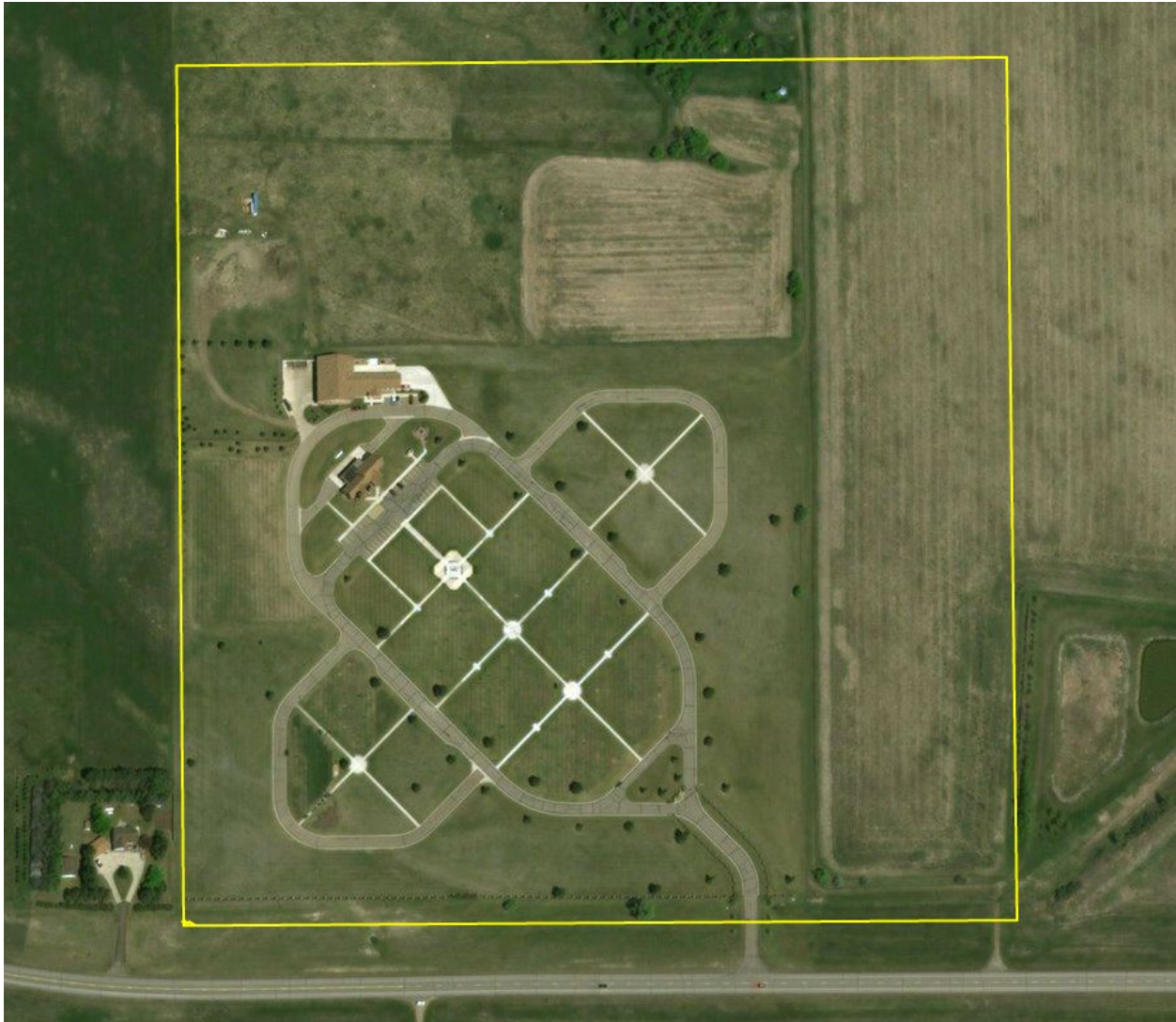


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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A COLUMBARIUM
AT THE
NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY, MORTON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA



NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY
1825 46th STREET
MANDAN ND 58554

January 27, 2020

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural effects of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery's (NDVC's) proposed design, construction and operation of a columbarium at its current location south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The NDVC currently operates a veteran's cemetery on 70 acres. The NDVC does not currently have a columbarium and desires to provide this capacity for veterans and their families.

Analysis of Federal actions trigger a requirement to conduct an environmental assessment. However, there is no Federal action within this environmental assessment. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 USC 4321 *et seq.*) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) were used to determine the potential effects of the Proposed Action during the analysis. This EA will be provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in order to satisfy their requirement for environmental analysis. This EA documents the Proposed Action and its considered alternatives, and is organized as follows:

- **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Describes the Proposed Action and its considered alternatives; summarizes environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic consequences; and compares potential effects associated with the three considered alternatives, including the No Action Alternative.
- **SECTION 1 PURPOSE, NEED, AND SCOPE:** Summarizes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, provides relevant background information, and describes the scope of the EA.
- **SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** Describes the Proposed Action.
- **SECTION 3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** Presents alternatives for implementing the Proposed Action, including applied screening criteria, alternatives retained for further analysis, and alternatives eliminated, as well as a brief explanation of the rationale for eliminating certain alternatives.
- **SECTION 4 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:** Describes relevant components of the existing environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic setting (within the Region of Influence [ROI]) of the considered alternatives.
- **SECTION 5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:** Identifies individual and cumulative potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of implementing the considered alternatives; and identifies proposed mitigation and management measures, as and where appropriate.
- **SECTION 6 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS:** Compares the environmental effects of the three considered alternatives and summarizes the significance of potential individual and cumulative effects from these alternatives.
- **SECTION 7 REFERENCES:** Provides bibliographical information for cited sources.
- **SECTION 8 LIST OF PREPARERS:** Identifies document preparers and their areas of expertise.
- **SECTION 9 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED:** Lists agencies and individuals consulted during preparation of this EA.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SIGNATURE PAGE

STATE AGENCY: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and North Dakota National Guard

TITLE: Environmental Assessment for the Design, Construction and Operation of a Columbarium at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Morton County, North Dakota

AFFECTED JURISDICTION: Morton County, North Dakota and the State of North Dakota

POINT OF CONTACT: Pamela Helbling-Schafer, Director

DOCUMENT DESIGNATION: Draft Environmental Assessment

Pamela Helbling-Schafer
Director, North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

ABSTRACT: The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC) proposes to design, construct and operate a columbarium at its location approximately six miles south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to fund the construction of the columbarium. As a State agency, the NDVC is not subject to the Federal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). However, as Federal funding may be provided by the VA for the project, an environmental assessment is required as part of their grant application process. This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts of this proposal and its alternatives.

Currently, the NDVC provides full body interment and below ground cremation inurnments. The NDVC has been receiving an increasing number of requests for aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium, which the NDVC cannot support because the NDVC does not have a columbarium. The proposed action is needed to support the mission of the NDVC to provide final resting places for Veterans.

This EA evaluates the individual and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action (construction and operation of a columbarium) and the No Action Alternative with respect to the following criteria: geographic setting and land use, air quality, noise, geology, topography and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic environment, infrastructure and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes.

The evaluation performed in this EA concludes that there would be no significant adverse impact, either individually or cumulatively, to the environment or quality of life associated with the approval of the Proposed Action, provided that mitigation measures specified in this EA are implemented.

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Executive Summary

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC) has proposed to construct and operate a columbarium at its location south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. For reader clarity, as a state agency, the NDVC is not subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). However, as the NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to fund the construction of the columbarium, funding is a Federal action requiring that an Environmental Assessment (EA) be prepared. This EA reviews only the proposed construction and subsequent operation of the columbarium.

Alternatives proposed were screened using the following screening criteria:

- Location.
- Area/Size of columbarium.
- Relationship to surrounding land use.
- Utilities infrastructure.
- Operational control.

The NDVC considered two potential alternatives. These are 1) To Construct and Operate a Columbarium (Proposed Action and Preferred Action Alternative) and 2) Not to Construct a Columbarium (No Action alternative).

Scoping of interested parties was conducted to guide the development process of the NDVC as well as the NEPA analysis. Local, state and federal agencies, Native American tribes and many local interested parties and individuals were contacted in order to determine potential environmental issues. A list of these interested parties is included in Section 9 and documentation may be found in Appendix A.

Key resource areas, such as location, land use, air quality, noise, geology, topography and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice (including protection of children), infrastructure and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes, were assessed and analyzed to determine potential affects. Supporting documents may be found in Appendix B.

After the analyses were completed, it was concluded that there were no key resource areas which would be significantly impacted by the approval of the grant application (Proposed Action). The public and interested parties were provided an opportunity to comment on the analysis during a thirty day public comment period which began on [date] and ended on [date]. [number] comments were received during the public comment period. These comments and responses may be found in Appendix C.

Below is a comparative matrix of potential environmental impacts. This table summarizes the analyzed alternatives.

Table ES-1. Alternative Comparison Matrix

| Technical Resource Area | No Action Alternative | Preferred Action Alternative |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Land use | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to land use or land cover within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. The beneficial effect of increased burial density decreases the need for land conversion from current productive uses to public uses (cemetery). |
| Air Quality | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations emissions would continue. | No significant adverse effects to air quality or air emissions within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Noise | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects from noise within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Geology, Topography and Soils | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short-term adverse impacts to the local geology, topography and soils are expected to occur. Direct impacts would include: (1) short-term compaction of soils on the construction site, (2) short-term exposure of soils to erosion and (3) long-term extensive modification of soils and topography. |
| Water Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short- and long-term adverse and beneficial impacts to water resources. Direct and indirect impacts include: (1) short-term impacts to runoff, (2) long-term impacts from increased impervious surfaces creating additional runoff volume and (3) long-term beneficial impacts on reduced irrigation need. |
| Biological Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would | No significant adverse effects to biological resources within the area of potential effects of the |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | continue under current conditions and levels. | Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Cultural Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to cultural resources would occur and any potential impacts would be similar to ongoing operational conditions and levels. |
| Socioeconomics | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short- and long-term adverse impacts to the socioeconomics of the region. Direct impacts include: (1) minor, short-term beneficial impacts to population growth during construction and (2) minor, long-term adverse impacts to population out-migration after completion of construction. |
| Environmental Justice | Less than significant long-term adverse impacts would occur to minority and low-income Veterans and their surviving families due to increased costs to have an eligible Veteran interred at another location which offers columbarium services. | No significant environmental justice impacts would be expected. |
| Infrastructure | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to infrastructure within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste | No impact attributable to the action. Operations would continue to be handled, managed, stored and disposed in accordance with existing plans. | No significant adverse effects to hazardous and toxic materials and waste management or handling within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |

Table of Contents

Signature Page

Executive Summary

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Section 1. Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction1-1
1.2 Purpose and Need1-1
1.2.1 Purpose1-1
1.2.2 Need1-1
1.3 Scope of the EA1-1
1.4 Decision-making1-2
1.5 Public and Agency Involvement1-2
1.6 Related NEPA, Environmental and Other Documents and Processes1-3
1.7 Regulatory Framework1-3

Section 2.0 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Introduction2-1
2.2 Proposed Action2-1
2.3 Alternatives Considered2-1
2.3.1 Alternatives Development (Screening Criteria)2-2
2.3.2 Evaluated Alternatives2-2
2.3.3 Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration2-2
2.3.4 Alternatives’ Impacts Comparison Matrix2-2

Section 3.0 Affected Environment

3.1 Location Description3-1
3.2 Land Use3-2
3.3 Air Quality3-2
3.4 Noise3-3
3.5 Geology, Topography and Soils3-5
3.5.1 Geology3-5
3.5.2 Topography3-7
3.5.3 Soils3-7
3.6 Water Resources3-9
3.6.1 Surface Water Resources3-9
3.6.2 Groundwater3-10
3.6.3 Floodplains3-11
3.6.4 Wetlands3-12
3.7 Biological Resources3-13

| | |
|---|------|
| 3.7.1 Common Species | 3-13 |
| 3.7.2 Threatened and Endangered Species and Designated Critical Habitat | 3-15 |
| 3.7.3 Terrestrial/Aquatic Ecosystems in the Area | 3-16 |
| 3.8 Cultural Resources | 3-18 |
| 3.8.1 Previous Surveys in the Area | 3-18 |
| 3.8.2 Archeological Resources | 3-19 |
| 3.8.3 Paleontological Resources | 3-20 |
| 3.9 Socioeconomics | 3-20 |
| 3.9.1 Demographics | 3-20 |
| 3.9.2 Economics | 3-21 |
| 3.9.3 Facilities and Services in the Area | 3-21 |
| 3.9.4 Safety and Health | 3-22 |
| 3.10 Environmental Justice | 3-23 |
| 3.11 Infrastructure | 3-23 |
| 3.11.1 Utilities | 3-24 |
| 3.11.2 Transportation Network | 3-24 |
| 3.12 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes | 3-25 |
| 3.12.1 Storage and Handling Areas | 3-25 |
| 3.12.2 Petroleum Storage | 3-25 |
| 3.12.3 Recycling | 3-25 |

Section 4.0 Environmental Consequences

| | |
|--|-----|
| 4.1 Introduction | 4-1 |
| 4.2 Land Use | 4-1 |
| 4.2.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-2 |
| 4.2.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-2 |
| 4.2.3 Mitigation Measures (as appropriate for each alternative) | 4-2 |
| 4.3 Air Quality | 4-2 |
| 4.3.1 Effects of the Proposed Action | 4-2 |
| 4.3.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-3 |
| 4.3.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-3 |
| 4.4 Noise | 4-3 |
| 4.4.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-4 |
| 4.4.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-4 |
| 4.4.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-4 |
| 4.5 Geology, Topography and Soils | 4-4 |
| 4.5.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-4 |
| 4.5.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-5 |
| 4.5.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-6 |
| 4.6 Water Resources | 4-6 |
| 4.6.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-6 |
| 4.6.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-7 |
| 4.6.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-7 |
| 4.7 Biological Resources | 4-7 |
| 4.7.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-7 |

| | |
|---|------|
| 4.7.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-7 |
| 4.7.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-7 |
| 4.8 Cultural Resources | 4-7 |
| 4.8.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-8 |
| 4.8.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-8 |
| 4.8.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-8 |
| 4.9 Socioeconomics | 4-8 |
| 4.9.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-9 |
| 4.9.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-9 |
| 4.9.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-9 |
| 4.10 Environmental Justice | 4-9 |
| 4.10.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-9 |
| 4.10.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-9 |
| 4.10.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-10 |
| 4.11 Infrastructure | 4-10 |
| 4.11.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-10 |
| 4.11.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-10 |
| 4.11.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-10 |
| 4.12 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes | 4-10 |
| 4.12.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative) | 4-11 |
| 4.12.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative | 4-11 |
| 4.12.3 Mitigation Measures | 4-11 |
| 4.13 Mitigation Measures | 4-11 |
| 4.14 Cumulative Effects | 4-12 |
| 4.14.1 Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions | 4-12 |
| 4.14.2 Cumulative Effects within the Area of Potential Effects | 4-13 |
| 4.14.3 Inter-relationships of Cumulative Effects | 4-13 |
| Section 5.0 Comparison of Alternatives and Conclusions | |
| 5.1 Comparison of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives | 5-1 |
| 5.2 Conclusions | 5-3 |
| Section 6.0 References | 6-1 |
| Section 7.0 Glossary | 7-1 |
| Section 8.0 List of Preparers | 8-1 |
| Section 9.0 Agencies and Individuals Consulted | 9-1 |
| Appendixes | |
| Appendix A: IICEP Documents | A-1 |
| Appendix B: Supporting Documents | B-1 |
| Appendix C: Public Comments | C-1 |

Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| °C | degrees Celsius |
| °F | degrees Fahrenheit |
| ACHP | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation |
| AHPA | American Historical Preservation Act |
| AIRFA | American Indian Religious Freedom Act |
| APE | Area of Potential Effect |
| ARPA | Archeological Resources Protection Act |
| BCA | Beaver Creek Archeology, Inc. |
| BCC | Bird of Conservation Concern |
| BMP | Best Management Practice |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CO | carbon monoxide |
| dB | decibels |
| dBA | decibels, A-weighted |
| dBC | decibels, C-weighted |
| dBp | decibels, Peak |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EO | Executive Order |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| FIRM | Flood Insurance Rate Map |
| FONSI | Finding of No Significant Impact |
| ft | Foot or feet |
| IICEP | Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination of Environmental Planning |
| IPaC | Information for Planning and Consultation |
| km | kilometer |
| m | meter |
| mm | millimeter |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| NAGPRA | Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act |
| NCORE | National Core Monitoring Network monitoring site |
| ND | North Dakota |
| NDAC | North Dakota Administrative Code |
| NDARNG | North Dakota Army National Guard |
| NDNG | North Dakota National Guard |
| NDSHPO | North Dakota State Historical Preservation Office |
| NDVC | North Dakota Veterans Cemetery |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NO ₂ | Nitrous oxide |
| NOA | Notice of Availability |
| NO _y | total reactive Nitrogen |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| O ₃ | Ozone |
| PI | Public Institutional |
| PM _{2.5} | particulate material 2.5 microns or less |
| PM _{fine} | particulate material fine |
| RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| ROI | Region of Influence |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| SO ₂ | Sulfur dioxide |
| SOP | Standard Operation Procedure |
| SWPPP | Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan |
| US | United States |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USC | United States Code |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| VA | (Department of) Veterans Affairs |

Section 1.0 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC) proposes to design, construct and operate a columbarium at its location in Morton County, North Dakota. NDVC has applied to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for funding for the construction of the columbarium.

1.2 Purpose and Need

1.2.1 Purpose

Currently, the NDVC offers full body interment and below ground cremation inurnment to eligible Veterans because it does not have a columbarium for aboveground cremation inurnment. The construction of a columbarium would be at the NDVC located approximately six (6) miles south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota.

1.2.2 Need

NDVC is receiving increasing requests for aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium, but cannot support these requests due to not having a columbarium. The NDVC has recently acquired an additional 35 acres of land, some of which is suitable for the construction of a columbarium. In order to support the NDVC mission for providing eligible Veterans a burial place, the NDVC needs to construct a columbarium.

1.3 Scope of the EA

The scope of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and the surrounding environment. This EA identifies, documents and evaluates the potential environmental, cultural and socioeconomic effects of the analyzed alternatives in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. For reader clarity, the Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information on the entire expansion of the NDVC as a whole project, and not just the potential effects of the design, construction and operation of a columbarium. This development will occur over a number of years as funding becomes available for individual portions of the whole project.

It includes a thorough evaluation of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, both temporary and permanent, that could occur as a result of implementing the alternatives and informs decision makers and the public of potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives along with associated mitigation.

Under NEPA, the analysis of environmental conditions only addresses those areas, or Region of Influence (ROI), and environmental resources with the potential to be affected by the Proposed Action or alternative. Locations and resources with no potential to be affected are not analyzed. The ROI may vary by resource. The environmental analysis should be proportionate to the nature and scope of the action, the complexity and level of anticipated effects on important resources

and the capacity of NDVC decisions to influence those effects in a productive, meaningful way from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Scoping letters were sent to 45 stakeholders representing local, state and federal government agencies and Native American Tribes. Comments on the proposal were solicited and stakeholders were provided 30 days to provide their input. Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP) documents may be found in Appendix A.

This EA is intended to be an assessment of the NDVC's proposal to construct and operate a columbarium. Since the grant application requests Federal funding for the design and construction of a columbarium, information related to that action should be provided by the Federal agency to ensure interested parties have a clear understanding and vision of the proposal.

This EA includes an assessment of potential environmental impacts that would be expected with the following alternatives:

1. Construction and Operation of a Columbarium (Proposed Action and Preferred Action Alternative).
2. No Action alternative. This alternative means that the NDVC does not design, construct or operate a columbarium at its location in Morton County, North Dakota. The NDVC would not be able to offer aboveground cremation inurnments to Veterans as part of their mission and would have to refer Veterans to other cemetery locations which offer these services.

1.4 Decision-making

The NDVC, operating through its Board of Directors and under the administrative authority of the Office of the Adjutant General of the State of North Dakota, has the authority to make the decision whether or not to design, construct and operate a columbarium as part of its cemetery.

This EA analyzes the potential for significant environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. If the analyses presented in this EA indicate that the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental or socioeconomic effects, then a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared. A FONSI briefly presents the reasons why a proposed action would not have a significant effect on the human environment and why an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would not be necessary. If the analyses presented in this EA indicate that significant environmental effects would result from the proposed action that cannot be mitigated to less than significant, a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS would be required or no action would be taken.

1.5 Public and Agency Involvement

Persons and organizations known or thought to have a potential interest, including minority, low-income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, were identified, informed, and given the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Consideration of the views and information from all interested parties promotes open communication and enables better decision making. All parties having potential interest in the Proposed Action, including minority, low

income, disadvantaged, and federally-recognized Native American tribes, are urged to participate in the NEPA process. Appendix A contains information regarding the IICEP process and Appendix C contains copies of comments received.

The opportunity for additional agency and public input will be provided during a 30-day public comment period following the completion of the final EA and draft FONSI. Parties interested in receiving copies of the EA and/or draft FONSI may contact Ms. Pamela Helbling-Schafer, Director, North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Bismarck Tribune announcing the availability of the final EA and draft FONSI. During the public comment period, any comments received will be addressed and incorporated into the final EA, if warranted, and into the FONSI prior to signature.

1.6 Related NEPA, Environmental and Other Documents and Processes

- A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA Having Your Voice Heard, Council on Environmental Quality, December 2007
- A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Land Expansion in Morton County, North Dakota, Lindsey Reiners and Wade Burns, March 2017
- Testing of Sites 32MO1473 and 32MO1474 for the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Land Expansion Project in Morton County, North Dakota, Melody Abbott, Alex Atkinson and Paul van Wandelen, March 2019

1.7 Regulatory Framework

The Proposed Action and alternative are subject to the following Federal and State environmental regulations (Note: this list is not meant to be an exhaustive inventory of applicable regulations):

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 United States Code (USC) §§4321-4347)
- Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508)
- Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended (42 USC §7401 et seq.)
- CAA Amendments of 1990
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) (40 CFR 122)
- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) (42 USC §300f et seq.)
- Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 (33 USC §1251 et seq.)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 USC §§1531-1544)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), as amended (16 USC §§703-712)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, Section 106 (Public Law 89-665; 16 USC 470 et seq.)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 (25 USC §3001 et seq.)
- Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) (Public Law 96-95)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978 (Public law 95-341)

- Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-291)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 (42 USC §6901 et seq.)
- Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984 (42 USC §6901 et seq.)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 (42 USC §1906 et seq.) and Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) (Public Law 107-377)
- Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) of 1965 (42 USC 82)
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976 (15 USC §1501)
- Federal Facilities Compliance Act (FFCA) of 1992 (PL 102-386, 42 USC §6961)
- Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks
- EO 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
- EO 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade
- North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Section 33-15, Air Pollution Control
- NDAC Section 33-16, Control, Prevention, and Abatement of Pollution of Surface Water
- NDAC Section 33-20, Solid Waste Management and Land Protection
- NDAC Section 33-24, Hazardous Waste Management
- NDAC Section 33-25, Underground Injection Control
- NDAC Section 40-02, Archeology and Historic Preservation

Section 2.0 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to design, construct and operate a columbarium at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC). Currently, the NDVC does not have a columbarium and has been receiving requests for aboveground cremation inurnment. The NDVC currently provides below ground full body interment and below ground cremation inurnments, but has no capacity to provide aboveground cremation inurnments.

2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to design, construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC.

2.3 Alternatives Considered

This section summarizes the alternatives development process and screening criteria; alternatives evaluated; alternatives eliminated from further analysis; and provides an alternatives impact comparison matrix. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations require that all reasonable alternatives be rigorously explored and objectively evaluated. In addition, alternatives that are eliminated from detailed study must be identified along with a brief discussion of the reasons for eliminating them. For purposes of analysis, an alternative is considered “reasonable” only if it would meet the requirements of the regulations mentioned above. Reasonable alternatives include those which are: 1) practical or feasible from a technical and economic standpoint; and 2) support the purpose and need for the Proposed Action.

2.3.1 Alternatives Development (Screening Criteria)

Screening criteria are developed in order to determine if a particular course of action (that is, an alternative) is reasonable versus unreasonable. The following screening criteria were used to evaluate each alternative:

- Location. Where is the NDVC in relation to other Veterans cemeteries that currently offer columbarium services? Does this allow for the NDVC to complete its mission in providing burial services to eligible Veterans?
- Area/Size of columbarium. How many niches should be provided? How long will it take to fill? What is the proper size/height of the columbarium? Does the columbarium conform to VA requirements?
- Relationship to surrounding land use. How would the appearance of the columbarium affect or impact the Fort Lincoln State Park and/or other nearby landowners? Will there be any impacts or adverse effects that cannot be mitigated?
- Utilities infrastructure. How does locating the columbarium on the NDVC property impact existing utility infrastructure? Do existing utilities need to be moved in order to accommodate the columbarium?
- Operational control. Would the NDVC control the columbarium once it was constructed?

Table 2-1. Alternatives Development and Screening Criteria

| Criterion | Construct and Operate a Columbarium (Proposed Action) | Construct and Operate a Columbarium at a Different Cemetery | Not Constructing and Operating a Columbarium (No Action Alternative) |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Location | Yes | Yes | No |
| Area/Size of columbarium | Yes | Yes | No |
| Relationship to surrounding land use | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Utilities infrastructure | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Operational control | Yes | No | Yes |
| Retained or Dismissed | Retained | Dismissed | Retained |

2.3.2 Evaluated Alternatives

2.3.2.1 Construct and Operate a Columbarium (Proposed Action)

Under the Proposed Action, the NDVC would design, construct and operate a columbarium at its location in Morton County, North Dakota, to support the NDVC’s mission of providing burial services for deceased Veterans. This is the Preferred Action Alternative.

2.3.2.2 Not Constructing and Operating a Columbarium (No Action Alternative)

The No Action Alternative means that the NDVC would not design, construct and operate a columbarium. Inclusion of the No Action Alternative is prescribed by the CEQ regulations and serves as a benchmark against which proposed Federal actions are evaluated.

2.3.3 Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration

One alternative, Construct and Operate a Columbarium at a Different Cemetery, was eliminated from further consideration. This alternative did not meet the screening criteria for Operational Control as control over the day-to-day operations would not be retained with the NDVC but would be relinquished to the other cemetery. This does not fit within the mission requirements of the NDVC.

2.3.4 Alternatives’ Impacts Comparison Matrix

Table 2-2 provides a brief summary of the potential environmental effects and impacts of the proposed project.

Table 2-2. Alternative Comparison Matrix

| Technical Resource Area | No Action Alternative | Preferred Action Alternative |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Land use | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to land use or land cover within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. The beneficial effect of increased burial density decreases the need for land conversion from current productive uses to public uses (cemetery). |
| Air Quality | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations emissions would continue. | No significant adverse effects to air quality or air emissions within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Noise | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects from noise within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Geology, Topography and Soils | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short-term adverse impacts to the local geology, topography and soils are expected to occur. Direct impacts would include: (1) short-term compaction of soils on the construction site, (2) short-term exposure of soils to erosion and (3) long-term extensive modification of soils and topography. |
| Water Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short- and long-term adverse and beneficial impacts to water resources. Direct and indirect impacts include: (1) short-term impacts to runoff, (2) long-term impacts from increased impervious surfaces creating additional runoff volume and (3) long-term beneficial impacts on reduced irrigation need. |
| Biological Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would | No significant adverse effects to biological resources within the area of potential effects of the |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | continue under current conditions and levels. | Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Cultural Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to cultural resources would occur and any potential impacts would be similar to ongoing operational conditions and levels. |
| Socioeconomics | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short- and long-term adverse impacts to the socioeconomics of the region. Direct impacts include: (1) minor, short-term beneficial impacts to population growth during construction and (2) minor, long-term adverse impacts to population out-migration after completion of construction. |
| Environmental Justice | Less than significant long-term adverse impacts would occur to minority and low-income Veterans and their surviving families due to increased costs to have an eligible Veteran interred at another location which offers columbarium services. | No significant environmental justice impacts would be expected. |
| Infrastructure | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to infrastructure within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste | No impact attributable to the action. Operations would continue to be handled, managed, stored and disposed in accordance with existing plans. | No significant adverse effects to hazardous and toxic materials and waste management or handling within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |

Section 3.0 Affected Environment

The Affected Environment section provides a description of the current (existing) environmental conditions of the area(s) that would be affected if the Proposed Action (or considered alternative) was implemented. It represents the “as is” or “before the action” conditions. This provides a baseline condition used to determine potential environmental effects. The level of detail to be applied to each particular resource area shall be commensurate with the level of importance of and concern for that resource and the issues it presents.

Only environmental resources and resource parameters that could be affected by the action or are of public concern are brought forward and analyzed in Section 4.0, Environmental Consequences.

3.1 Location Description

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC) is located approximately six miles south of the city of Mandan, North Dakota in the south-central portion of the state. The NDVC occupies approximately 70 acres of land reserved for the purpose of providing a cemetery for military veterans.

The geographic setting of Morton County is bounded on the east by the Missouri River, on the south by Sioux and Grant Counties, on the west by Stark County, and on the north by Mercer and Oliver Counties. Physiographically, the area is in the Great Plains Province, an area characterized by generally low relief with gentle slopes interrupted by low buttes and ridges. The southwestern corner of the county is in the unglaciated Missouri Coteau. In most of the glaciated area the only evidence of glaciation is patchy areas of till on the upland divides and lag deposits of glacial boulders. For this reason, the landscape is similar in the two topographic sections.

Major drainages are the Missouri, Heart, and Cannonball Rivers and Square Butte Creek. Big Muddy Creek is located near the boundary between the two topographic sections and follows the course of a valley cut by glacially diverted drainage and glacial meltwaters. This valley crosses the Heart River extending southeastward past Flasher into Grant and Sioux Counties. Other glacial channels extend from the St. Anthony area northeastward to the Missouri River and southeastward through Northwest Chantapeta Creek.

The ongoing mission and primary activities of the NDVC are to provide burial space for Veterans and their eligible family members; maintain the cemeteries as national shrines, sacred to the honor and memory of those interred or memorialized there; mark Veterans' graves with a Government-furnished headstone, marker or medallion and to provide Presidential Memorial Certificates in recognition of their service to a grateful nation. The ongoing activities of the surrounding area of potential effect (APE) include recreational activities associated with Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and rural residential occupation by families either not engaged or engaged in agricultural activities.

The general landscape of the APE is located within the transition area from the uplands to the lowlands lying near the Missouri River. This area provides for some rolling, low-lying hills

rising above the floodplains of the Missouri River. Generally, this transition zone provides for splendid views from the uplands areas.

The climate of Morton County is semiarid and is characteristic of the continental interior. The climate of Morton County is semi-arid. The area is usually quite warm in summer with frequent spells of hot weather and occasional cool days. It is very cold in winter, when arctic air frequently surges over the area. Summer temperatures may exceed 100°F (38°C). Winter temperatures may drop to -40°F (-40°C). The number of frost-free days averages about 125. The mean annual temperature is 41.1°F (5.1°C) at Mandan and 41.4°F (5.2°C) at New Salem for the period 1941-70. The annual mean of maximum daily air temperatures for the period 1963-74 is 51.9°F (11.1°C) at Mandan.

Most precipitation falls in late spring and early summer. For the period 1941-70, mean annual precipitation is 16.77 inches (426.0 mm) at Mandan and 16.65 inches (422.9 mm) at New Salem. The average annual total precipitation in the county is about 17 inches. Of this, about 14 inches, or 80 percent, usually falls in April through September. Average annual snowfall is about 34 inches. The average annual relative humidity at midafternoon in July is about 45 percent. The sun shines 76 percent of the possible time in July and 46 percent of the time in November. The sun shines an average of about 62 percent of the possible time annually. The prevailing wind is from the west-northwest. The average annual wind speed is about 10 miles per hour.

3.2 Land Use

Land use refers to human use of the land for economic production; for residential, religious, recreational, or other purposes; and/or for natural resource protection. Land uses are regulated by management plans, policies, zoning ordinances, and regulations that determine the types of use(s) allowed. These designations typically also serve to protect specially designated or environmentally sensitive uses.

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery is bounded on the west and south sides by private property which is used for rural residential structures and/or agricultural purposes and on the north and east sides by the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.

Aesthetics and visual resources in the area are extremely important, especially to the NDVC and Fort Lincoln State Park. Recently, Morton County has initiated actions to further preserve the viewshed in the areas surrounding both the NDVC and Fort Lincoln State Park.

Buildings and other structures on the NDVC support ongoing activities. The general architecture follows a pattern emphasizing form and function while providing an eye-pleasing aesthetic which offers support to families enduring their grieving process.

The NDVC is located centrally in North Dakota, and offers services to all veterans and eligible spouses/family members. The closest cities are Mandan and Bismarck, located approximately six (6) and ten (10) miles away. Other Veterans cemeteries are planned for Fort Yates (approximately 45 miles south) and Fargo (approximately 200 miles east).

Local land use management plans and zoning is for Public Institutional (PI) use. In any PI district, the following regulations shall apply:

- General Description: The PI district is established to provide areas for government, quasi-governmental and institutional uses whose core function is to serve the public.
- Permitted Uses: Uses are permitted in the PI district in accordance with the Use Table in Section 2-200 of the Morton County Land Use Code, together with any accessory uses, buildings, and structures incidental and directly related to the uses allowed as permitted and special in this article.
- Dimensional Standards: Uses within the PI district are subject to the Dimensional Table in Section 2-210 of the Morton County Land Use Code.

The property is wholly owned by the State of North Dakota. Land management activities have been apportioned to the Office of the Adjutant General, which provides administrative oversight of the NDVC.

Local and regional development plans in the area emphasize Fort Lincoln State Park, although the NDVC is fast becoming another attraction.

3.3 Air Quality

Morton County is in an air quality attainment area, and there are few air emissions sources near the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Ambient air quality conditions were derived from data from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ), Division of Air Quality 2018 annual report. The nearest monitoring site to the NDVC is the Bismarck Residential station. This site monitors carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), manual particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (manual PM_{2.5}), continuous particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (continuous PM_{2.5}), continuous particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (continuous PM₁₀), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter fine speciation (PM_{fine} speciation), total reactive nitrogen (NO_y) and wind speed and direction. The objective of the monitoring station is for population exposure. Data demonstrates that all monitored parameters were well below regulatory standards.

The NDVC does not have any existing air emissions sources, and there are no current future plans which would require an application for an air quality permit.

3.4 Noise

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. It can be any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with communications or other human activities, is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying. Noise may be intermittent or continuous, steady or impulsive. Human response to noise is extremely diverse and varies according to the type of noise source, the sensitivity and expectations of the receptor, the time of day, and the distance between the source and the receptor. The decibel (dB) is the accepted unit of measurement for noise level. The A-scale decibel (dBA) is an adjusted dB that corresponds to the range of normal human hearing.



Figure 3.1: Bismarck Residential monitoring station. This site is located in the second largest metropolitan area in the state and is the designated National Core Monitoring Network (NCORE) site in North Dakota. This site also serves as a field test location for new types of equipment and procedures.

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery is located outside of the urban setting, and there are few noise sources located nearby. Ambient noise at the facility is generated from the use of heavy equipment on the cemetery grounds and nearby state park, State Highway 1806 and overflights from either the Bismarck Municipal Airport or Mandan Airport.

There are no stationary noise generating sources located within the NDVC.

Mobile noise sources include vehicular traffic on State Highway 1806, which runs on the southern border of the property. The NDVC lies within the general flightpath of aircraft using either the Mandan Airport (located approximately 2 miles to the west-northwest) or the Bismarck Municipal Airport (located approximately 5 miles to the east-northeast). Additionally, agricultural, road maintenance and landscaping equipment operate in the local area and on the NDVC.

Sensitive receptors in the area are grieving families attending services at the NDVC. Otherwise, recreational users of Fort Lincoln State Park could be considered a sensitive receptor on occasion.

3.5 Geology, Topography and Soils

The geologic resources of an area comprise all soils and bedrock materials. Environmental aspects to be considered include stratigraphy, topography, soils and sediments, engineering properties of the materials, seismic hazards, slope stability, earthworks, mineral resources, unique landforms, and geological conditions that might limit development, influence contaminant distribution and migration, or influence ground water resources.

Topography refers to the physical and natural configuration features of a surface including its relief and the position of its natural and man-made features.

Soil refers to the upper layer of unconsolidated material on the surface of the earth that is capable of supporting plant life. For mapping purposes, soils are typically described as series, associations, or complexes.

Morton County, located in west-central North Dakota, is on the southeast flank of the Williston Basin. The sedimentary section includes each of the geologic periods in the preserved section, and these strata have a gentle northwesterly dip. Surface elevations decrease eastward so the sedimentary section thickens westward from about 6,200 feet in the southeastern corner of the county to about 12,500 feet in the northwestern corner.

The near-surface sediment is of Recent, Pleistocene, Tertiary, or Cretaceous age. Recent sediment consists of alluvium, which is generally confined to lowland areas of current or Pleistocene drainages. Pleistocene sediments include scattered areas of till on upland areas in the eastern part of the county and water-sorted sediment in and along glacially diverted drainages. Soil horizons have developed on poorly consolidated sediment of Tertiary formations in most of the county except in the southeastern part where they are on Upper Cretaceous formations.

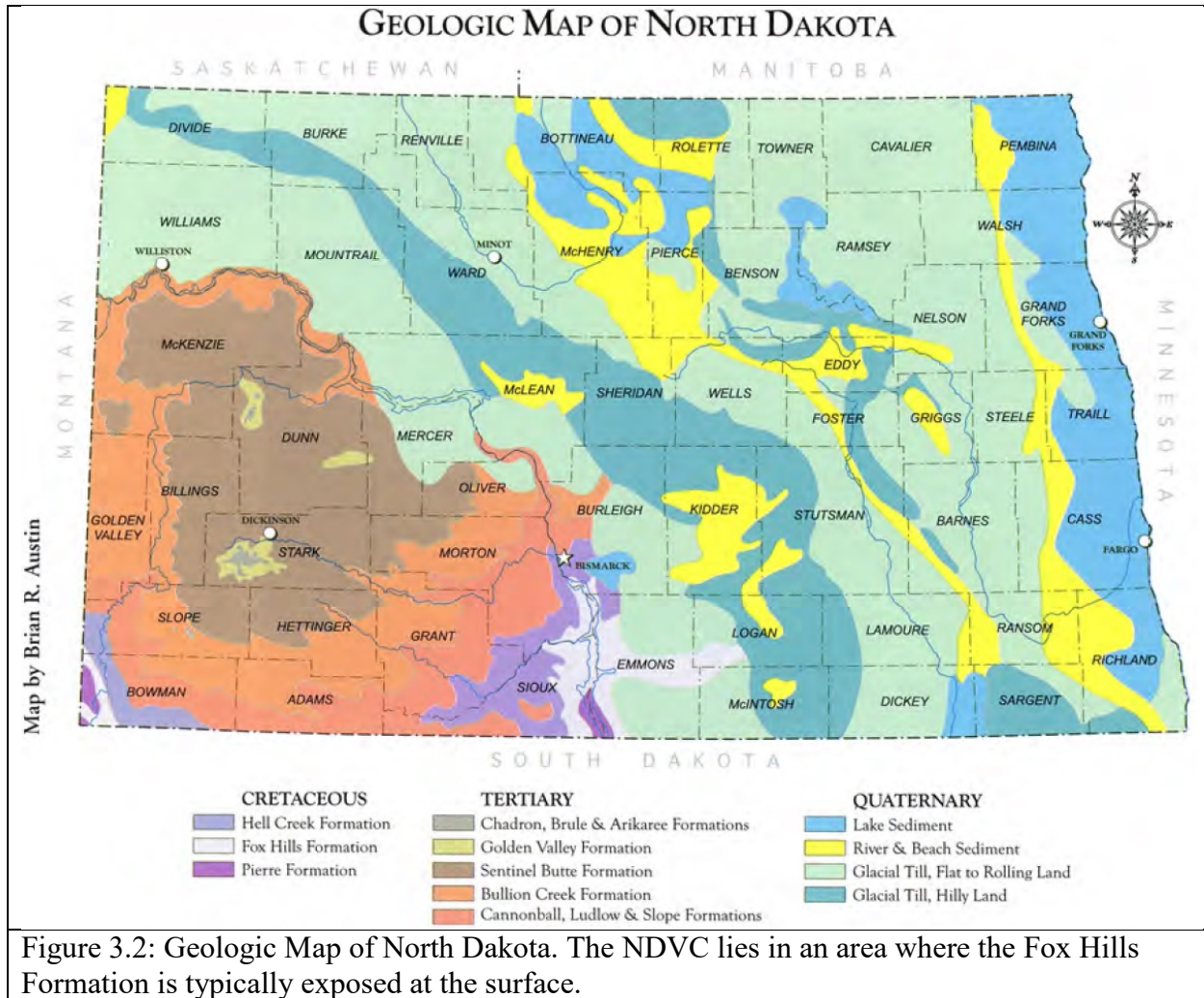
Sandstone beds within the Tertiary formations and the Hell Creek Formation are erratic in distribution, but where present they provide shallow aquifers. In some areas, lignite beds may also provide a shallow aquifer. Where shallow aquifers are inadequate, the Fox Hills Formation contains more or less continuous sandstones which provide a deeper aquifer in Morton County. The saline Dakota aquifer is present at depths of 2,600 to 4,900 feet from southeastern to northwestern Morton County.

Lignite beds are present in the Fort Union Group. In some areas they are thick enough and near enough to the surface to provide strippable reserves.

3.5.1 Geology

Early geologic history of the Morton County area shows that sedimentation began on a Precambrian surface of low relief about 550 million years ago. Each of the geologic periods are represented in the preserved section with Morton County having been alternately an area of marine deposition and emergence during which erosion of part of the sedimentary section occurred. Occasionally, non-marine deposition occurred. Episodes of emergence are marked by

major regional unconformities and the preserved sedimentary sections bounded by these unconformities have been defined as sequences.



There are no known or previously identified seismic conditions or faults within the general area.

Morton County has had some lignite coal mining in the past, and most of the mines have been reclaimed. Strip mining was the predominant mining method. Larger strip mines were operated in the New Salem and Glen Ullin areas, which are approximately 40 or more miles west of the NDVC. If surface mining resumes, it is most likely to occur away from the NDVC.

Morton County has economic deposits of sand and gravel, and these deposits are generally located in association with glacial features. Located approximately 0.8 and 5 miles to the south of the NDVC are two gravel pits. Neither of these pits are currently in operation.

Petroleum exploration has occurred on a limited basis in Morton County. While no wells had recoverable quantities of oil, two wells did recover traces of oil. It appears that oil has migrated

through subsurface formations into the Williston Basin area located in northwestern North Dakota.

3.5.2 Topography

North Dakota straddles two major United States (US) physiographic regions: the Central Plains in the east and the Great Plains in the west. Along the eastern border is the generally flat Red River Valley, with the state's lowest point, 750 ft (229 m); this valley was once covered by the waters of a glacial lake. Most of the eastern half of North Dakota consists of the Drift Prairie, at 1,300–1,600 ft (400–500 m) above sea level. The Missouri Plateau occupies the western half of the state and has the highest point in North Dakota - White Butte, 3,506 ft (1,069m) - in Slope County in the southwest. Separating the Missouri Plateau from the Drift Prairie is the Missouri Escarpment, which rises 400ft (122 m) above the prairie and extends diagonally from northwest to southeast.

North Dakota has two major rivers: the Red River of the North, flowing northward into Canada; and the Missouri River, which enters in the northwest and then flows east and, joined by the Yellowstone River, southeast into South Dakota.

Morton County is located in the south central third of the state along Missouri River Escarpment where the landscape of the Missouri Plateau descends 500 to 650 feet to the glaciated Central Lowlands. The landscape is mostly underlain by sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous age and bears the imprint of the numerous glaciations of the Pleistocene Ice Ages, especially the most recent glaciation that ended 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Accordingly, Cretaceous rocks are mostly covered by glacial sediments and landforms, and the landscape is flat to gently rolling with numerous shallow internally drained depressions, scattered low-relief hills, and narrow incised river valleys that originated as meltwater channels.

The NDVC lies on a terrace of the former floodplain of the Missouri River. In many places, terrace surfaces and the surrounding dissected bedrock landscape are covered by small sand dune fields as well.

3.5.3 Soils

Soil types found at the NDVC and surrounding area were determined using the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey. Table 3.1 below provides a list of soil types recorded for the NDVC property and Figure 3.3 provides a soil distribution map of the NDVC and surrounding area.

The Grail silty clay loam and Amor-Shambo loam are all classified as prime farmland soils. The Farland silt loam, Savage silty clay loam, Savage-Grail silty clay loam, and Regent-Savage silty clay loam are all classified as farmland of statewide importance. The Daglum-Rhoades complex and Moreau-Wayden silty clays are classified as other land.

The construction of small commercial buildings and similar structures on Grail silty clay loam and Savage-Grail silty clay loam have unique concerns of very limited shrink-swell.

| Table 3.1: Soil Types Found at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and Approximate Percentage of Area of Interest | | |
|--|----------------|---|
| Soil Type | Percent of AOI | Description |
| Daglun-Rhoades complex | 5.1 | Deep to very deep, well drained, slow to very slowly permeable sodic to saline-sodic soil with slopes of 0 to 25 percent. |
| Grail Silty clay loam | 43.9 | Very deep, well drained, slowly permeable soil with slopes of 1 to 6 percent. |
| Savage-Grail Silty clay loam | 5.0 | Very deep, well drained, slowly permeable soil with slopes of 0 to 15 percent. |
| Savage Silty clay loam | 10.6 | Very deep, well drained, slowly permeable soil with slopes of 0 to 15 percent. |
| Moreau-Wayden Silty clays | 11.2 | Shallow to moderately deep, well drained, slowly permeable calcareous soil with slopes of 0 to 70 percent. |
| Regent-Savage Silty clay loam | 19.3 | Moderately deep, well drained, slowly permeable soil with slopes of 0 to 15 percent. |
| Farland Silt loam | 0.8 | Very deep, well drained, moderately slow permeable soil with slopes of 0 to 25 percent. |
| Amor-Shambo Loam | 4.2 | Moderately to very deep, well drained, moderately permeable soil with slopes of 0 to 35 percent. |



Figure 3.3: Soil Survey Map of North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and Surrounding Area. Within the NDVC there are eight soil types recorded.

3.6 Water Resources

3.6.1 Surface Water Resources

The term “surface water resources” is a catch-all used to describe various bodies of water residing or flowing in basins, channels, and other various natural and artificial landforms found on the earth’s surface. Rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and estuaries are examples of surface waters. These resources have many beneficial uses including drinking water supply, primary contact recreation (e.g., swimming), and aquatic life support.

Major drainages are the Missouri, Heart, and Cannonball Rivers and Square Butte Creek. Big Muddy Creek is located near the boundary between the two topographic sections and follows the

course of a valley cut by glacially diverted drainage and glacial meltwaters. This valley crosses the Heart River extending southeastward past Flasher into Grant and Sioux Counties. Other glacial channels extend from the St. Anthony area northeastward to the Missouri River and southeastward through Northwest Chantapeta Creek. The NDVC is located approximately one (1) mile west-southwest from the confluence of the Missouri and Heart Rivers.

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery relies on supplied, treated water for most domestic consumptive purposes.

The NDVC operates a permitted intake on the Missouri River for irrigation purposes. Irrigation water is drawn from the Missouri River and piped to the cemetery. Over the past few years, several issues have arisen due to water quality. Due to a high amount of entrained sediments, spray nozzles erode quickly and sediment can occasionally cause low flow due to line blockages. Currently, high water and flows in the Missouri River have created additional issues where the inline filter plugs with debris. This has caused pumping failure and required the system to need recalibration.

The NDDEQ Division of Water Quality monitors water quality parameters for surface water bodies across the state of North Dakota. The nearest monitoring point to the NDVC on the Missouri River located at Bismarck (US number 06342500; ND Site number: 380028). This station is located approximately 4.5 miles upstream from the NDVC intake on the Missouri River. The report shows that this segment of the Missouri River has an assessment category of All Uses Attaining.

3.6.2 Groundwater

Groundwater occurs in an aquifer, a water-bearing bed, or a stratum of earth, gravel, or porous stone. All aquifers have interconnected openings or pores through which water can move, but some aquifers move water more efficiently than others. In general, the best aquifers are the coarse-grained, saturated portions of the unconsolidated granular sedimentary mantle. These unconsolidated sediments are commonly found at lower elevations close to streams and consist of stream alluvium, glacial outwash or till, wind-deposited sand, alluvial fans, and similar water- or wind-induced coarse-grained granular materials.

The occurrence and characteristics of aquifers and the movement, quantity, and quality of water in aquifers in Morton County are described. The findings of this report are needed for the efficient development of the groundwater resources for irrigation, domestic, industrial, and municipal purposes.

Aquifers in the glacial drift and alluvium underlie only 10 percent of the county but have the greatest potential for large-scale development. These aquifers, composed of sand and gravel, occur in buried valleys and in major river valleys. In some localities yields may exceed 500 gallons per minute (30 liters per second) of water suitable for irrigation. Where a hydraulic connection exists between bedrock and glacial-drift aquifers, large withdrawals of water from the particular glacial-drift aquifer will result in an increase in dissolved-solids concentration and percent sodium.

Bedrock aquifers, consisting of very fine to fine-grained sandstones, yield less than 100 gallons per minute (6 liters per second). Water from the bedrock aquifers is generally soft, moderately saline, and useful for domestic, livestock, and some industrial uses.

The Fox Hills aquifer, which underlies all of the county, is the most extensive and continuous aquifer. The aquifer is exposed in the southeastern corner of the county, and lies at a depth of more than 1,500 feet (450 meters) in the northwestern corner of the county. Bedrock aquifers above the Fox Hills aquifer are more discontinuous than the Fox Hills aquifer. Aquifers in the Hell Creek Formation, Ludlow and Cannonball Formations undifferentiated, Tongue River Formation, and Sentinel Butte Formation underlie 90, 75, 45, and 20 percent of the county respectively.

The Pierre Formation, a thick shale that underlies the Fox Hills Formation, is the base of active flow systems. Aquifers below the Pierre Formation occur at depths greater than 3,000 feet (900 meters) and contain very saline water.

3.6.3 Floodplains

The floodplain is any land area susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters from any source. In relation to the NDVC, the Missouri River is the nearest river system which has most recently experienced flooding.



Figure 3.4: Overview of Floodplains Information at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and Surrounding Area. The entire area of the NDVC is located in Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard.

3.6.4 Wetlands

Wetlands are defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Areas meeting this definition are delineated based on parameters of vegetation, soils, and hydrology.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory webpage was reviewed to make an initial determination of the presence/absence of wetlands on the NDVC property. Figure 3.5 below shows that there are no wetlands recorded on the NDVC property and that there are nearby wetlands in the surrounding area.

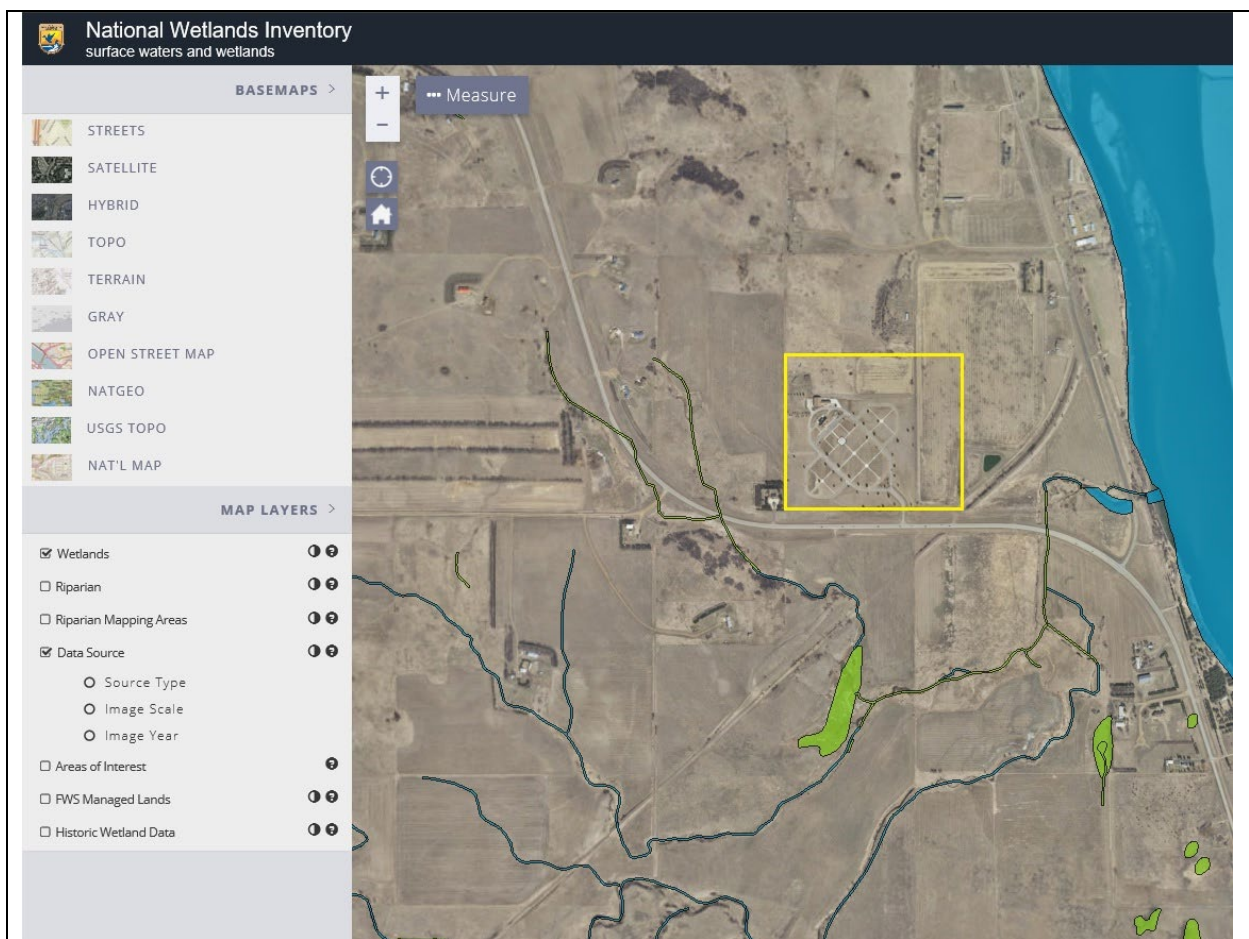


Figure 3.5: National Wetlands Inventory Surface Water and Wetlands Map. The NDVC is located in the yellow box. Riverine wetlands associated with the Missouri River are shown in blue. Freshwater emergent wetlands are shown in light green. There are no identified wetlands located on the NDVC property.

3.7 Biological Resources

3.7.1 Common Species

3.7.1.1 Wildlife

In the prairie habitat surrounding the NDVC, smaller prairie mammals include the red fox, coyote, badger, striped skunk, jackrabbit, pocket gopher, ground squirrel, weasel, voles, and many other species abound. Larger mammals include mule and white-tailed deer and antelope.

North Dakota has many reptiles and amphibians. Several species of snakes, turtles and lizards occupy habitats throughout the state. Several species of frogs, toads and salamanders also live in the prairie habitat. Most reptiles and amphibians are often found near water, which would include the environment around the NDVC.

With relatively few trees on the prairie, bird species have found many niches in which to survive and thrive. Common birds are sparrows, grouse, songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors (eagles, hawks and owls).

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) listed 25 species of migratory birds located in Morton County, North Dakota. Table 3.2 provides a listing of these species.

| Common Name | Genus and species taxa | Level of Concern | Breeding Season |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| American Bittern | <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> | BCC - BCR | APR 1 - AUG 31 |
| American Golden-plover | <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | Breeds elsewhere |
| Baird's Sparrow | <i>Ammodramus bairdii</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAY 20 - AUG 15 |
| Bald Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Non-BCC Vulnerable | DEC 1 – AUG 31 |
| Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | BCC – BCR | MAY 15 – AUG 20 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAY 15 – OCT 10 |
| Bobolink | <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | May 20 – JUL 31 |
| Burrowing Owl | <i>Athene curricularia</i> | BCC – BCR | MAR 15 – AUG 31 |
| Chestnut-collared Longspur | <i>Calcarius ornatus</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAY 1 – AUG 10 |
| Clark's Grebe | <i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | JAN 1 – DEC 31 |
| Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina arctica</i> | BCC – BCR | Breeds elsewhere |
| Ferruginous Hawk | <i>Buteo regalis</i> | BCC - BCR | MAR 15 – AUG 15 |
| Franklin's Gull | <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAY 1 – JUL 31 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | BCC – BCR | JAN 1 – AUG 31 |
| Hudsonian Godwit | <i>Limosa haemastica</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | Breeds elsewhere |
| Lark Bunting | <i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i> | BCC – BCR | MAY 10 – AUG 15 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | <i>Tringa flavipes</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | Breeds elsewhere |
| Lewis’s Woodpecker | <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | APR 20 – SEP 30 |
| Long-eared Owl | <i>Asio otus</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAR 1 – JUL 15 |
| Marbled Godwit | <i>Limosa fedoa</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAY 1 – JUL 31 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalius</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAY 10 – SEP 10 |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | <i>Calidris pusilla</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | Breeds elsewhere |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | Breeds elsewhere |
| Sprague’s Pipit | <i>Anthus spragueii</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | MAY 10 – AUG 31 |
| Willet | <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> | BCC Rangewide (CON) | APR 20 – AUG 5 |

BCC – BCR: Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

BCC Rangewide (CON): Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska

Non-BCC Vulnerable: Not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities

Many of the birds listed in Table 3.2 are not likely to be found on the proposed project site as their primary habitat is related to close availability of water. Species which relate to dense forest are not likely to be encountered because of the lack of trees on the proposed project site. Species which relate more to uplands are more likely to be encountered since there is abundant uplands areas on the proposed project site. The following species are most likely to be encountered on or near the proposed project site: Baird’s Sparrow, Bald Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Lark Bunting, Long-eared Owl and Sprague’s Pipit. Of these species, the Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle and Ferruginous Hawk are most likely to use the area to forage rather than nesting due to the lack of nesting habitat (trees) and the amount of human activity in the area.

3.7.1.2 Vegetation

The northern Great Plains were once described as “a sea of grass.” While there are pockets of riparian habitats along rivers and lakes, the predominant vegetative cover is made up of many species of grasses, forbs and wildflowers. Prairie grasslands developed and thrived because of their deep underground root systems. The plants have evolved to weather certain conditions

which do not allow trees and other woody plants to survive: low precipitation; long, cold winters, hot summers and strong winds; and animal grazing.

Fire is also part of the prairie lifecycle. Periodically, prairie fires started by lightning burned across the grasslands, whipped by the winds to a high speed. The fast moving fires removed dead vegetation and provided nutrient minerals back to the soil where the deep roots of prairie grasses survived.

There are three kinds of prairie: tallgrass, mixed-grass and shortgrass. The area around the NDVC is considered a mixed-grass prairie. The mixed-grass prairie is an area where both tallgrass and shortgrass species live together. Mixed-grass prairies have survived because many areas have land that is too hilly, too rocky or are otherwise unsuitable for farming.

Besides multiple grass species, the mixed-grass prairie also contain a variety of wildflowers, junipers, cactus, sagebrush, and yucca. Notable perennial wildflowers include the prairie crocus, wild prairie rose and purple coneflower. Native Americans used many species for medicinal purposes and for food. These include white penstemon, western wallflower, prairie smoke, prairie lily, yellow coneflower, common yarrow, scarlet globemallow, dotted blazing star, Missouri goldenrod, wild licorice, and curlycup gumweed. Other notable plants include several species of milkweed (used as a primary forage plant by Monarch butterflies), wild bergamot (Earl Gray tea) and purple coneflower (Echinacea – used to prevent colds and strengthen the immune system).

3.7.2 Threatened and Endangered Species and Designated Critical Habitat

IPaC provided the list of current threatened (T) and endangered (E) species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) located in Morton County, North Dakota. Table 3.3 provides the list of species and listing category.

| Common Name | Genus and species taxa | Category |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Northern Long-eared Bat | <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> | T |
| Least Tern | <i>Sterna antillarum</i> | E |
| Piping Plover | <i>Charadrius melodus</i> | T |
| Red Knot | <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> | T |
| Whooping Crane | <i>Grus americana</i> | E |
| Rusty Patched Bumblebee | <i>Bombus affinis</i> | E |
| Pallid Sturgeon | <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> | E |

IPaC lists critical habitat along the Missouri River for the Piping Plover.

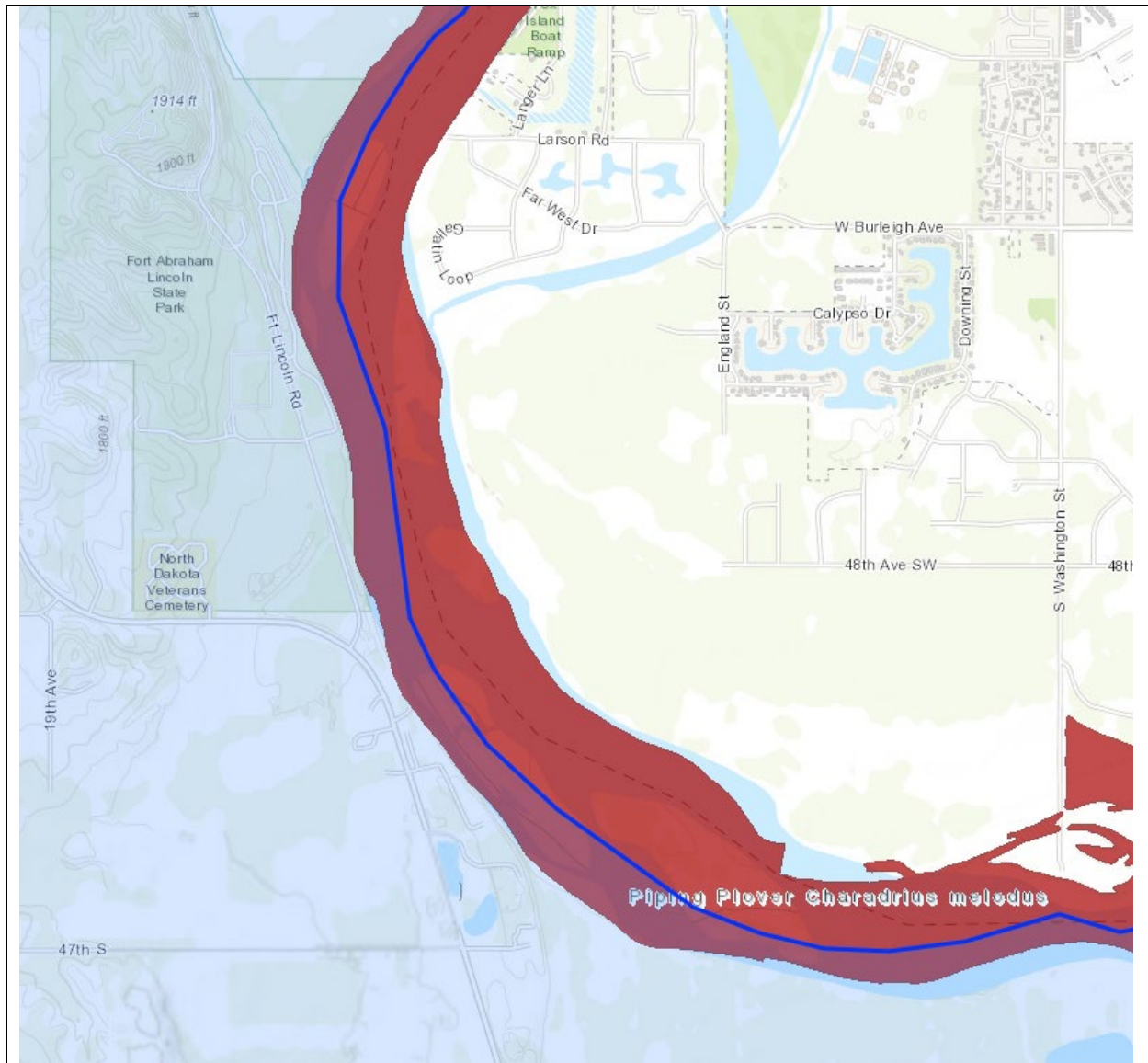


Figure 3.6: Piping Plover Final Critical Habitat near the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Taken from IPaC (July 19, 2019). Critical habitat is located along the shores of the Missouri River. The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery is located approximately 0.34 miles (590 yards) west of the western shoreline.

3.7.3 Terrestrial/Aquatic Ecosystems in the Area

Interaction between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in North Dakota demonstrate how intertwined and how interdependent upon each other these ecosystems are. As European settlers moved westward, they encountered the vast prairie which was turned into farmland. Rivers, which once ran free and typically flooded every year, were dammed, channelized and straightened to make them more “manageable”. However, these actions upset the balance and pushed both ecosystems to their present state.

The terrestrial ecosystem experienced significant changes in Missouri River fauna long before river regulation occurred. For example, some of the nearly 160 species and their habitats first described by Lewis and Clark went extinct or were extirpated from the region because of hunting and loss of habitat. These species included bison, elk, grizzly bear, wild sheep, swans, and the Carolina parakeet. These animals used the Missouri River valley as protection from harsh winters and summer heat. The beaver was essentially trapped out of much of the northern Great Plains. Wetland drainage, stream channelization, and trapping kept beaver numbers low during much of the first half of the 1900s. More recently, due partly to the declining value of wild fur, beaver are more numerous even along portions of the channelized reaches.

As farming and ranching practices began to remove large areas of native prairie, the ecosystem also experienced change. For example, trees which were already few in number on the prairie, were cut down for building materials and firewood. Slow growing hardwood oak forests were replaced by faster growing softwoods, which did not have as much resistance to fire, drought and insect predation.

The closest aquatic ecosystem is along the Missouri River. The Missouri River basin (Figure 3.7) extends over 530,000 square miles and covers approximately one-sixth of the continental United States. The one-hundredth meridian, the boundary between the arid western states and the more humid states in the eastern United States, crosses the middle of the basin. Near the end of the nineteenth century, the Missouri River's length was measured at 2,546 miles. Large, looping meanders of the main channel, some of which were nearly circular and that measured tens of miles in circumference, were then prominent features of the river. Much of the river has since been dammed, straightened, and channelized, and these large meanders have been virtually eliminated. As a result, the Missouri River's length today is 2,341 miles—a shortening of roughly 200 miles.



Figure 3.7: Missouri River Basin.

Ecological changes that accompanied changes in hydrology proceeded more slowly but were of a similar magnitude. Large floodplain areas along the upper Missouri were inundated by the reservoirs. Large areas of native vegetation communities in downstream floodplains were converted into farmland. Many native fish and avian species experienced substantial reductions, while nonnative species - especially fishes - thrived in some areas.

Natural vegetation communities along the Missouri featured forests with a wide variety of species. The dominant floodplain trees were cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* var. *lanceolata*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*). Subdominant trees included peach-leaved willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) and bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). Common shrubs and woody vines included dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) wolfberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), juneberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), woodbine (*Parthenocissus inserta*), and fox grape (*Vitis vulpina*).

3.8 Cultural Resources

For the purposes of NEPA analyses, cultural resources include:

- Historic properties, as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- Cultural items, as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Archeological resources, as defined in the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).
- Historic and paleontological resources, as defined by the Antiquities Act.
- Sites that are scientifically significant, as defined by the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA).
- Sacred sites, as defined in EO 13007 (to which access is provided under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)).
- Collections, as defined in 36 CFR Part 79 (Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Collections).

3.8.1 Previous Surveys in the Area

In 2019, the North Dakota National Guard and NDVC coordinated with Native American tribes located in the area in order to determine if there would be any potential impacts to cultural resources at the NDVC from the proposed expansion of the cemetery.

The NDVC has conducted two recent archeological surveys on its property in preparation for expansion of the facility. The first survey was conducted on approximately 36 acres of newly acquired property. This survey recorded three potential archeological sites, of which two were determined to require additional study to make an eligibility determination. The second study was conducted on two specific sites in order to determine their eligibility status. Additional information may be found in Section 3.8.2.

There are no resources on the NDVC property that are older than 50 years. Within the area, there are several restored structures on Fort Lincoln State Park which are over 50 years of age.

3.8.2 Archeological Resources

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery expansion in section 24 of T138N, R81W of Morton County, North Dakota required a review of cultural resources in the area. Beaver Creek Archeology, Inc. (BCA) was hired to conduct a file search, a Class III Intensive Cultural Resource Inventory, and complete a Cultural Resource Survey Report for the site.

The file search revealed 11 sites, six site leads, and four isolated finds within a one-mile radius of the survey area. One previously recorded site is within the survey area, site 32MO141 (Fort Abraham Lincoln). During the current inventory, sites 32MO1473, 32MO1474, and 32MO1479 were found and recorded. All three sites consist primarily of historic artifacts, with an extremely low concentration of Native American artifacts.

Shovel probes were conducted within the survey area to determine the site boundaries. Due to the importance of the fort, not only to North Dakota history but to the Nation as well, it was decided through consultation between BCA, North Dakota State Historical Preservation Office (NDSHPO), and the NDVC that further work would need to be conducted in order to determine the NRHP eligibility of the newly recorded sites. Until further work can be done, the sites are recommended as unevaluated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, BCA recommends a finding of Historic Properties Affected for this project.

NDVC consulted with NDSHPO to determine a path forward for evaluating the site and possibly clearing the site for use as a cemetery. Due to the existence of two sites that are potentially associated with Fort Abraham Lincoln located within the project area, BCA was contracted to conduct archaeological testing on sites 32MO1473 and 32MO1474 in order to assess the density, integrity, and significance of the cultural material located at these sites, and to complete a cultural resource report for submittal to NDVC and NDSHPO.

The sites tested for this project were 32MO1473 and 32MO1474, both of which consisted of cultural material scatters within the boundary of site 32MO141 (Fort Abraham Lincoln). The two sites consisted primarily of historic artifacts, with some modern and prehistoric artifacts throughout. Sites 32MO1473 and 32MO1474 were discovered during the original survey for the NDVC's land expansion project (MS# 17275). Due to the discovery of these sites and their potential connection to Fort Abraham Lincoln, it was determined through consultation between BCA, the NDSHPO, and the NDVC that further work would need to be performed in order to determine the NRHP eligibility for these sites. This report details the investigation of sites 32MO1473 and 32MO1474, describing the results of the site testing as well as additional background cultural and environmental information.

At both sites, metal detection and surface collection were conducted throughout the site boundary. In addition, one test unit was excavated in the area with the heaviest artifact concentration in each site. These test units were implemented to determine the depositional level of artifacts (i.e., if there were any located below the plow zone), or if the artifacts were only located within the plow zone, as both sites were located within an agricultural field. Both test units were positive for artifacts within the plow zone and negative for artifacts beneath the plow

zone. As a result, it is unlikely that the sites contain any cultural deposits that have not been disturbed by plowing, and that there are any intact cultural deposits below the plow zone.

Sites 32MO1473 and 32MO1474 have little remaining integrity, as they have been heavily disturbed and are in poor condition. While the sites can be associated with historic events or persons, they are lacking context due to plowing and it is unlikely that the sites will reveal any new further cultural or historical information. Due to these reasons, sites 32MO1473 and 32MO1474 have been recommended as ineligible for the NRHP. In addition, the portion of site 32MO141 in the project area is recommended as a non-contributing element. Therefore, BCA recommends a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this project. NDSHPO concurred with this recommendation.

Due to the presence of the nearby Fort Abraham Lincoln, there are periodic discoveries of artifacts when burial plots are excavated. Some of these items relate to military occupation of the Fort while the majority relate to the more recent occupation of the nearby farmstead.

3.8.3 Paleontological Resources

As the geologic map of North Dakota (Section 3.5.1) shows, the Cretaceous Fox Hills and Hell Creek Formations are exposed at the surface in the area around the NDVC. The Fox Hills Formation is well-known for producing excellent examples of marine fossils due to the warm, shallow ocean environment which covered North Dakota during the time period of 85 to 65 million years ago. Slightly to the west, the Fox Hills formation transitions to the younger Hell Creek Formation. The Hell Creek Formation is well known for producing many fossils of well-known dinosaurs. In North Dakota, the Hell Creek Formation is the only rock formation that contains abundant dinosaur remains with fossils of fourteen species recovered.

Commonly, exposed bedrock is where most fossils are discovered. At the NDVC, the surface topography and geology have been worked and covered with alluvium from erosion of uplands areas and the periodic flooding of the Missouri River. During excavation of burial plots, there have been no fossil remains discovered.

3.9 Socioeconomics

3.9.1 Demographics

As of the 2000 United States Census, there were 25,303 people, 9,889 households, and 6,932 families in the county. The population density was 13 people per square mile (5/km²). There were 10,587 housing units at an average density of 6 per square mile (2/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 95.82% White, 0.16% Black or African American, 2.39% Native American, 0.30% Asian, 0.01% Pacific Islander, 0.16% from other races, and 1.16% from two or more races. 0.65% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 64.5% were of German and 10.6% Norwegian ancestry.

There were 9,889 households out of which 34.90% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 58.20% were married couples living together, 8.50% had a female householder with no

husband present, and 29.90% were non-families. 25.70% of all households were made up of individuals and 10.90% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.51 and the average family size was 3.03.

The county population contained 27.00% under the age of 18, 7.80% from 18 to 24, 28.20% from 25 to 44, 22.40% from 45 to 64, and 14.60% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 37 years. For every 100 females there were 99.30 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 96.30 males.

As of the 2010 census, there were 27,471 people, 11,289 households, and 7,523 families in the county. The population density was 14.3 inhabitants per square mile (5.5/km²). There were 12,079 housing units at an average density of 6.3 per square mile (2.4/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 93.6% white, 3.6% American Indian, 0.4% black or African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.1% Pacific islander, 0.4% from other races, and 1.6% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 1.5% of the population.

Of the 11,289 households, 30.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 53.1% were married couples living together, 9.3% had a female householder with no husband present, 33.4% were non-families, and 27.7% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.38 and the average family size was 2.90. The median age was 39.3 years.

3.9.2 Economics

As of the 2000 United States Census, the median income for a household in the county was \$37,028, and the median income for a family was \$44,592. Males had a median income of \$30,698 versus \$21,301 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$17,202. About 6.80% of families and 9.60% of the population were below the poverty line, including 11.00% of those under age 18 and 14.30% of those age 65 or over.

As of the 2010 United States Census, the median income for a household in the county was \$50,591 and the median income for a family was \$62,713. Males had a median income of \$42,044 versus \$31,505 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$25,303. About 5.4% of families and 8.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 10.8% of those under age 18 and 9.6% of those age 65 or over.

The job market in Morton County has seen a small decrease (approximately -1.9%) in the past year. Future job growth is also anticipated to decrease slightly over the next ten years and not match the national average.

3.9.3 Facilities and Services in the Area

Housing availability in Morton County is a fairly tight market with less than 1% of houses and apartments available to rent. Approximately 21% of the county residents rent their housing. Since the recent Bakken oil boom in western North Dakota started, Morton County has seen an increase in the construction of new houses and apartment complexes. These units are quickly

occupied once they become available, although indicators are pointing to a slight slowdown in housing construction.

Schools in Mandan provide education from kindergarten through high school. Across Morton County, school sizes vary by the size of the local community. There are an average of 12 students per teacher, 332 students per librarian and 203 students per counselor. Higher level education is available through the North Dakota University System, with several colleges located within 10 miles.

Medical facilities in Mandan are somewhat limited, although there are two nearby hospitals and many medical facilities located in nearby Bismarck. There are several clinics in Mandan that are associated with hospitals in Bismarck. Emergency care is available at both hospitals, and emergency transport by ground and air is also available. There are approximately 66 physicians per 100,000 residents in Morton County, which is far less than the national average of approximately 210 per 100,000 people.

Retail goods and services are provided by many shopping malls and downtown areas in both Mandan and Bismarck. Local residents and surrounding areas can find almost all necessary goods and services immediately available in the Bismarck/Mandan area. Dining in the area is well supported by many national and regional chains, and there is a thriving restaurant business for local entrepreneurs.

Recreation facilities supporting local communities are available year-round. There are public biking trails throughout the Bismarck/Mandan area, which includes a trail that runs to the NDVC through Fort Lincoln State Park. The Bismarck Event Center provides a venue for sporting events, concerts and other events. The Schaumberg Arena provides an indoor skating rink for ice skating and hockey. The Missouri River provides ample opportunity for boating and sports a world-class fishery. Hunting opportunities abound in the area from small and big games species to upland birds and waterfowl hunting.

3.9.4 Safety and Health

Morton County does not have a high crime rate. Violent crime is less than half the national average (11.2 compared to 22.7) and property crime is less than the national average (29.3 compared to 35.4). Violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims.

In regards to worker safety, North Dakota is not a “state plan” state; that is, it does not have a federally approved occupational safety and health regulatory program. Therefore, private sector workplaces are regulated by the federal standards. There are no laws that govern workplace safety and health in public sector (state and local government operations) workplaces in the state. The state offers several workers' compensation insurance premium discounts to employers that participate in certain workplace safety and insurance risk management programs.

Morton County is similar in aspect to most of North Dakota in relation to environmental health. North Dakota is renowned for its clean air and clean water.

3.10 Environmental Justice

The concept of environmental justice is based on the premise that no segment of the population should bear a disproportionate share of adverse human health or environmental effects.

Historically, low-income and minority communities have, in some cases, been disproportionately affected by negative environmental effects, receiving few of the benefits of economic growth and development while absorbing much of the societal cost.

On 11 February 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations. The purpose of the EO is to avoid the disproportionate placement of adverse environmental, economic, social, or health effects from Federal Proposed Actions and policies on minority and low-income populations. The first step in analyzing this issue is to identify minority and low-income populations that might be affected by implementation of the Proposed Action or its considered alternatives. Demographic information on ethnicity, race, and economic status is provided in this section as the baseline against which potential Environmental Justice effects can be identified and analyzed.

Geographic distribution of minority populations within Morton County shows that approximately 7.3% to 10.4% of the residents are other than white. Of these, the two highest are Hispanic/Latino at 3.7% and American Indian and Alaska Native at 3.6%. Concentrations of these two groups may be found in the larger cities in the region.

2010 United States Census data shows there are 8.3% of Morton County residents as persons in poverty. For City of Mandan residents, this increases to 9.6% of the population.

Additional information from EPA's environmental justice webpage, EJScreen, can be found in Appendix B.

3.11 Infrastructure

Infrastructure consists of the physical, man-made systems and structures that enable a population in a specified area to function. The extent to which an area is characterized as developed (e.g., urban) or undeveloped rests in large part on the types and extent of infrastructure serving the area. The availability of infrastructure and its capacity to support growth are generally regarded as essential to economic growth of an area. Although there is no national consensus as to what constitutes infrastructure, the following reflect the principal elements most often associated with the term:

- Water systems
- Wastewater systems
- Storm water systems
- Solid waste management

- Energy distribution systems
- Traffic and circulation
- Transportation systems
- Communications systems

3.11.1 Utilities

Electric supply in the area is from Mor-Gran-Sou Rural Electric Cooperative. Mor-Gran-Sou began operations in 1940, and continues to provide electricity and other services to its customers in Morton, Grant and Sioux Counties. Mor-Gran-Sou services more than 6,000 member-consumers, with 8,196 metered accounts, 242 miles of transmission lines, and 3,577 miles of distribution lines.

Currently, there is an overhead electric supply line located on the newly acquired property which will need to be moved. The overhead line is used as a backup supply line to Fort Lincoln State Park, and it lies in an area where the overhead line would destroy the aesthetics of the cemetery.

Potable water services at the NDVC are provided by Missouri West Water System. Irrigation at the NDVC is provided by permitted withdrawal from the Missouri River through a pump and underground pipeline. Irrigation water is not treated.

Natural gas service is not available in the NDVC area. Rural users typically fuel gas-fueled appliances with propane which is stored in aboveground tanks on their property. The NDVC has three 1000 gallon propane tanks which provide propane as a fuel source for heating equipment. Propane is supplied through a contracted vendor, and as of the date of completion of this EA, Missouri Valley Petroleum (MVP) was the current contracted vendor.

Solid waste disposal in the county is accomplished using several local and/or regional landfills. Municipal waste management is accomplished through public service contracts with private haulers. Wastes from the NDVC are commingled with other solid wastes generated by households and other facilities in the local area, and disposed at the City of Mandan landfill located approximately 5 miles west of the city.

Wastewater disposal is routed to a septic system which manages all collected wastewaters. This septic system is located to the south of the maintenance shop building. During periods of high use, such as Memorial Day when the NDVC receives over 4000 visitors, portable lavatories are provided for public use in order to not overtax the septic system.

3.11.2 Transportation Network

Roadways in the area consist of arterials branching from State Highway 1806. Several of the smaller arterial roadways are paved, but most are gravel county roads. State Highway 1806 connects to Interstate 94 (I-94), which is one of two interstate highways in North Dakota. NDVC relies on both I-94 and State Highway 1806 to provide traffic support for visitors and deliveries to the Cemetery. North Dakota Department of Transportation maintains State Highway 1806, to

include road ditch maintenance when required. NDVC typically mows the road ditch in front of the Cemetery in order to provide a more appealing visual aesthetic.

Rail systems in the area generally run east-west through the nearby city of Mandan. The rail system is operated by Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. Limited passenger service is available in North Dakota, however, the closest passenger terminal is located in Minot, which is approximately 135 miles north of the NDVC.

Air operations are provided predominantly by the Bismarck Municipal Airport, which is served by United Express, Delta, Frontier, American Airlines, and Allegiant air carriers. Service is provided to Denver, CO, Minneapolis, MN, Chicago, IL, Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX, Las Vegas, NV and Mesa, AZ. The Bismarck Municipal Airport has been in operations at this site since the early 1930s. The Mandan Airport provides service for local general aviation and transient general aviation operations in the area. There are six (6) operators based at the Mandan Airport.

3.12 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes

The NDVC is not a generator of hazardous wastes from its operations. Minor amounts of hazardous materials are used in everyday operations for maintenance of the facilities and equipment. These materials are stored in appropriate storage areas, and located in areas not generally accessible by the public.

3.12.1 Storage and Handling Areas

Solid wastes are accumulated in waste receptacles in several of the buildings and disposed as municipal solid waste.

Equipment maintenance wastes are handled and stored temporarily in the maintenance shop.

3.12.2 Petroleum Storage

The NDVC has an aboveground storage tank for petroleum products used in maintenance equipment. This tank is registered with the NDDEQ under the Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund. NDVC maintains the tank and performs routine inspections to ensure the tank's integrity. There are no recorded spills from this tank, and integrity testing has demonstrated that the tank does not leak.

3.12.3 Recycling

The City of Mandan has a recycling program where recyclable materials may be placed in a curbside bin for pickup. NDVC participates in this program. Also, through its association with the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG), rechargeable batteries are recycled as they are generated.

Unique to the Cemetery, as re-entrance to burials sites occur, headstones are recovered and stored until they can be sent off site for re-use.

Section 4.0 Environmental Consequences

4.1 Introduction

This section provides information to form the scientific and analytic basis for the comparison of alternatives, providing the decision-maker with a clear basis for choice between reasonable alternatives. This comparison summarizes the potential environmental impacts to the human environment as a result of implementing the reasonable alternatives. As defined in 40 CFR Section 1508.14, the human environment is interpreted to include natural and physical resources, and the relationship of people with those resources. Accordingly, this analysis has focused on identifying types of impacts and estimating their potential significance. It identifies the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on each of the resource areas previously described in the Affected Environment, Section 3.0.

The concept of “significance” used in this assessment includes consideration of both the context and the intensity or severity of the impact, as defined by 40 CFR 1508.27. The CEQ Regulations specify that in determining the significance of effects, consideration must be given to both context and intensity (40 CFR Part 1508.27):

- Context refers to the significance of an effect to society as a whole (human and national), to an affected region, to affected interests, or to just the locality. In other words, the context measures how far the effect would be felt.
- Intensity refers to the magnitude or severity of the effect, whether it is beneficial or adverse. Intensity refers to the punch strength of the effect within the context involved.

Severity of an impact could be based on the magnitude of change, the likelihood of change, the potential for violation of laws or regulations, the context of the impact (both spatial and temporal), and the resilience of the resource. The spatial area, or area of potential effects (APE), varies by resource. For instance, the APE for soils may be limited to the area of the construction site whereas the APE for air quality is significantly larger. Temporal, or effects over time, also vary in degree. For example, noise during the construction phases varies by the number and types of equipment in use. Significant impacts are effects that are most substantial and should receive the greatest attention in decision-making. Impacts that are not significant include those that result in little or no effect to the existing environment and cannot be easily detected. If a resource would not be affected by a proposed activity, a finding of no impact was declared. If a resource would be improved by a proposed activity, a beneficial impact was noted.

For reader clarity, this EA analyzes the potential environmental consequences related to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery’s (NDVC) decision to design, construct and operate a columbarium in order to provide aboveground cremation inurnments to Veterans. The analysis recognizes the linkages between resources. Throughout the analysis, linkages are discussed where appropriate and quantified if possible.

4.2 Land Use

If an alternative would conflict with adopted plans and goals of the affected community or if it would result in a substantial alteration to the present or planned land use of an area, it could have

a significant direct effect. If an alternative would result in substantial new development or prevent such development elsewhere, it could have a significant indirect effect. In addition, an alternative could significantly affect visual resources if it resulted in abrupt changes to the complexity of the landscape and skyline (i.e., in terms of vegetation, topography, or structures) when viewed from points readily accessible by the public.

4.2.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not change the land use (cemetery) or zoning (Public Institutional). There would be no potential to impact nearby development or displace such development elsewhere. Design of the columbarium would be accomplished to have the least impact on visual resources in the area, and is likely to complement the existing structures at the NDVC. Therefore, there are no significant adverse impacts from this alternative.

Construction of a columbarium would concentrate the burial density greatly, given that the columbarium would provide a significant increase in burial niches when compared to below ground cremation inurnment. Such an increase is a beneficial impact in that it allows more burials per square foot and allows land that would otherwise be used for cemetery purposes to remain in other uses.

Subsequent operation of and maintenance of the grounds around the columbarium would be very similar to current cremation inurnment and grounds maintenance. Notably, there is a beneficial effect in that no soil disturbing activities would occur with each cremation inurnment in the columbarium when compared to either initial full body interment or underground cremation inurnment or subsequent re-entry into a below ground burial site.

4.2.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation inurnments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC.

4.2.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.3 Air Quality

An alternative could have a significant air quality effect if it would result in substantially higher air pollutant emissions or cause established air quality standards to be exceeded.

4.3.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

There would be no direct or indirect air quality effects that would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action. Best management practices (BMP) associated with construction activities would be implemented to control dust and fugitive emissions during construction, and operations at the NDVC post-construction would not generate any dust or fugitive emissions.

4.3.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation interments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation interment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC.

There would be no direct or indirect air quality effects that would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action. BMPs associated with grave site activities would be implemented to control dust and fugitive emissions during construction, and operations at the NDVC post-construction would not generate any dust or fugitive emissions.

4.3.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.4 Noise

An alternative could have a significant noise effect if it would generate new sources of substantial noise, increase the intensity or duration of noise levels to sensitive receptors, or result in exposure of more people to unacceptable levels of noise.

In general, noise-sensitive land uses, such as housing, schools, and medical facilities, are compatible with the noise environment in Zone I, normally incompatible in Zone II, and incompatible in Zone III. Construction of a columbarium in a cemetery would be considered compatible with Zone I.

| Noise Levels for Designated Noise Zones | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Noise Zone | Population Highly Annoyed | Transportation Noise (ADNL) | Impulsive Noise (CDNL) | Small Arms Noise (unweighted) |
| Zone I | <15% | <65 dBA | <62 dBC | <87 dBP |
| Zone II | 15%-39% | 65-75 dBA | 62-70 dBC | 87-104 dBP |
| Zone III | >39% | >75 dBA | >70 dBC | >104 dBP |
| Abbreviations: | | dBA = decibels, A-weighted dBC = decibels, C-weighted dBP = decibels, Peak (unweighted) | | |

Figure 4.1: Noise Levels for Designated Noise Zones.

4.4.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

The Proposed Action would not create any new noise source. During construction, operation of heavy machinery in the NDVC may have extremely short-term adverse impacts (such as during the chapel service and/or an interment). These impacts should be limited to the NDVC only and there would be no impacts to receptors outside of the NDVC boundary. These potential adverse impacts could be avoided by shutting down construction operations during services and interments, or managing schedules so that both operations have time where noise and quiet are the higher concern.

BMPs associated with construction activities would be implemented to control and manage noise generation. Construction time schedules will be set so that noise will not disturb nearby receptors off NDVC property.

Operation and maintenance of the site would experience noise similar to current operations at the cemetery. These operations include lawn mowing, tree and shrub trimming, leaf and grass blowing and similar grounds maintenance activities. These activities would be suspended during interments as this is the normal business practice of the NDVC.

4.4.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation inurnments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC.

4.4.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.5 Geology, Topography and Soils

If an alternative would result in an increased geologic hazard or a change in the availability of a geologic resource, it could have a significant effect. Such geologic and soil hazards would include, but not be limited to, seismic vibration, land subsidence, and slope instability.

4.5.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

Less than significant short-term adverse impacts to the local geology, topography and soils are expected to occur. Direct impacts would include: (1) short-term compaction of soils on the construction site, (2) short-term soil exposure and erosion and (3) long-term extensive modification of soils and topography.

During construction operations, soils in the area within the NDVC will be compacted from heavy equipment operations. Compacted soils tend to prohibit or significantly retard water infiltration, making runoff worse and not providing sufficient water for plant growth. This problem can be relatively easily rectified by loosening the soils by plowing. These impacts are expected to be short-term, lasting during the period of construction until the area is revegetated. These impacts are not expected to be significant.

Soil disturbing activities during land clearing and construction will make exposed soils more susceptible to erosion. The contractor will apply for and receive a stormwater permit prior to commencing any soil disturbing activities. Operators conducting work will follow best common engineering practices to limit and/or control erosion on the work site and offsite deposition. These impacts are expected to be short-term, lasting during the period of construction until the area is revegetated. These impacts are not expected to be significant.

Soil removal and the topography of the area will be changed during the construction of the columbarium, and these impacts are expected to be long-term. Disturbed soils may be reconditioned by plowing or compacting, adding soil amendments and other BMPs. The topography will undergo a permanent change with additional of structures, and there is no method to diminish this impact. However, the columbarium will be constructed to have a visually appealing aesthetic which may relieve some of the adverse impact to topography. These impacts are not expected to be significant.

Operation and grounds maintenance of the columbarium would not have any impacts on geology, topography and soils. There would be a minor, long-term beneficial effect from having no soil disturbing activities occurring with each cremation inurnment in the columbarium when compared to either initial full body interment, underground cremation inurnment or subsequent re-entry into a below ground burial site.

4.5.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation inurnments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC.

Soil disturbing activities during land clearing and construction will make exposed soils more susceptible to erosion. The contractor will apply for and receive a stormwater permit prior to commencing any soil disturbing activities. Operators conducting work will follow best common engineering practices to limit and/or control erosion on the work site and offsite deposition. These impacts are expected to be short-term, lasting during the period of construction until the area is revegetated. These impacts are not expected to be significant.

Normal operations of a cemetery require burial site excavation for either full body interment or belowground cremation inurnment. Full body interment has a greater area of disturbance

compared to below ground cremation inurnment (approximately 18-20 square feet compared to 2-4 square feet), either of these disturbed areas are relatively quick to recover after the disturbance and revegetation growth is re-established. These impacts are expected to be short-term, lasting during the period of excavation until the area is revegetated. These impacts are not expected to be significant.

4.5.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.6 Water Resources

If an alternative would result in a reduction in the quantity or quality of water resources for existing or potential future use, it could have a significant effect. Based on existing water rights, a significant effect would occur if the demand exceeded the capacity of the potable water system. An alternative also could have a significant effect on water resources if it would cause substantial flooding or erosion, if it would subject people or property to flooding or erosion, or if it would adversely affect a significant water body, such as a stream or lake.

4.6.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

Less than significant short- and long-term adverse and beneficial impacts to water resources. Direct and indirect impacts include: (1) short-term impacts to runoff and (2) long-term impacts from increased impervious surfaces creating additional runoff volume and (3) long-term beneficial impacts on reduced irrigation need.

In the short-term (during construction), soil compaction will lead to increased runoff which must be properly managed on site before flow could enter the Missouri River system. In the long-term, addition of impervious surfaces (the columbarium structure, sidewalks, walls, roadways, etc.) will increase runoff from the site. Runoff may be managed in several ways in the existing stormwater system. Innovative management, including temporary storage of stormwater for later irrigation use, would result in a potential adverse impact becoming a beneficial impact. Further, given the areal extent of the impervious surfaces, less irrigation will be required around the columbarium.

BMPs will be implemented to control stormwater during construction and the site will be revegetated with grass. Other controls to managing soil transport on vehicles entering and departing the site (truck wash station, settling pond, etc.) will be implemented as part of a required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (prepared by the contractor), since the site will require a stormwater permit.

Since the NDVC irrigates its property, having the columbarium will alleviate the need to irrigate that area. While the columbarium is likely to have areas for plantings and some grass, irrigation needs will be more similar to the areas around the buildings rather than the extent of the remainder of the NDVC. While there will be a reduced need for irrigation, it is not expected to be significant.

4.6.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation interments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation interment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC.

4.6.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.7 Biological Resources

If an alternative would disrupt or remove any endangered or threatened species or its designated critical habitat, it could have a significant effect on biological resources and ecosystems. The loss of a substantial number of individuals of any plant or animal species (sensitive or non-sensitive species) that could affect the abundance or diversity of that species beyond normal variability could also be considered significant. The measurable degradation of sensitive habitats, particularly wetlands, could also be significant.

4.7.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

The Proposed Action is not expected to have any impacts on threatened or endangered species, or their habitats, in the ROI of the proposed project area. There should be no degradation to species diversity or sensitive habitats. Species that inhabit the proposed project area may be temporarily displaced during the construction phase, but are likely to return to the area once the project is completed.

4.7.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation interments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Impacts to biological resources would be expected to be similar in nature to current impacts, which are negligible.

4.7.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.8 Cultural Resources

An alternative could have a significant effect on cultural resources if it would: result in damage, destruction, or demolition to an archaeological site or building that is eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places; promote neglect of such a resource, resulting in resource

deterioration or destruction; introduce audio or visual intrusion to such a resource; or decrease access to resources of value to Federally recognized Native American Tribes. Impact assessment for cultural resources focuses on properties that are listed in or considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or are National Historic Landmarks, as well as resources that are considered sensitive by Federally recognized Native American Tribes.

4.8.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

The Proposed Action would not affect any known or previously identified cultural resource sites. Solicitation of comments from Native American tribes provided comments that tribes desire to have a tribal monitor present during soil disturbing activities to ensure inadvertent discoveries are quickly identified and promptly investigated. Provisions for tribal monitoring will be included in the construction contract. Therefore, there should be no significant adverse impacts.

Due to the proximity to the historic Fort Abraham Lincoln area, there is a higher than normal expectation of the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources. In the event of such a discovery, the NDVC would follow all required state protocols for notification and managing of the resource. These protocols focus on protecting the site from further damage, notifying appropriate state agencies (State Historic Preservation Office and state law enforcement) and evaluating the newly discovered site for historical significance.

4.8.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation interments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Impacts to inadvertent discovery of cultural resources would be expected to be similar in nature to current impacts, which are negligible.

4.8.3 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is needed, however, as best management practice of the Office of the Adjutant General, the NDVC follows the North Dakota National Guard's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan. This plan has a procedure for handling an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources, which would serve to mitigate the context, intensity and/or severity of adverse impacts on the resource. This procedure has been reviewed and approved by the NDSHPO and has been provided to Native American tribes through the NDNG's consultation efforts.

4.9 Socioeconomics

If an alternative would substantially alter the location and distribution of the population within the geographic "region of influence," cause the population to exceed historical growth rates, or substantially affect the local housing market and vacancy rates, the effect would be significant. Significant effects could occur if an alternative caused disproportionate risks to children that resulted from environmental health risks or safety risks. In addition, an alternative could have a significant effect if it would create a need for new or increased fire or police protection, or

medical services, beyond the current capability of the local community, or would decrease public service capacities so as to jeopardize public safety.

4.9.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

Less than significant short- and long-term adverse impacts to the socioeconomics of the region are expected. Direct impacts include: (1) minor, short-term beneficial impacts to population growth during construction and (2) minor, long-term adverse impacts to population out-migration after completion of construction.

During construction, allied building trades may require skills that are not currently available in the proposed project area. These trades would require the temporary relocation to the project site to complete the construction, which would provide a short-term beneficial impact to the surrounding area. Likewise, upon completion of the construction, there would be a corresponding out-migration of these tradesmen from the area resulting in a return to the previous norm (which would be a slight adverse impact). This impact would be short-term until the economy of the area stabilized after the out-migration.

4.9.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation inurnments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC.

4.9.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.10 Environmental Justice

Significant effects could occur if an alternative would disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations.

4.10.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

There are no minority or low-income populations living in the proposed project area that would be potentially adversely impacted from the proposed project.

4.10.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, less than significant long-term adverse impacts would occur to minority and low-income Veterans and their surviving families due to increased costs to have an eligible Veteran interred at another location which offers columbarium services.

The NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation inurnments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Minority and/or low-income Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC. This would be a long-term adverse impact on minority and/or low-income populations.

4.10.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.11 Infrastructure

An alternative could have a significant effect on infrastructure if it would increase demand over capacity, requiring a substantial system expansion or upgrade, or if it would result in substantial system deterioration over the current condition. For instance, an alternative could have a significant effect on traffic if it would increase the volume of traffic beyond the existing road capacity, cause parking availability to fall below minimum local standards, or require new or substantially improved roadways or traffic control systems.

4.11.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

The relocation of the overhead electric supply line would not create an adverse impact as it serves as a backup supply line. The relocation of this electric line would occur regardless since it interferes with the visual aspects of the cemetery. This is not considered a significant impact.

The infrastructure currently in place near the NDVC would not require any substantial upgrade or experience deterioration to adequately handle any increase in traffic accessing the NDVC. Parking is managed onsite at the NDVC, and additional parking is planned as part of the overall cemetery improvements not related to the Proposed Action.

4.11.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation inurnments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation inurnment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC. There would be no anticipated adverse impacts to infrastructure from this alternative.

4.11.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.12 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes

An alternative could have a significant effect if it would result in a substantial increase in the generation of hazardous substances, increase the exposure of persons to hazardous or toxic substances, increase the presence of hazardous or toxic materials in the environment, or place substantial restrictions on property use due to hazardous waste, materials, or site remediation.

4.12.1 Effects of the Proposed Action (or Preferred Action Alternative)

The Proposed Action would not result in the increased use of hazardous materials or the generation of hazardous wastes. There may be additional hazardous substances required to maintain the columbarium, but these are not expected to cause a substantial increase within the ROI. There should be no restriction on property use due to the Proposed Action. Therefore, there are no significant impacts expected.

4.12.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

If the Proposed Action were not implemented, the NDVC would continue to provide full body interments and below ground cremation interments to qualified Veterans and their eligible family members. Veterans and their family members desiring aboveground cremation interment in a columbarium would be referred to alternate locations which could provide those services, at a much higher cost and inconvenience relative to the costs and convenience provided by the NDVC. There would be no anticipated adverse impacts from hazardous and toxic materials/wastes.

4.12.3 Mitigation Measures

None.

4.13 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are steps required for the specific purpose of reducing the potentially significant adverse effects of implementing a Proposed Action or a considered alternative. Only those mitigation measures that can be reasonably accomplished should be identified. Each mitigation measure must have an associated monitoring requirement, also noted in the FONSI, to ensure the mitigation measure is implemented and that it is effective.

It is very important to distinguish mitigation measures from BMPs. BMPs are practical, economical, and effective management or control practices that reduce or prevent pollution or other adverse effects to environmental resources. Such BMPs are implemented as "standard business practices" associated with all new or existing activities, as appropriate and applicable. In other words, such practices are not necessarily site- or action-specific, but rather standardized environmental safeguards, protection measures, and/or regulatory compliance procedures that are routinely implemented. Such BMPs are typically identified in environmental management plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), or other guidance documents.

No mitigation measures were required to reduce potential environmental impacts to below significance thresholds. BMPs are addressed in mitigation measures sections, where pertinent, in

order to inform the public that routine standard business practices already provide a degree of protection to the resource.

4.14 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are the impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of a Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or entity (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR Part 1508.7).

4.14.1 Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Currently, there is an increase in land use in the general area for providing single family dwellings. Structures are being built to the west and south, and this trend looks to continue into the short-term future. These actions are likely to have a potential environmental impact on the viewshed from the NDVC and Fort Lincoln State Park.

Morton County has proposed some land use planning restrictions as they apply to the viewsheds associated with the NDVC and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. If passed, these restrictions would slow development in the vicinity of the NDVC and would mitigate the potential environmental impacts on the viewshed.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation conducts roadway assessments and makes determinations on necessary repairs or reconstruction of roadways. Highway 1806 in the vicinity of the NDVC was resurfaced a few years ago and appears to be in good condition. It is likely that this roadway will see improvements in the mid-term future. These anticipated potential environmental impacts are not expected to be adverse, will be relatively short-term in nature and will not have any greater impact on the NDVC in comparison to others in the area or the general public.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be required to move and realign the service connection running across the NDVC property. This would be expected to occur in the short-term future. Burying the current aboveground lines would result in a beneficial environmental impact by restoring the viewshed from the NDVC and Fort Lincoln State Park.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park is likely to continue its operations and expand its interpretive offerings by reconstructing additional buildings and/or other features within the Park. Also, the public campground was impacted by a flood in 2011 and will continue to undergo improvements to restore services and camp sites. It is likely that these actions would have no discernable potential environmental impacts on the NDVC or its operations.

The NDVC will continue its operations by providing burial services for Veterans and their eligible family members. With the acquisition of an additional 35 acres, it is likely that the following improvements will be made in the near-term future: road improvements, parking improvements, sidewalks, lighting, fencing, landscaping and ultimately additional below ground burials. These are the normal operations of the NDVC and do not represent an adverse environmental impact.

4.14.2 Cumulative Effects within the Area of Potential Effects

The Preferred Action Alternative would result in impacts identified in each resource area in Section 4. These include potential less than significant adverse impacts to land use and cover, air quality, noise, geology, topography, soil, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes.

Implementation of the Preferred Action Alternative would not be expected to have cumulative significant adverse impacts on any resource area discussed within this EA. The Proposed Action area is currently zoned for public institutional use. Therefore, the proposed use for this property would be consistent and compatible with existing zoning and adjacent land uses.

4.14.3 Inter-relationship of Cumulative Effects

The implementation of the Preferred Action Alternative, as described in Section 2, would mean that the design and construction of the columbarium would occur within the next two years, followed by interments and perpetual care of the Cemetery grounds. Development of the NDVC is likely to occur in phases over many years as funding becomes available and the need for additional burial locations arises.

As development in the vicinity continues, these actions may begin to impact post-construction operations of the NDVC and of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. Additional road traffic may begin to impair the quiet setting of the Cemetery, as could continued development of the rural properties surrounding the area.

Zoning restrictions, burying electrical infrastructure and other development within the NDVC and Fort Lincoln State Park is likely to result in a beneficial environmental effect of restoring and preserving the viewsheds from both of these locations. Such improved viewsheds are likely to improve the aesthetic setting of both locations and provide users of either location with a more enjoyable experience.

Roadway improvement projects along Highway 1806 are also likely to have a beneficial impact on NDVC operations as having a well-developed and sustainable road infrastructure creates conditions where more people can come to the NDVC and surrounding area and enjoy the beauty and solace of the area.

Section 5.0 Comparison of Alternatives and Conclusions

5.1 Comparison of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

Table 5-1 provides a comparison of the environmental consequences for the alternatives evaluated.

Table 5-1. Alternative Comparison Matrix

| Technical Resource Area | No Action Alternative | Preferred Action Alternative |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Land use | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to land use or land cover within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. The beneficial effect of increased burial density decreases the need for land conversion from current productive uses to public uses (cemetery). |
| Air Quality | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations emissions would continue. | No significant adverse effects to air quality or air emissions within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Noise | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects from noise within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Geology, Topography and Soils | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short-term adverse impacts to the local geology, topography and soils are expected to occur. Direct impacts would include: (1) short-term compaction of soils on the construction site, (2) short-term exposure of soils to erosion and (3) long-term extensive modification of soils and topography. |
| Water Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short- and long-term adverse and beneficial impacts to water resources. Direct and indirect impacts include: (1) short-term impacts to runoff, (2) long-term impacts from increased |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | | impervious surfaces creating additional runoff volume and (3) long-term beneficial impacts on reduced irrigation need. |
| Biological Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to biological resources within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Cultural Resources | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to cultural resources would occur and any potential impacts would be similar to ongoing operational conditions and levels. |
| Socioeconomics | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | Less than significant short- and long-term adverse impacts to the socioeconomics of the region. Direct impacts include: (1) minor, short-term beneficial impacts to population growth during construction and (2) minor, long-term adverse impacts to population out-migration after completion of construction. |
| Environmental Justice | Less than significant long-term adverse impacts would occur to minority and low-income Veterans and their surviving families due to increased costs to have an eligible Veteran interred at another location which offers columbarium services. | No significant environmental justice impacts would be expected. |
| Infrastructure | No impact attributable to the action. Ongoing operations would continue under current conditions and levels. | No significant adverse effects to infrastructure within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |
| Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste | No impact attributable to the action. Operations would continue to be handled, managed, stored and disposed in accordance with existing plans. | No significant adverse effects to hazardous and toxic materials and waste management or handling within the area of potential effects of the Proposed Action would be anticipated. |

5.2 Conclusions

The above table indicates that while implementing the Preferred Action Alternative (Proposed Action) may result in some beneficial and adverse impacts over the short- and long-term, these impacts are not likely to significantly affect any of the resource areas examined. Continuing 'business as usual' (No Action Alternative) would result in the same potential impacts currently occurring.

On the basis of the NEPA analysis, there should be no significant environmental impacts associated with this proposed project. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required; issuance of a FONSI is appropriate and a FONSI will be prepared.

Section 6.0 References

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North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, *Annual Report: North Dakota Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program Network Plan with Data Summary 2018*, 2018

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality website, https://deq.nd.gov/WQ/3_Watershed_Mgmt/SWDataApp/viewer.html

United States Census Bureau website, <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Soil Survey of Morton County, North Dakota*, 2002 and https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/north_dakota/ND059/0/ND059.pdf

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey website, <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

United States Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, EJScreen, <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

Section 7.0 Glossary

Alternative means any of the various ways an agency can fulfill the purpose and need that would be met by implementing a proposed action.

Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is the elevation of surface water resulting from a flood that has a 1% chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year. The BFE is shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for zones AE, AH, A1–A30, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1– A30, AR/AH, AR/AO, V1–V30 and VE.

Best Management Practices are methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical means in achieving an objective (such as preventing or minimizing pollution) while making the optimum use of available resources. Best management practices are not considered as mitigation although they can and usually do have the effect of reducing the potential for an environmental effect or impact.

Columbarium is a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns.

Critical Habitat is defined as:

1. Specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing that contain physical or biological features essential to conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protection; and
2. Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species if the agency determines that the area itself is essential for conservation.

Cumulative Impact is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Floodplain is any land area susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters from any source. For a riverine system, the floodplain is comprised of the floodway and the flood fringe. The floodway is comprised of the channel and adjacent overbank areas necessary to effectively convey floodwaters. The flood fringe are lands outside the floodway that are at or below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) that store, but do not effectively convey, floodwaters. Lands that compose the flood fringe will be inundated during a 1% chance flood event but, due to physical characteristics of the floodplain, do not effectively convey floodwaters. The floodway and the BFE of the 1% chance flood are determined using hydraulic modeling techniques.

Floodway means that portion of the floodplain which is effective in carrying flow, within which this carrying capacity must be preserved and where the flood hazard is generally highest, i.e., where water depths and velocities are the greatest. It is that area which provides for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than one foot.

Interment means the burial of a corpse in a grave or tomb, typically with funeral rites.

Inurnment means to place (especially cremated ashes) in an urn.

Minor Short-term Impact means that the potential impacts on a given resource would be detectable for a short period of time (typically lasting the duration of construction), localized (typically to the project site or within the area of potential effects), and of little consequence to the sustainability of the resource. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects or impacts, would be simple and achievable.

Minor Long-term Impact means that the potential impacts on a given resource would be readily detectable for a period of time typically more than five years, measurable and associated with the operation of the Proposed Action. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effect or impacts, would be extensive and achievable.

Mitigation includes:

- A. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action,
- B. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation,
- C. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment,
- D. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action,
- E. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Mitigation Measures are actions taken to reduce a potential adverse effect and/or impact to a level below the significance threshold. When mitigation measures are used, they become a legal obligation of the project proponent which must be implemented and periodically reviewed and assessed to determine their effectiveness at reducing the particular potential adverse impact or effect for which they were developed.

NCore is National Core Monitoring Network monitoring site. A National Core (NCore) site is one in a network of approximately 80 multi-pollutant monitoring sites throughout the United States designed to support specific EPA core monitoring objectives in public reporting, emissions trends tracking, and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) compliance evaluation. Each state is required to have one or more NCore designated sites.

No Action Alternative is the baseline against which the potential effects and impacts of a proposed action and all alternatives are compared. It is required by NEPA.

No Impact means a given resource would not be affected or the impacts would be at or below the level of detection (negligible), and changes to the environment would not result in any measurable or perceptible consequences.

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery means either the state agency which operates the cemetery or the physical location of the cemetery.

Permeability is the saturated hydraulic conductivity of a soil. This is the quality of the soil that enables water or air to move downward through the profile. The rate at which a saturated soil

transmits water is accepted as a measure of this quality. Terms describing saturated hydraulic conductivity, measured in inches per hour, are as follows:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Extremely slow | 0.0 to 0.01 inch |
| Very slow | 0.01 to 0.06 inch |
| Slow | 0.06 to 0.2 inch |
| Moderately slow | 0.2 to 0.6 inch |
| Moderate | 0.6 inch to 2.0 inches |
| Moderately rapid | 2.0 to 6.0 inches |
| Rapid | 6.0 to 20 inches |
| Very rapid | more than 20 inches |

Plow Zone means the layer of soil that is heavily disturbed by agricultural activity, usually from the ground surface to an approximate depth of 12-16 inches (30-40 cm).

Proposed Action is the activity that an agency wants to do. A Proposed Action is defined by two distinct, simple and clear statements: purpose of and need for the action. The purpose statement identifies the objective that the agency is trying to achieve. The need statement identifies the deficiency the agency is trying to address.

Saline-sodic soil is a soil containing a combination of soluble salts and exchangeable sodium sufficient to interfere with the growth of plants.

Scoping is the process used to determine a range of actions, alternatives and impacts to be considered in an environmental impact statement. When scoping an action, agencies typically consider 1) the proposed action, 2) alternatives to implementing the action, and 3) impacts resulting from the proposed action and its alternatives.

Significant or **Significance** is determined based on the context and intensity of a potential effect. When a potential effect or impact crosses a threshold value for a given resource, impacts and/or effects would be obvious, long-term and have substantial consequences on a regional scale. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset potential adverse effects or impacts, would be extensive. Significant effects and/or impacts would warrant additional environmental analysis and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Small commercial buildings are structures that are less than three stories high and do not have basements. The foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of 2 feet or at the depth of maximum frost penetration, whichever is deeper. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the capacity of the soil to support a load without movement and on the properties that affect excavation and construction costs. The properties that affect the load-supporting capacity include depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), and compressibility (which is inferred from the Unified classification). The properties that affect the ease and amount of excavation include flooding, depth to a water table, ponding, slope, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, and the amount and size of rock fragments.

Sodic (alkali) soil is a soil having so high a degree of alkalinity (pH 8.5 or higher) or so high a percentage of exchangeable sodium (15 percent or more of the total exchangeable bases), or both, that plant growth is restricted.

Veteran means “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.” [38 CFR 3]

Viewshed is the total landscape seen or potentially seen from a point, or from all or a logical part of a travel route, use area, or water body.

Section 8.0 List of Preparers

Stephen Herda
Environmental Program Manager/NEPA Specialist
NDARNG

Kent Belland
Cultural/Natural Resource Manager
NDARNG

Kolleen Koppinger
Hazardous Waste Manager
NDARNG

Paul Zent
Master Planner
NDARNG

Pamela Helbling-Schafer
Director
North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

Section 9.0 Agencies and Individuals Consulted

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Erich Longie
Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
PO Box 198 Fort Totten ND 58335

Jon Eagle
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
PO Box D Fort Yates ND 58538

Dyan Youpee
Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
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Teanna Limpy
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
PO Box 128 Lame Deer MT 59043

William BigDay
Crow Nation
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Cheyenne St. John
Lower Sioux Indian Community
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Dianne Desrosiers
Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
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Dennis Gill
Wahpekute Band of Dakota
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Steven Vance
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
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Ben Rhodd
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
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Trina Lone Hill
Oglala Sioux Tribe
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Kyle Wanner
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
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Lynn Helms
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Claudia Berg
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Scott Davis
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Randy Christmann
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North Dakota Department of Transportation
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Jodi Smith
Department of North Dakota Trust Lands
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821 East Interstate Ave Bismarck ND 58501

Dave Anderson
FAA - Bismarck ADO
2301 University Ave, Building 23B Bismarck ND 58504

Wendell Mayer
Federal Highway Administration
4503 Coleman Street, Suite 1B Bismarck ND 58503-2007

John Fowler
Advisory Council on Historic Places
401 F Street NW, Suite 308 Washington DC 20001

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Leland Barth
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202 6th Avenue West Flasher ND 58535-0297

Mike Kemnitz
Missouri West Water System
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Ryan Jockers
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Dawn Rhone
Morton County Auditor Office
210 2nd Avenue NW Mandan ND 58554

Appendix A IICEP Documents

**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

John Fowler
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Places
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Fowler:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S½ NE¼ SW¼ , W½ SW¼ SE¼, SW¼ NW¼ SE ¼, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

The NDVC is in the process of creating a master plan to guide development of the cemetery. The initial design and construction of the NDVC has reached its goals, and the addition of 35 adjacent acres requires future planning consideration. Part of the master plan and to address veteran requests, the NDVC is proposing to design and construct a columbarium. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and part of that grant proposal is to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

The proposed action requires several phases to arrive at the final design appearance. In order to complete this proposed action, the following phases are necessary:

- Initial land clearing – Clears the land of obstructions and prepares the area for future phases of construction;
- Infrastructure placement – Constructs roadways, parking areas, sidewalks and utilities on the newly acquired 35 acres; and,
- Interment facilities – Constructs a columbarium in multiple phases; initial is the circular structure and subsequent phases are for the wings to be added in a symmetric order and lays out sections for whole body burial.

Prior assessments done to date include several cultural resources surveys on the 35 acres to determine the presence of sites, and a survey to determine eligibility of newly identified sites. Work to be done during the initial land clearing phase has already been evaluated under the NEPA process, and no adverse effects were determined from that assessment.

To ensure that all social, economic and environmental effects are considered in the development of this project, we are soliciting your views and comments on the proposed development project pursuant to Section 102(2)(D)(iv) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. We are particularly interested in any property that your department may own, or have interest in, and which would be adjacent to the proposed project area. We would also appreciate being made aware of any environmental concerns your department may have regarding the proposed project. Any information that might help us in our evaluation would be appreciated.

We request that any information and comments be forwarded to our office on or before September 30, 2019. We request your comments by that date to ensure we have adequate time to review them and to incorporate them into the necessary environmental documentation.

If you need further information regarding the proposed project, you may contact me at stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil or 701.333.2070, or Ms. Pam Helbling-Schafer at 701.667.1418 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

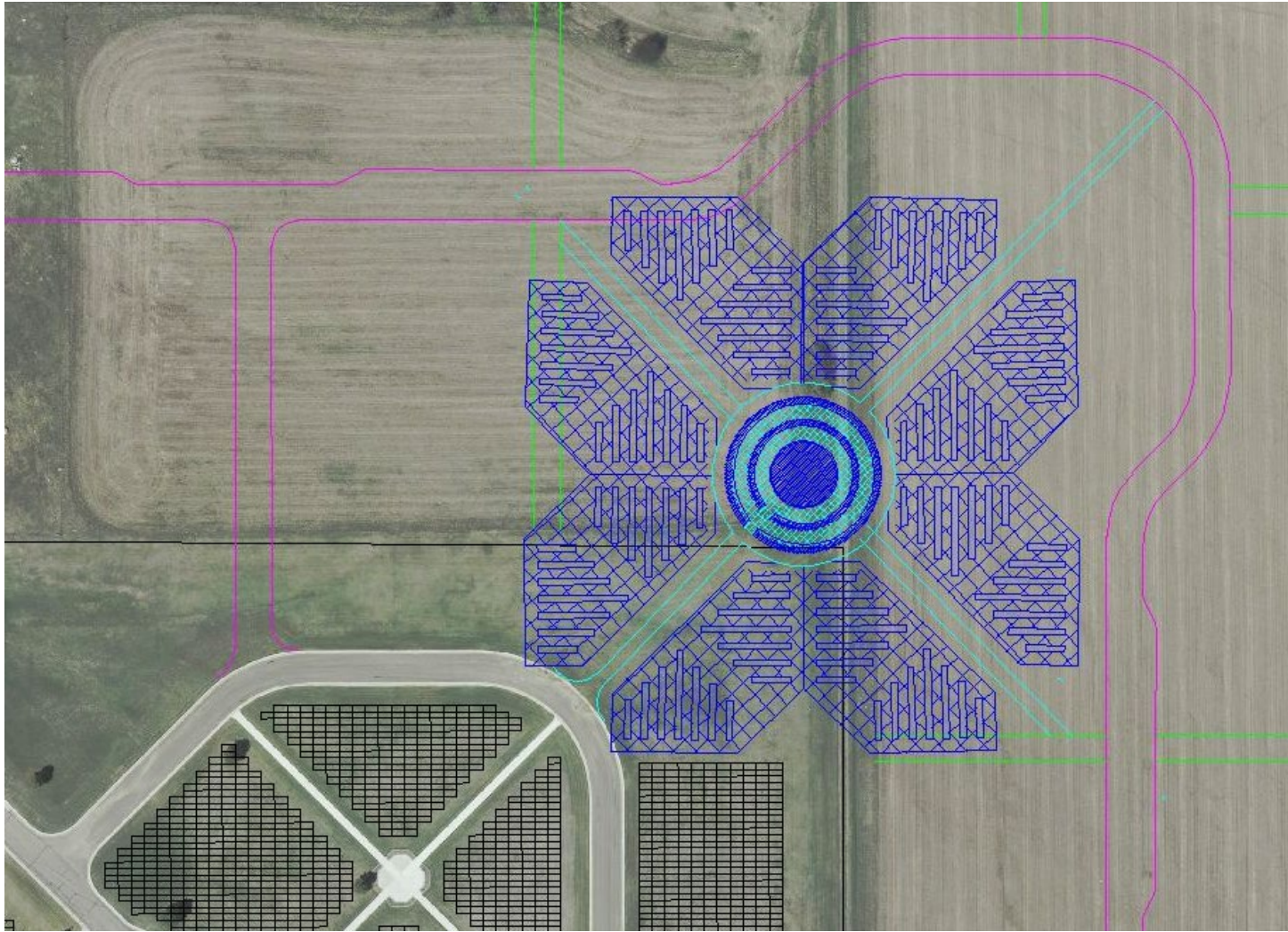
Sincerely,

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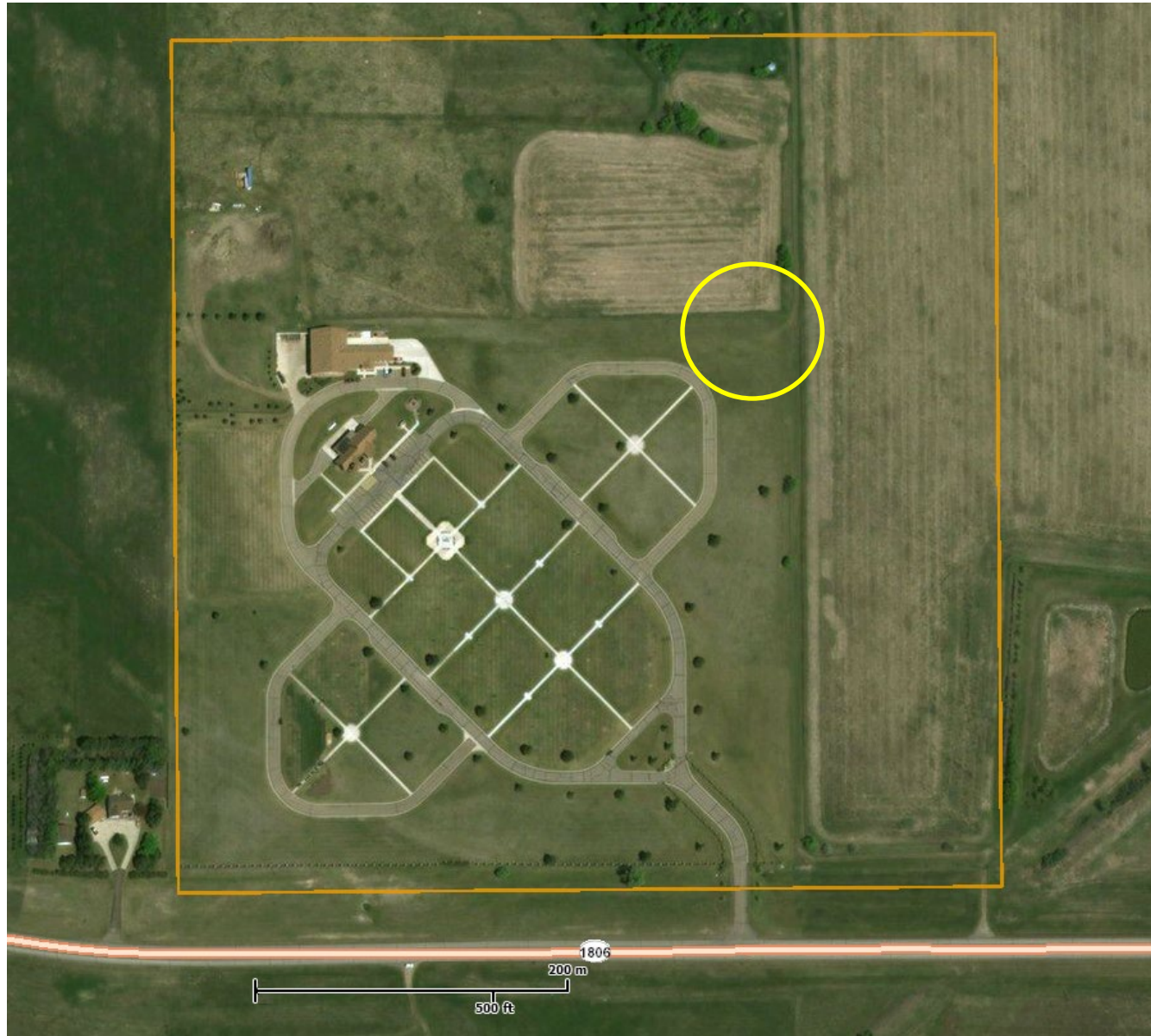
Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

Encls.

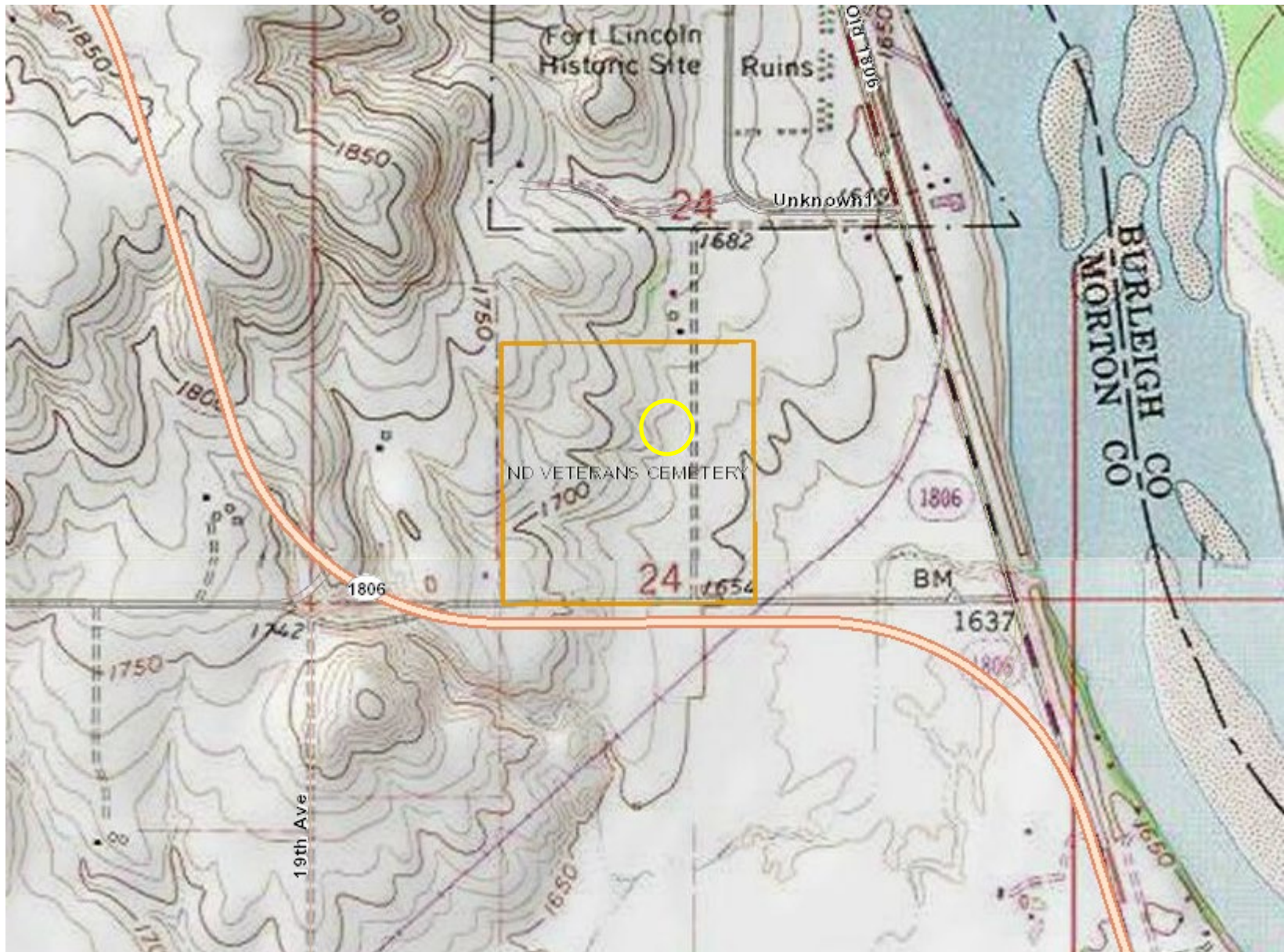
1. Site Plan
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Enclosure 1. Proposed Site Plan for North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Columbarium. Phase I is the “central ring”. Additionally, six future phases would construct the “wings” on the outside of the central ring. This presentation ties the existing cemetery into the newly acquired lands and provides a focal point of the expansion.



Enclosure 2. Aerial photograph of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.



Enclosure 3. Topographic map of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.

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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

William BigDay
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Crow Nation
PO Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear Mr. BigDay:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

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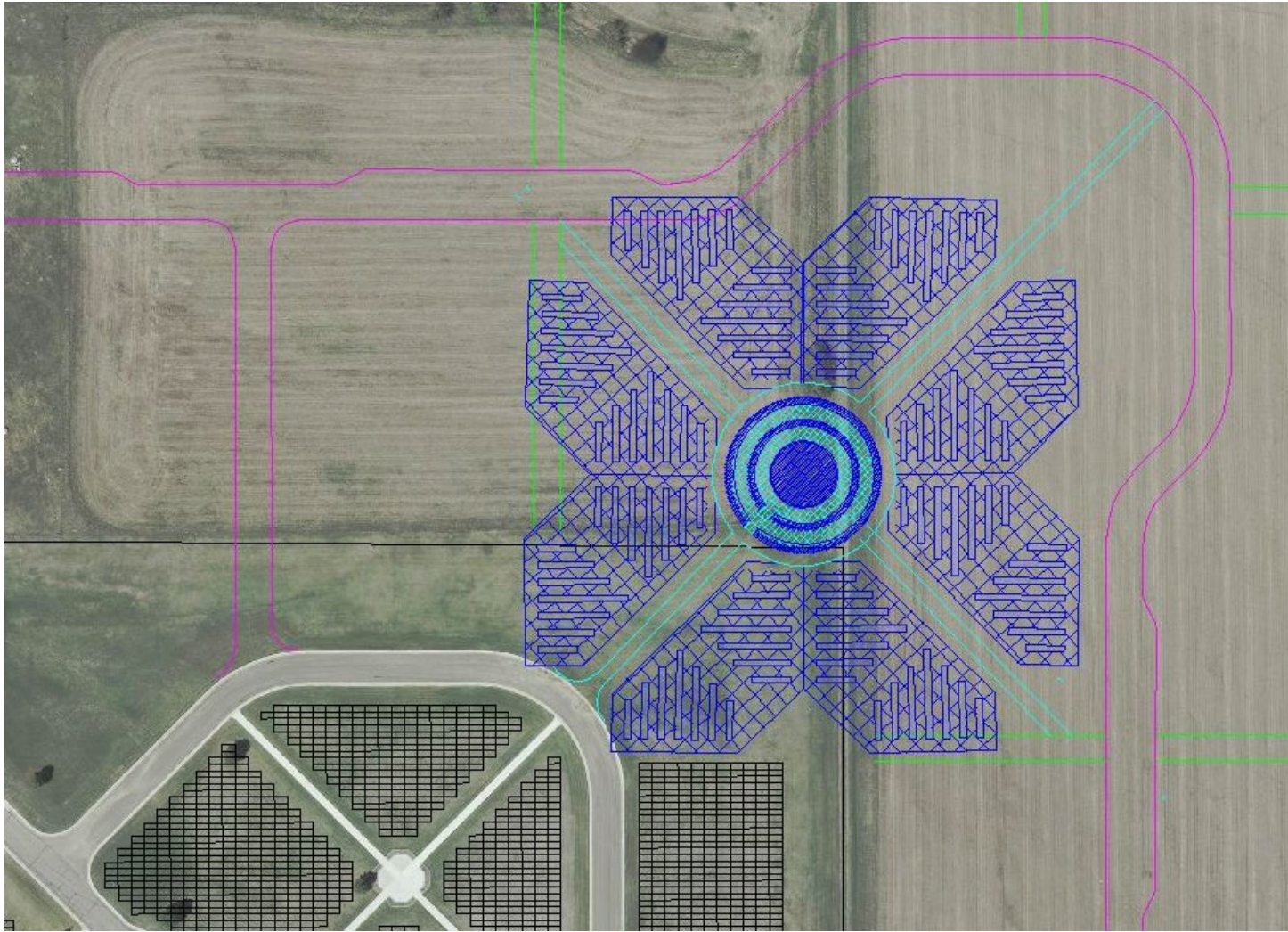
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Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

Encls.

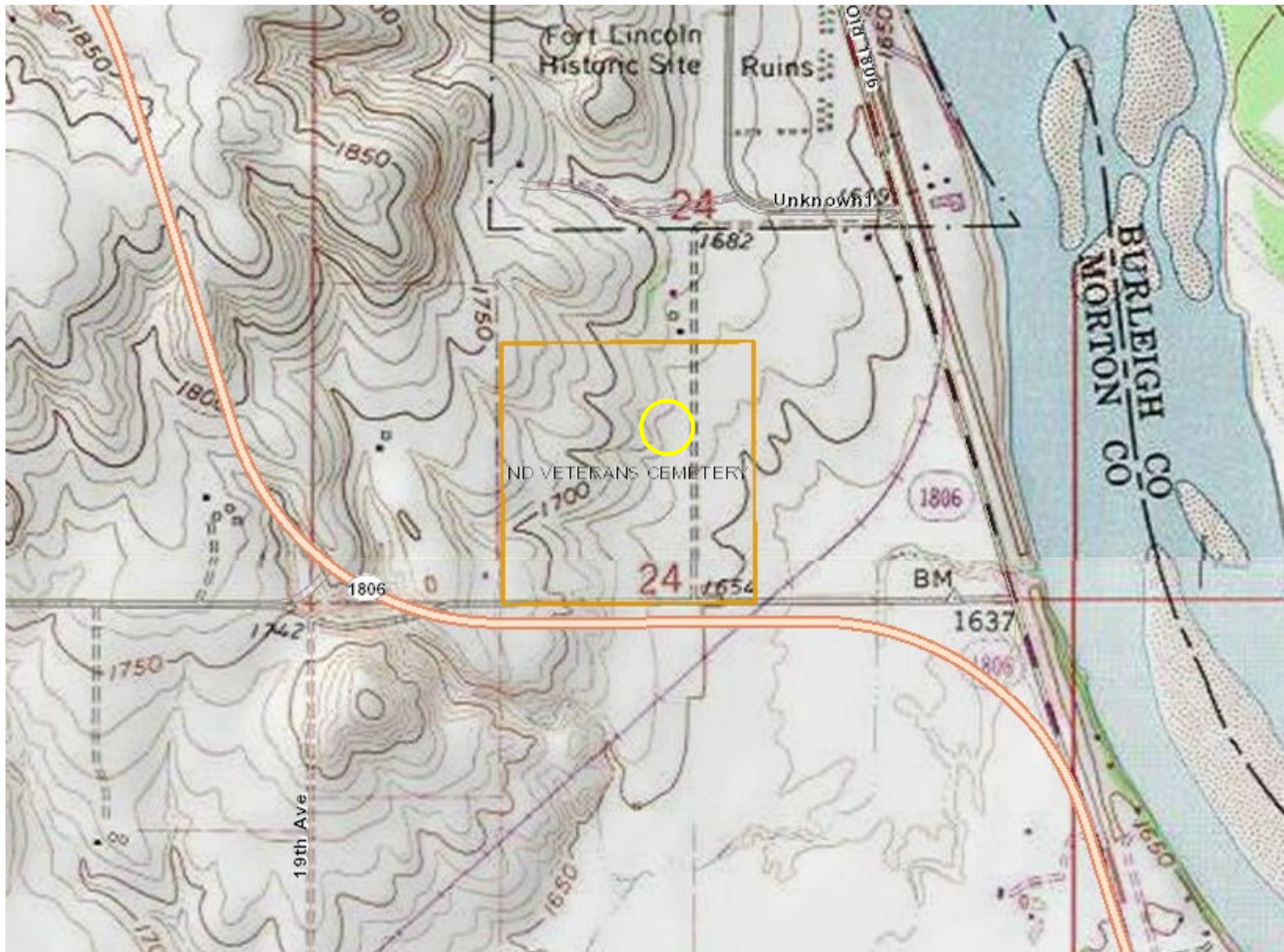
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Steven Vance
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. Vance:

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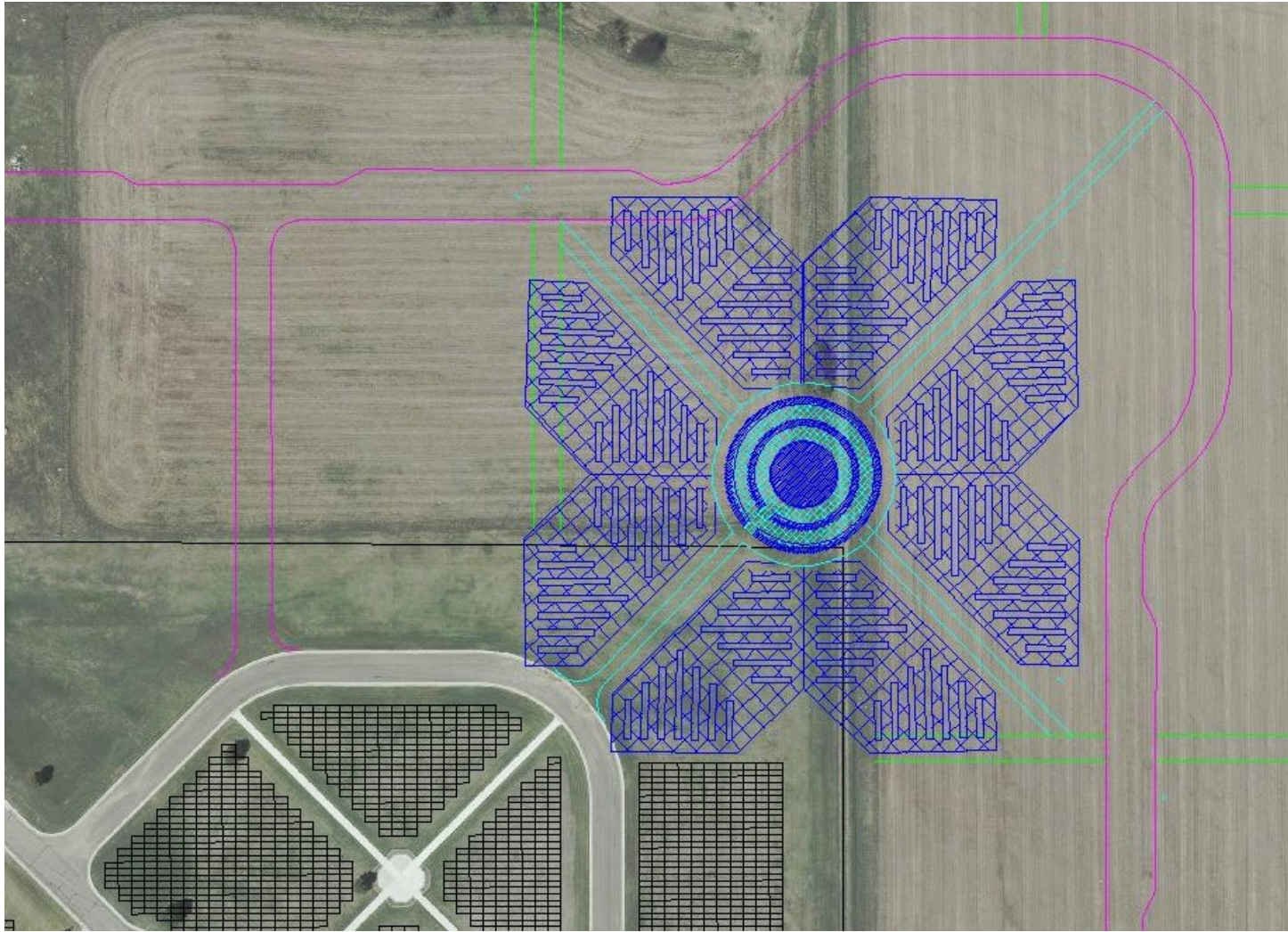
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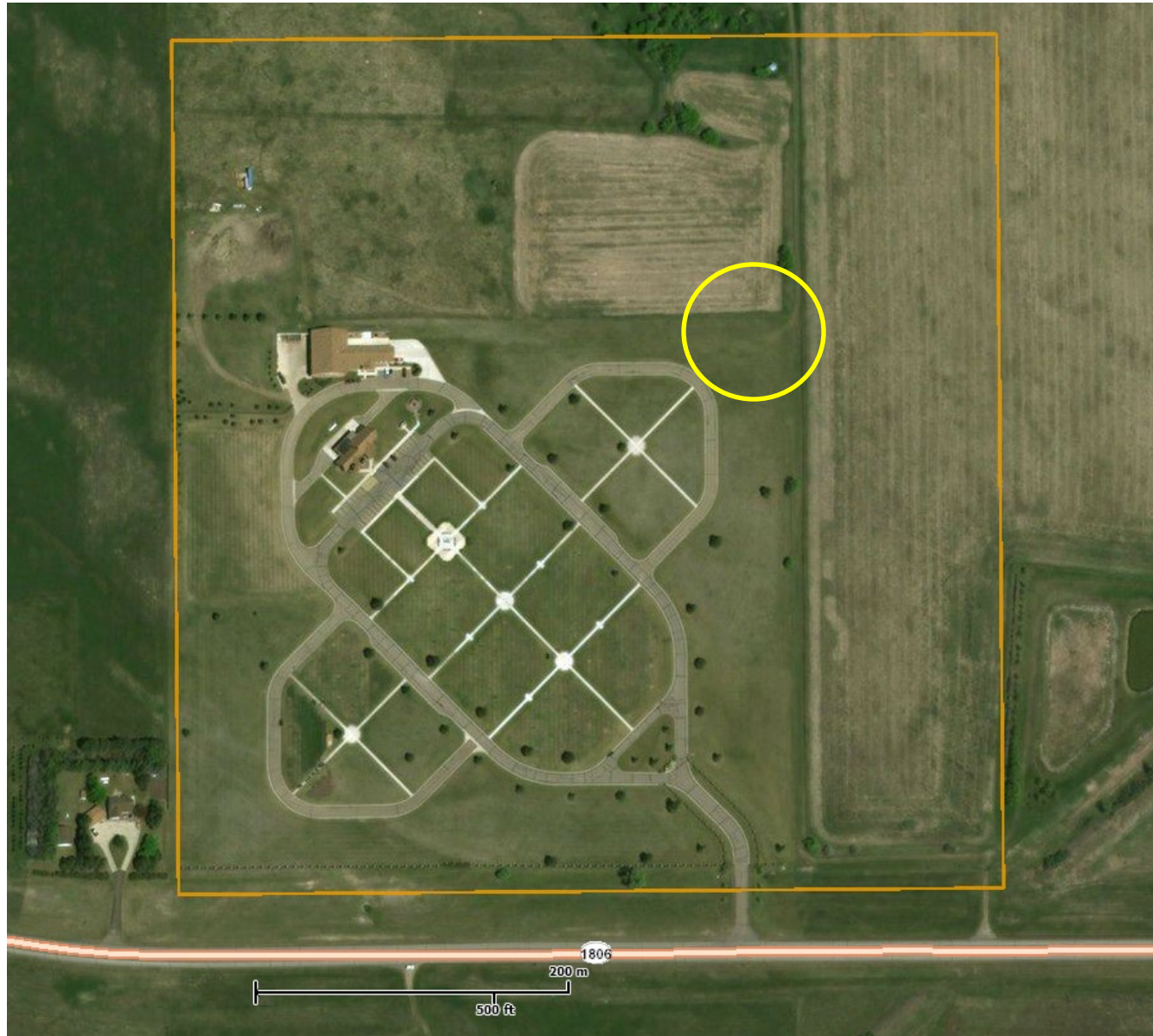
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Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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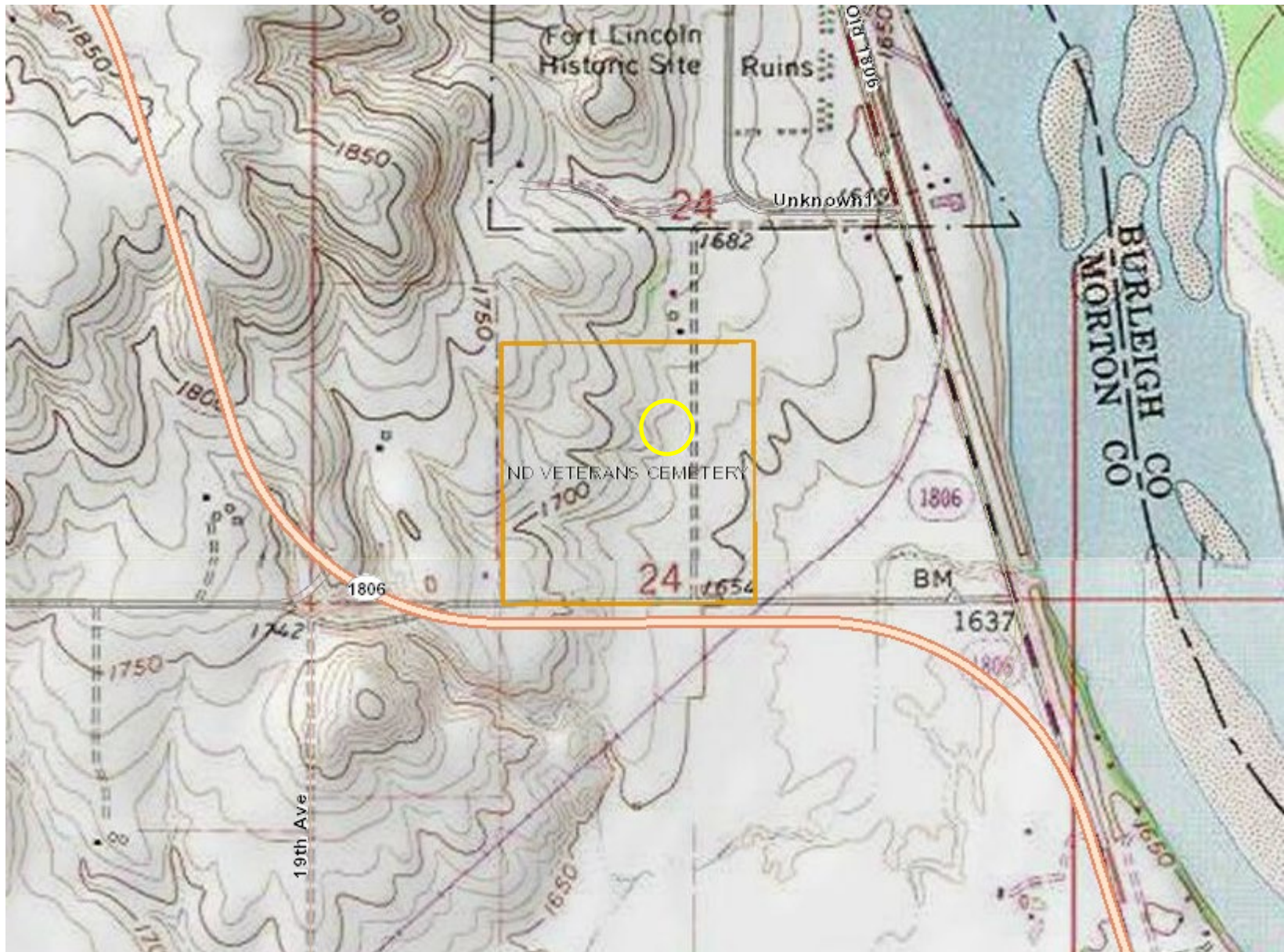
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Dave Anderson
Regional Office Manager
FAA - Bismarck ADO
2301 University Ave, Building 23B
Bismarck, ND 58504

Dear Mr. Anderson:

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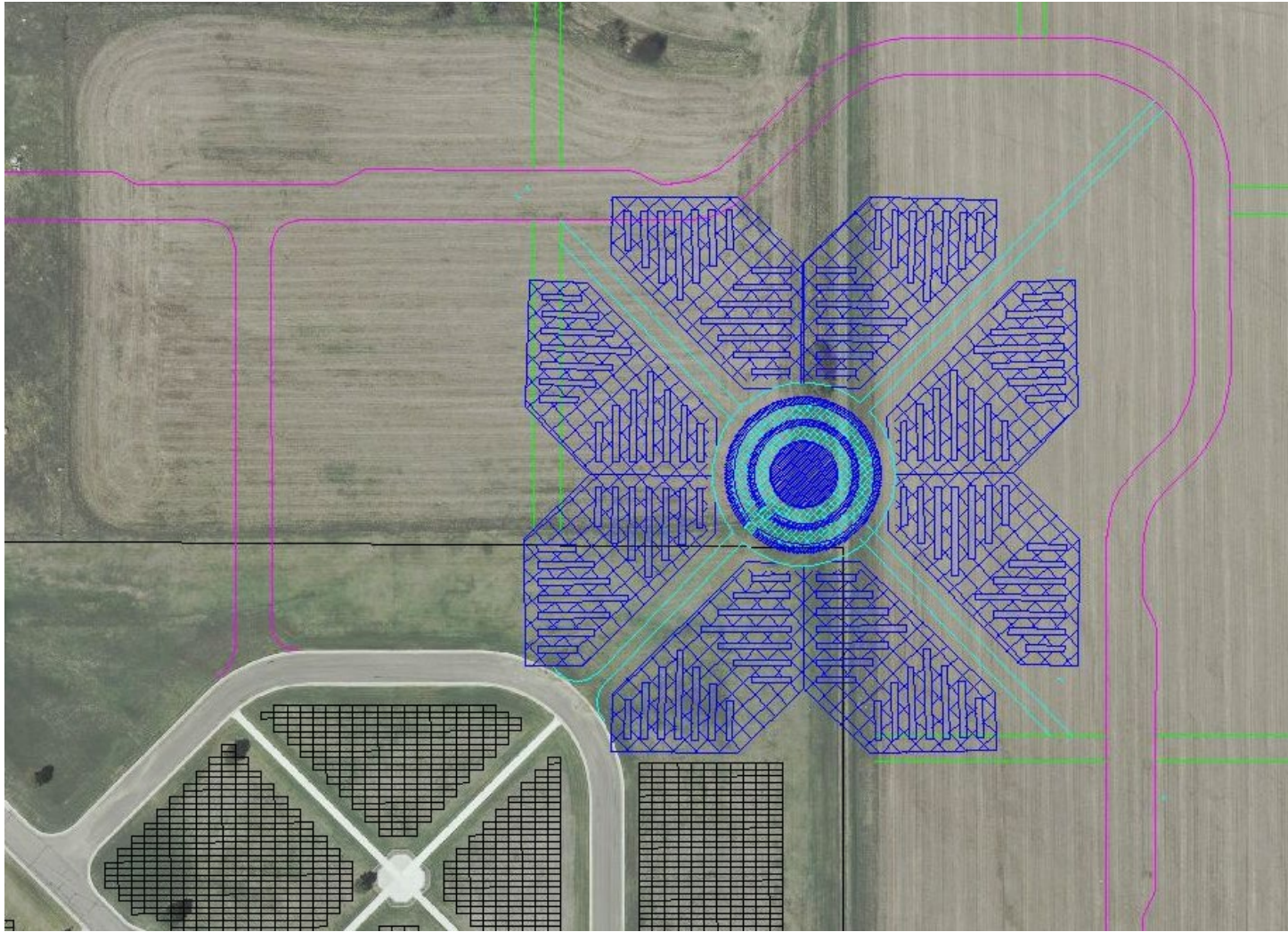
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North Dakota National Guard

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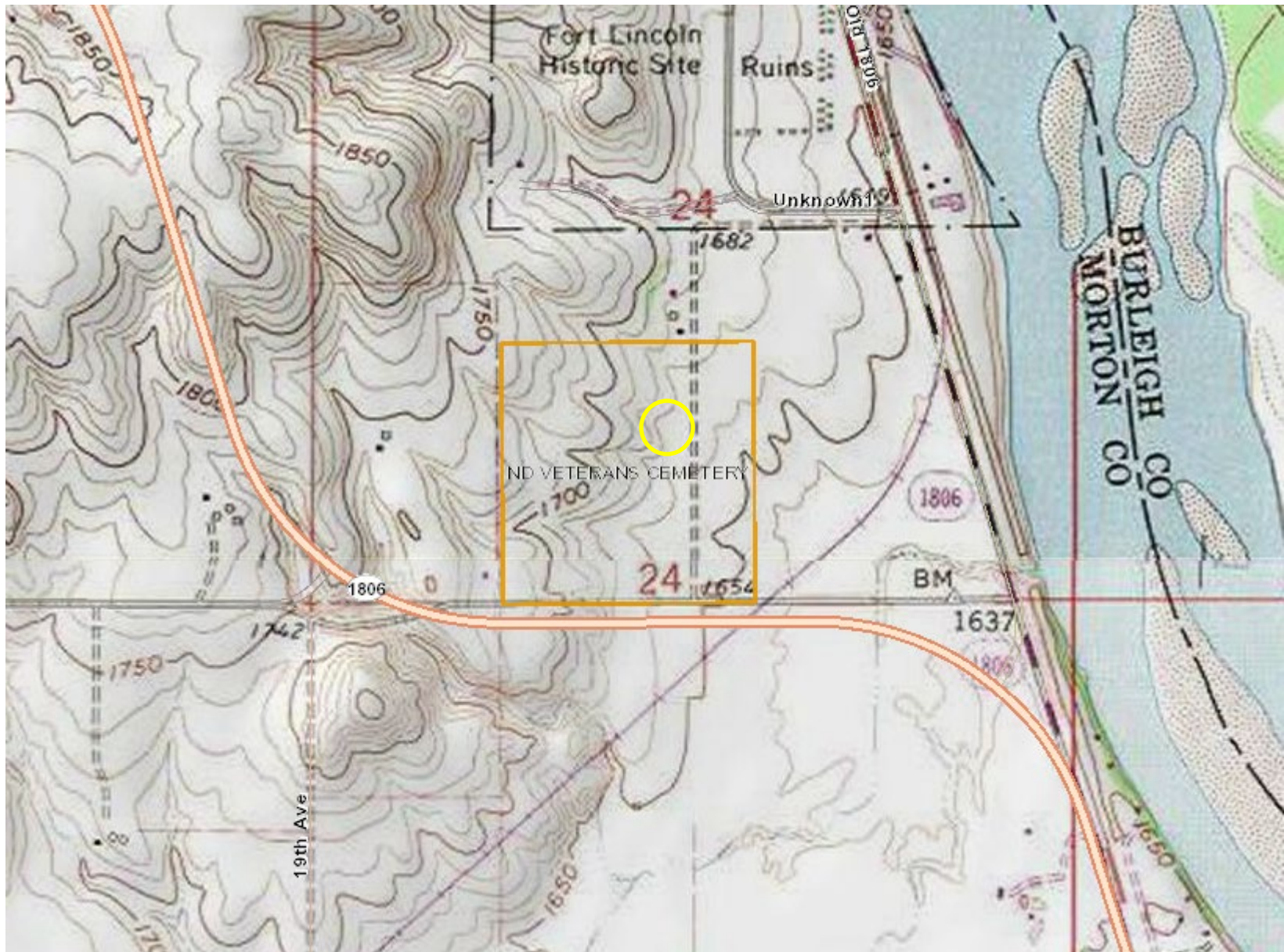
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NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Wendell Mayer
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
4503 Coleman Street, Suite 1B
Bismarck, ND 58503-2007

Dear Mr. Mayer:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

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If you need further information regarding the proposed project, you may contact me at stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil or 701.333.2070, or Ms. Pam Helbling-Schafer at 701.667.1418 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

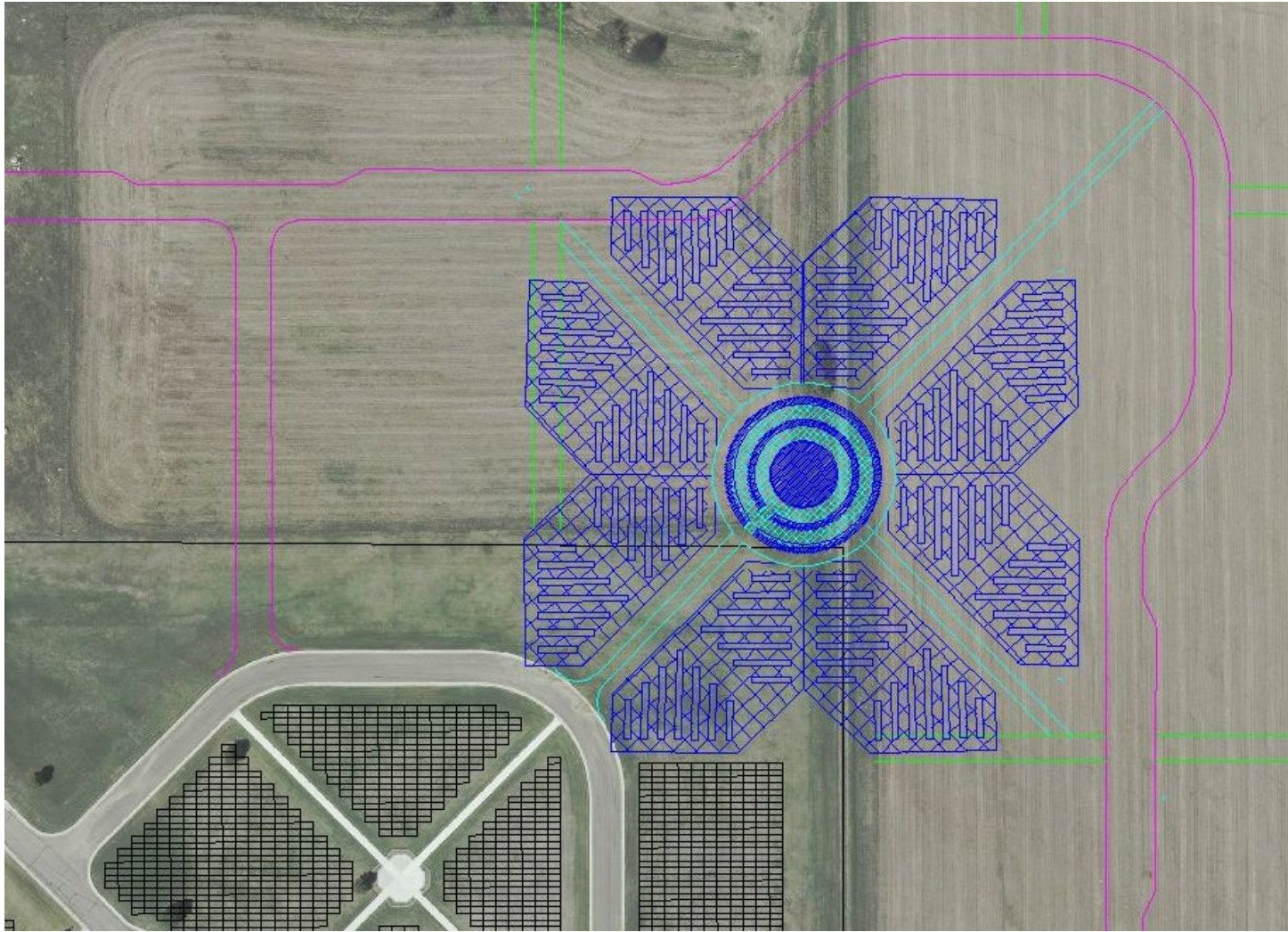
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Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

Encls.

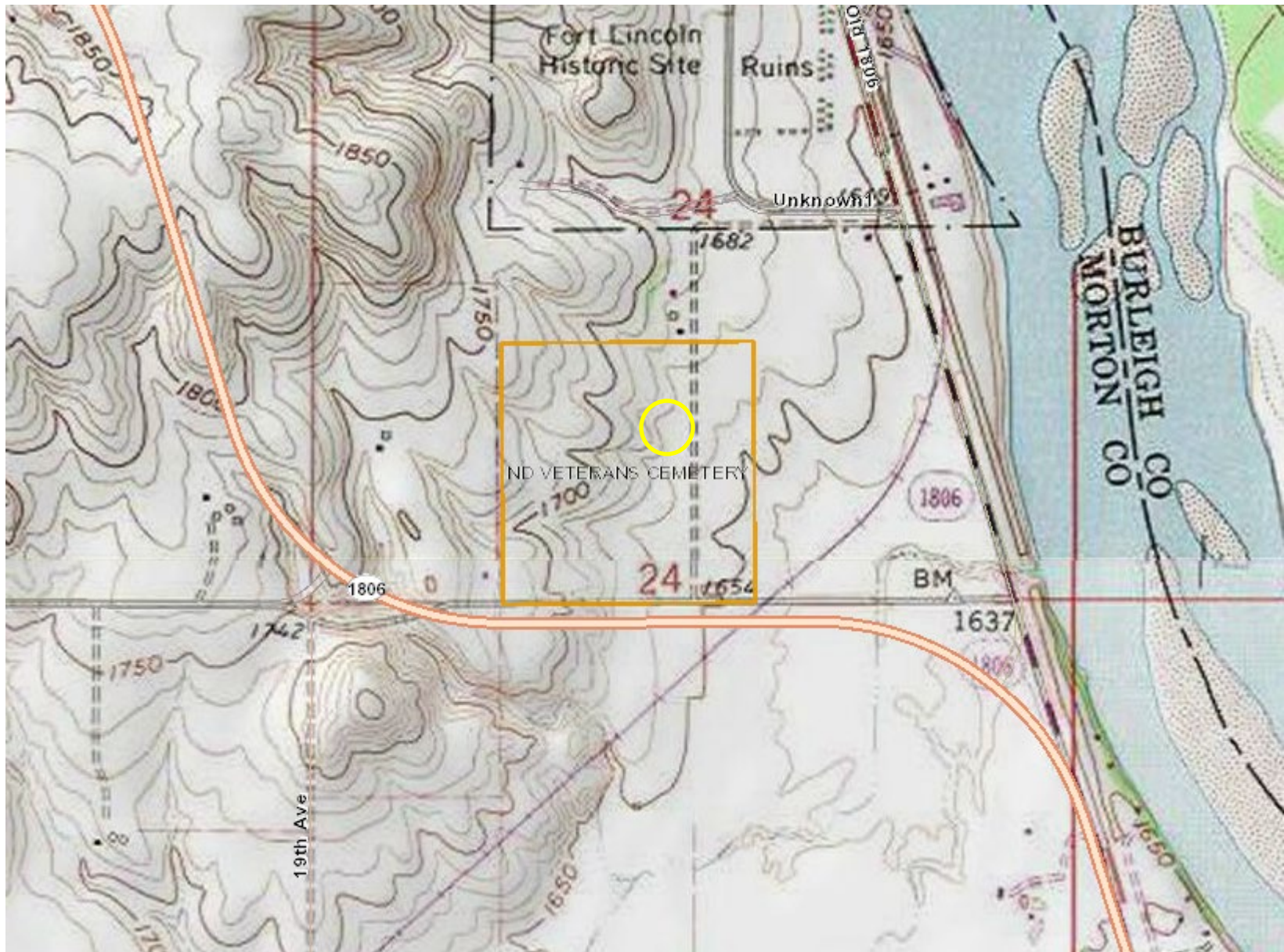
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**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Dyan Youpee
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
PO Box 836
Poplar, MT 59255

Dear Ms. Youpee:

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The NDVC is in the process of creating a master plan to guide development of the cemetery. The initial design and construction of the NDVC has reached its goals, and the addition of 35 adjacent acres requires future planning consideration. Part of the master plan and to address veteran requests, the NDVC is proposing to design and construct a columbarium. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and part of that grant proposal is to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

The proposed action requires several phases to arrive at the final design appearance. In order to complete this proposed action, the following phases are necessary:

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Prior assessments done to date include several cultural resources surveys on the 35 acres to determine the presence of sites, and a survey to determine eligibility of newly identified sites. Work to be done during the initial land clearing phase has already been evaluated under the NEPA process, and no adverse effects were determined from that assessment.

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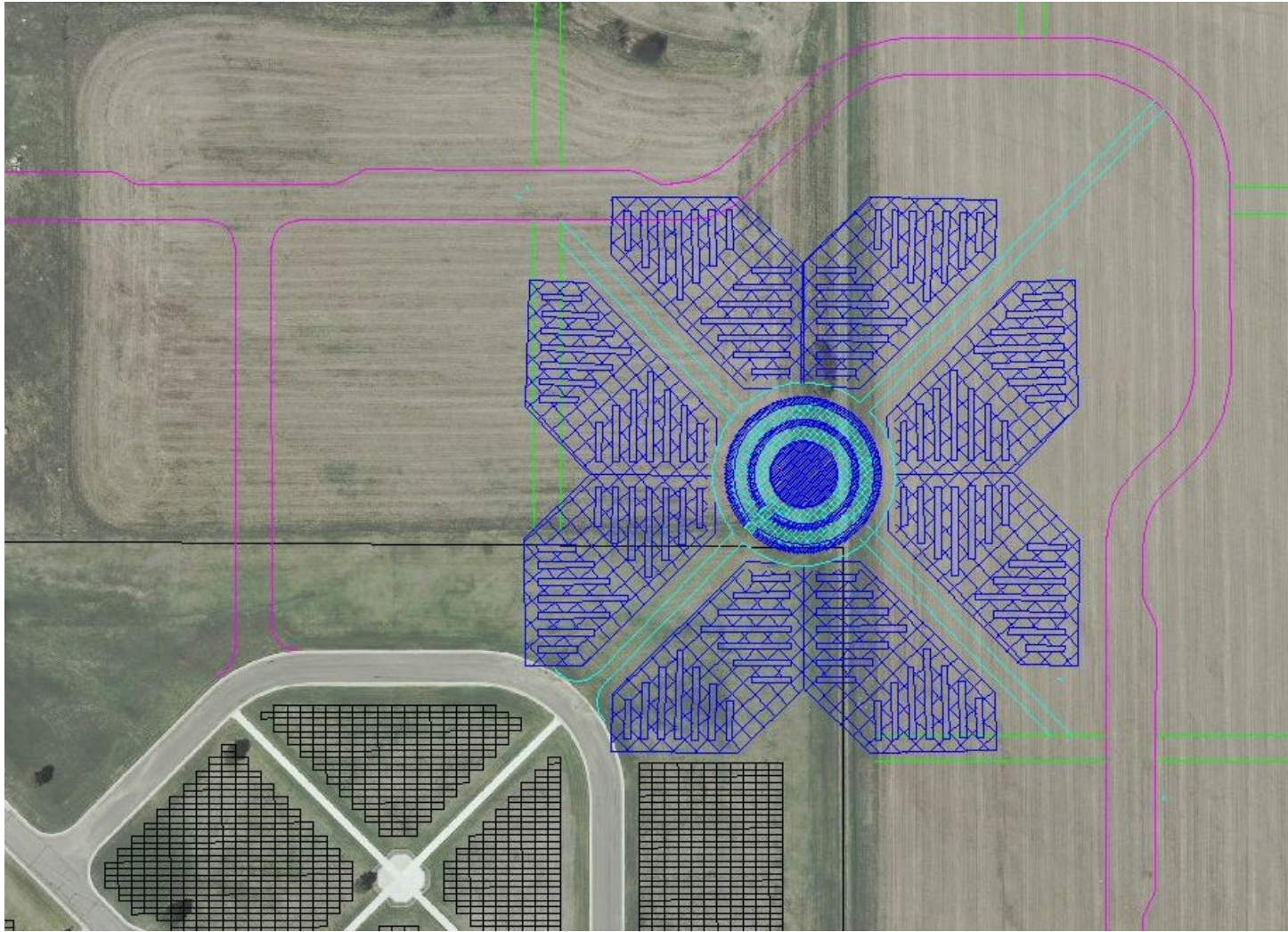
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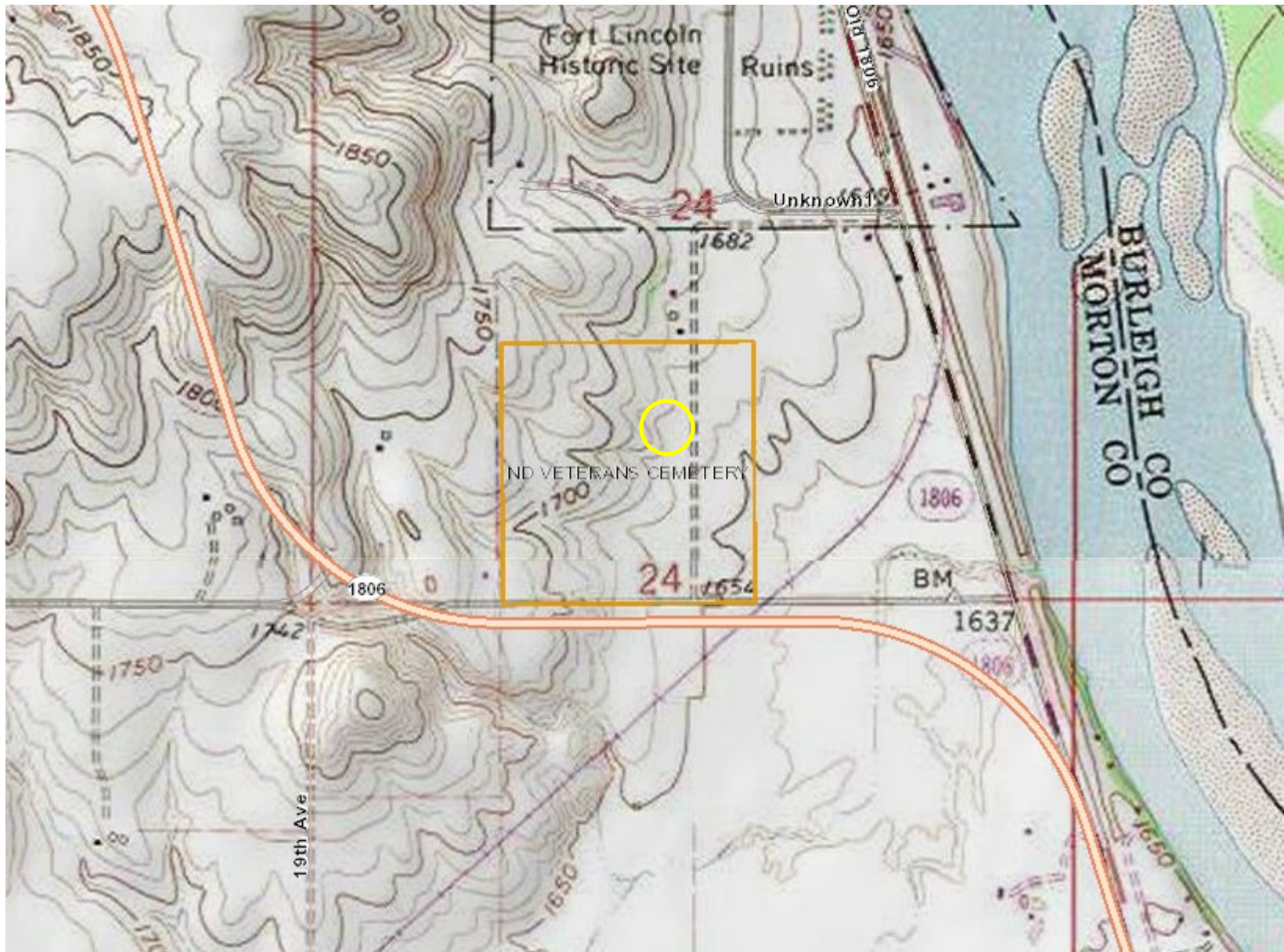
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Scott Davis
Executive Director
Indian Affairs Commission
600 East Boulevard, 1st Floor Judicial Wing
Bismarck, ND 58505-0300

Dear Mr. Davis:

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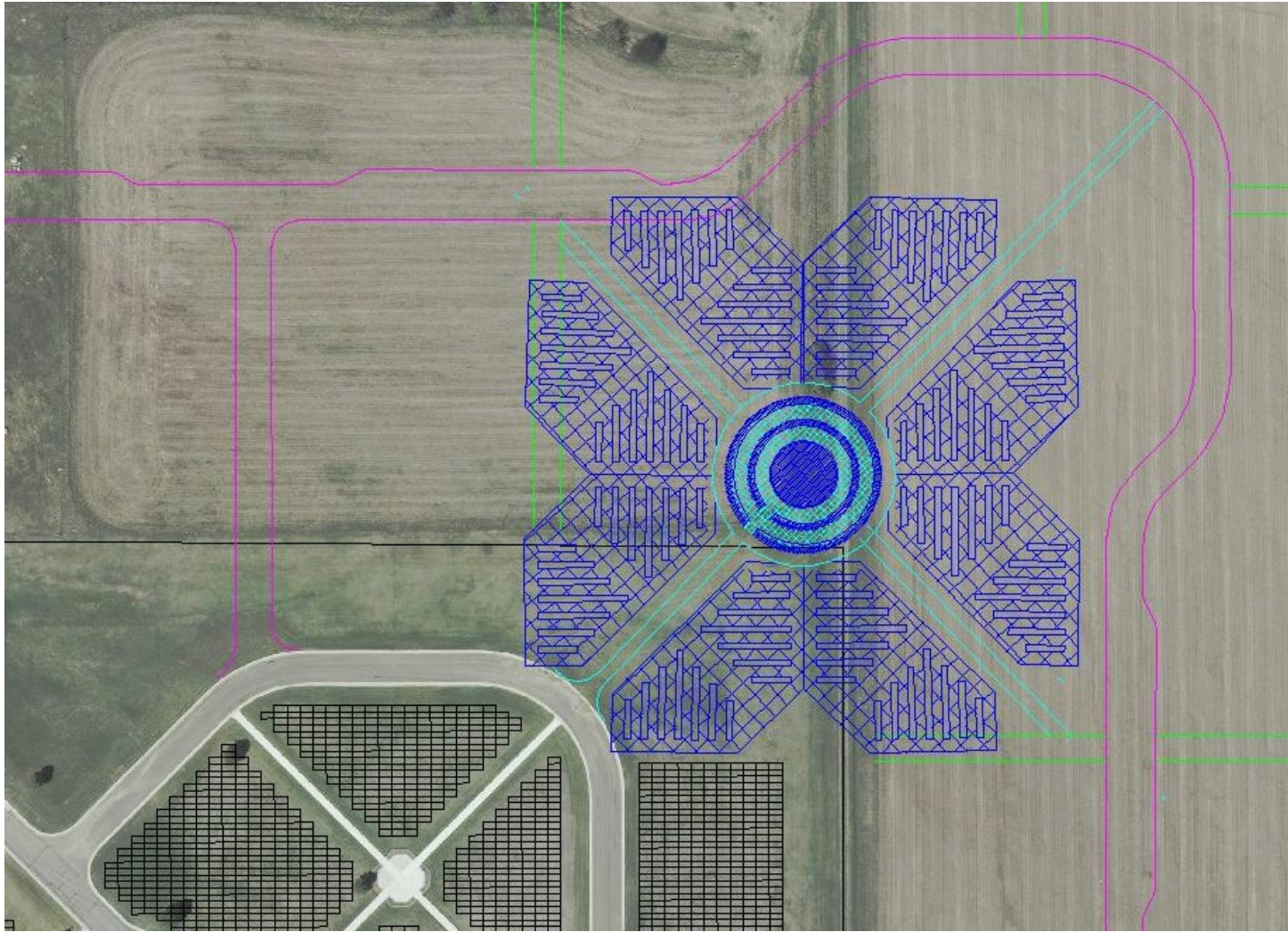
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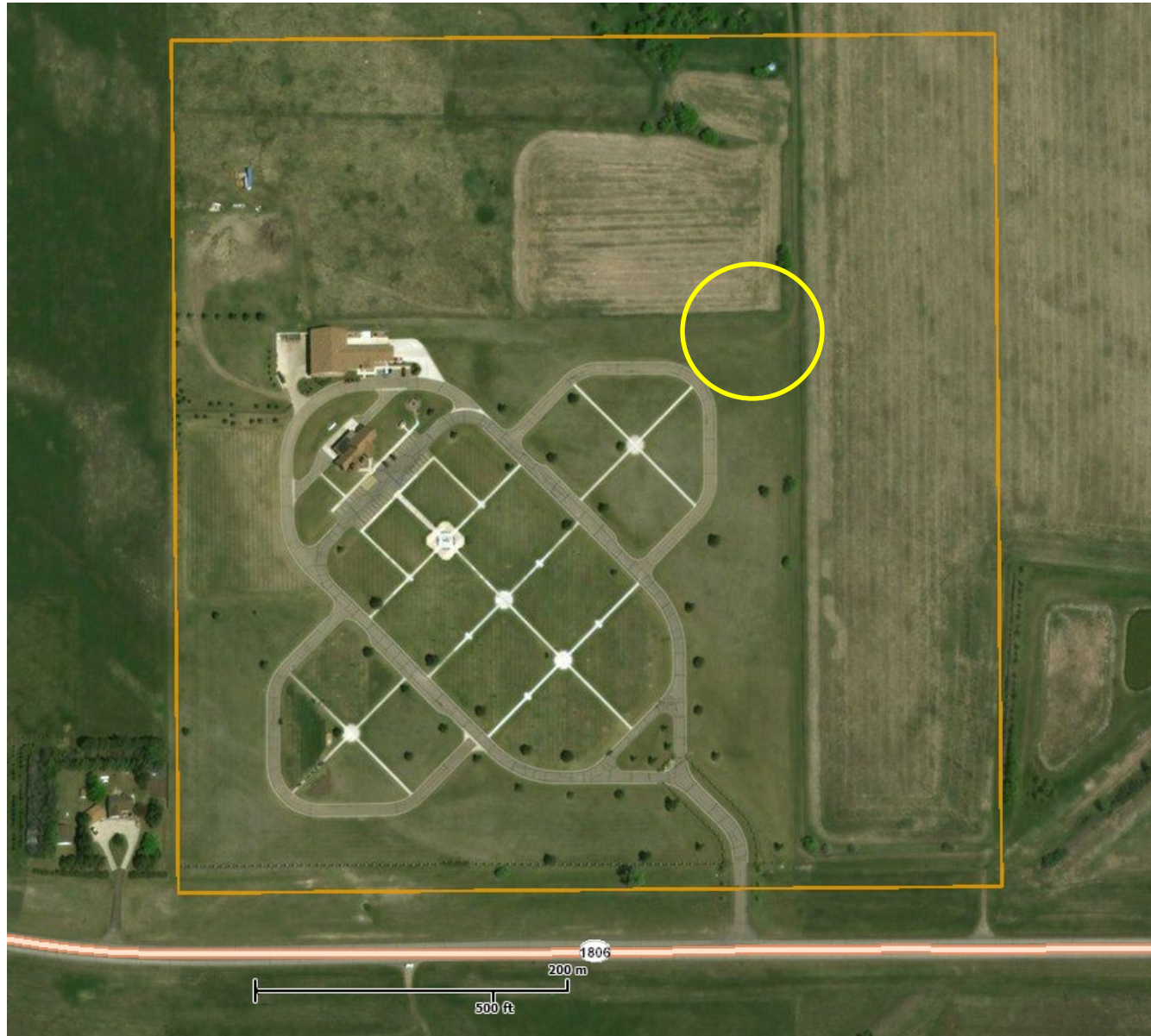
Stephen P. Herda
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North Dakota National Guard

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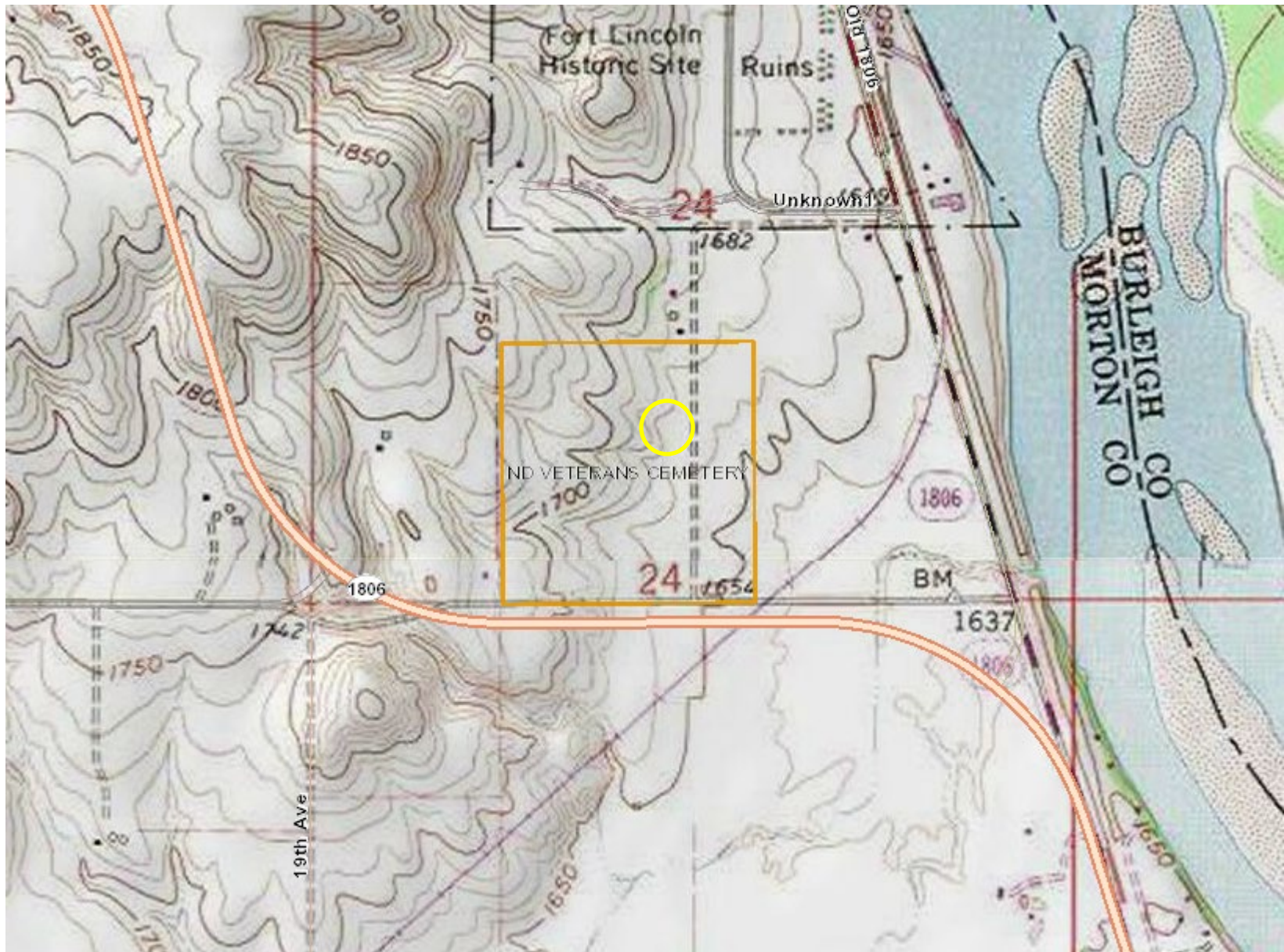
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Cheyenne St. John
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Lower Sioux Indian Community
PO Box 308
Morton, MN 56270

Dear Ms. St. John:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S½ NE¼ SW¼ , W½ SW¼ SE¼, SW¼ NW¼ SE ¼, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

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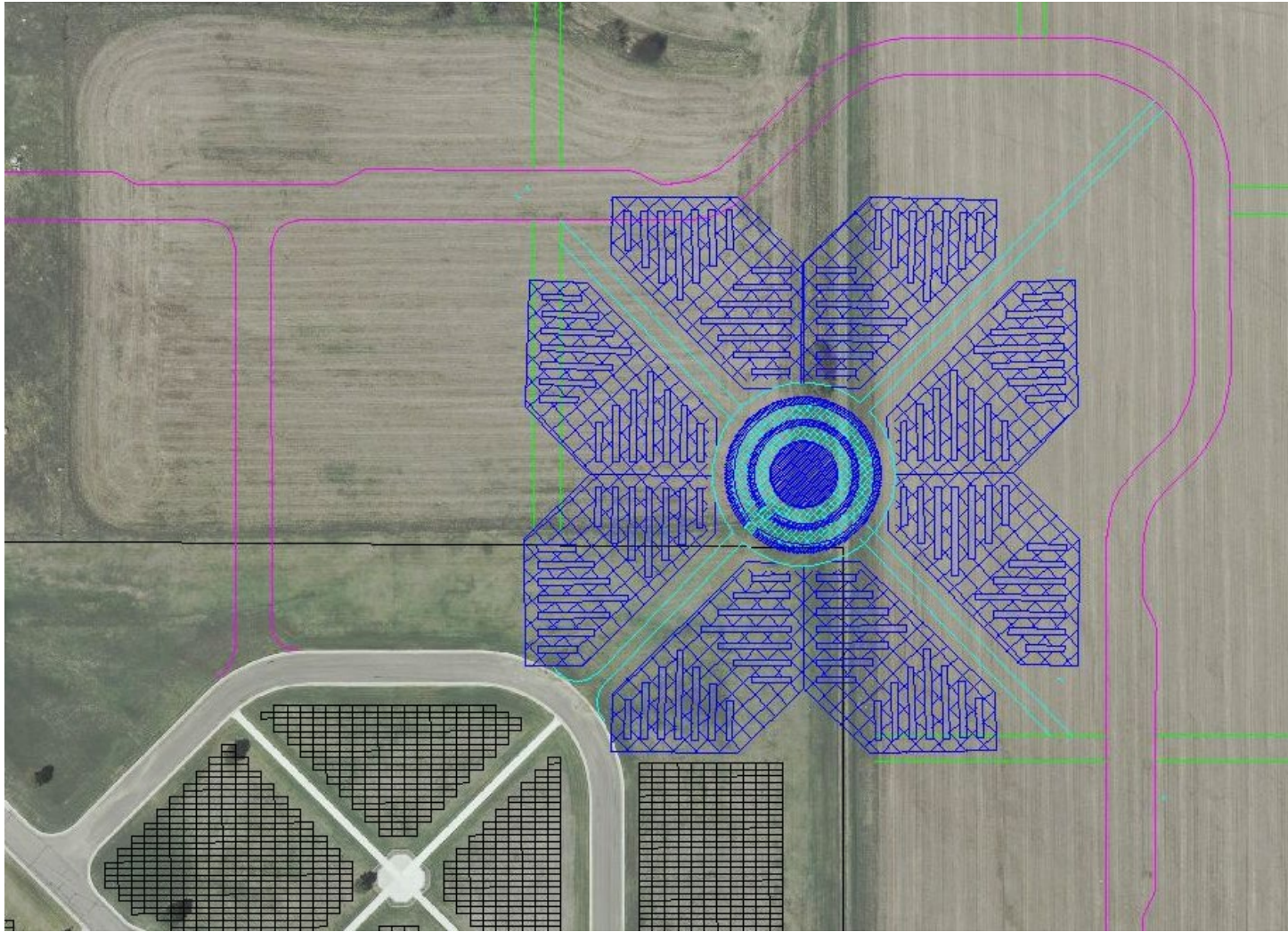
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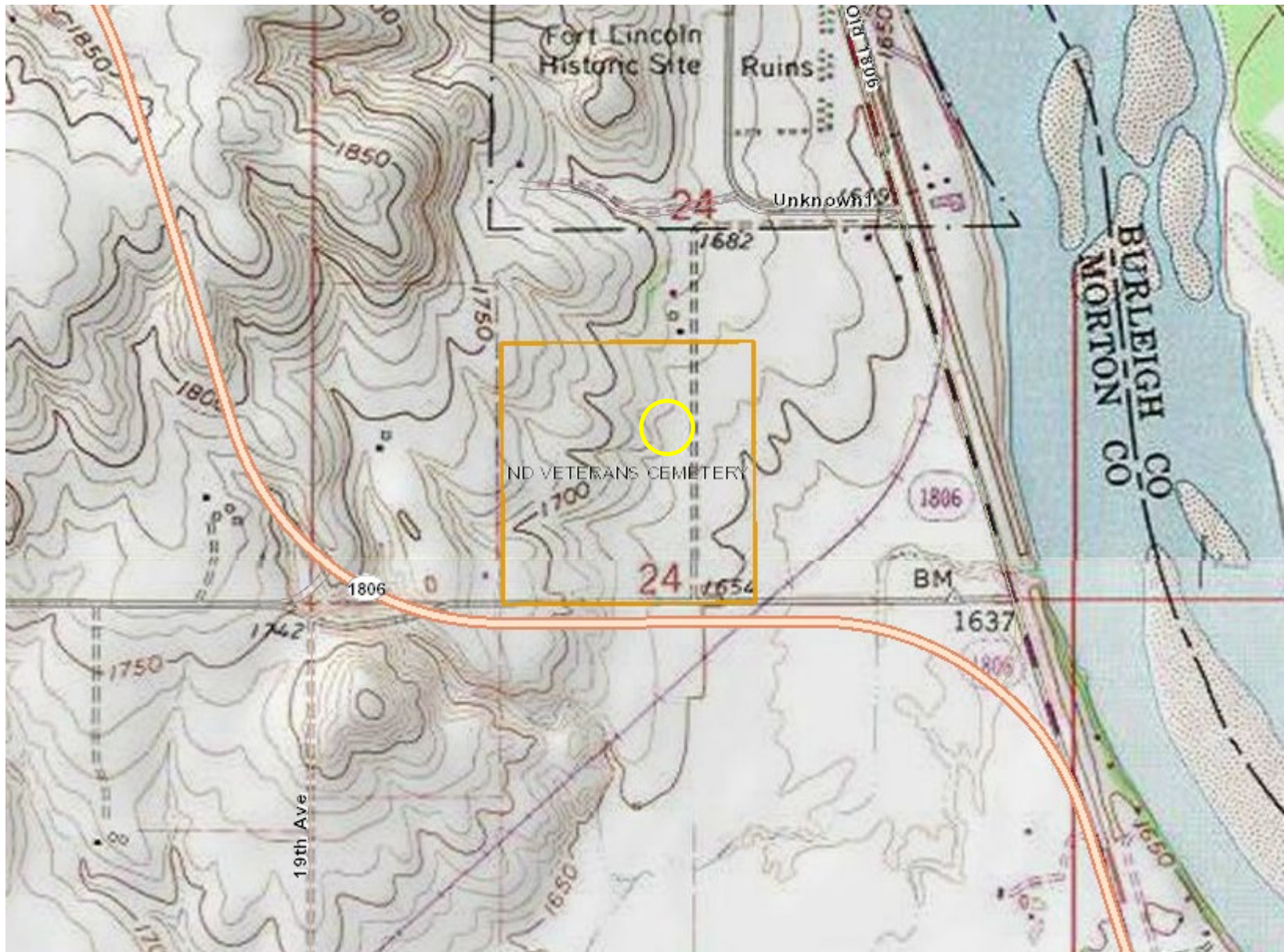
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Dawn Rhone
Auditor
Morton County Auditors Office
210 2nd Avenue NW
Mandan, ND 58554

Dear Ms. Rhone:

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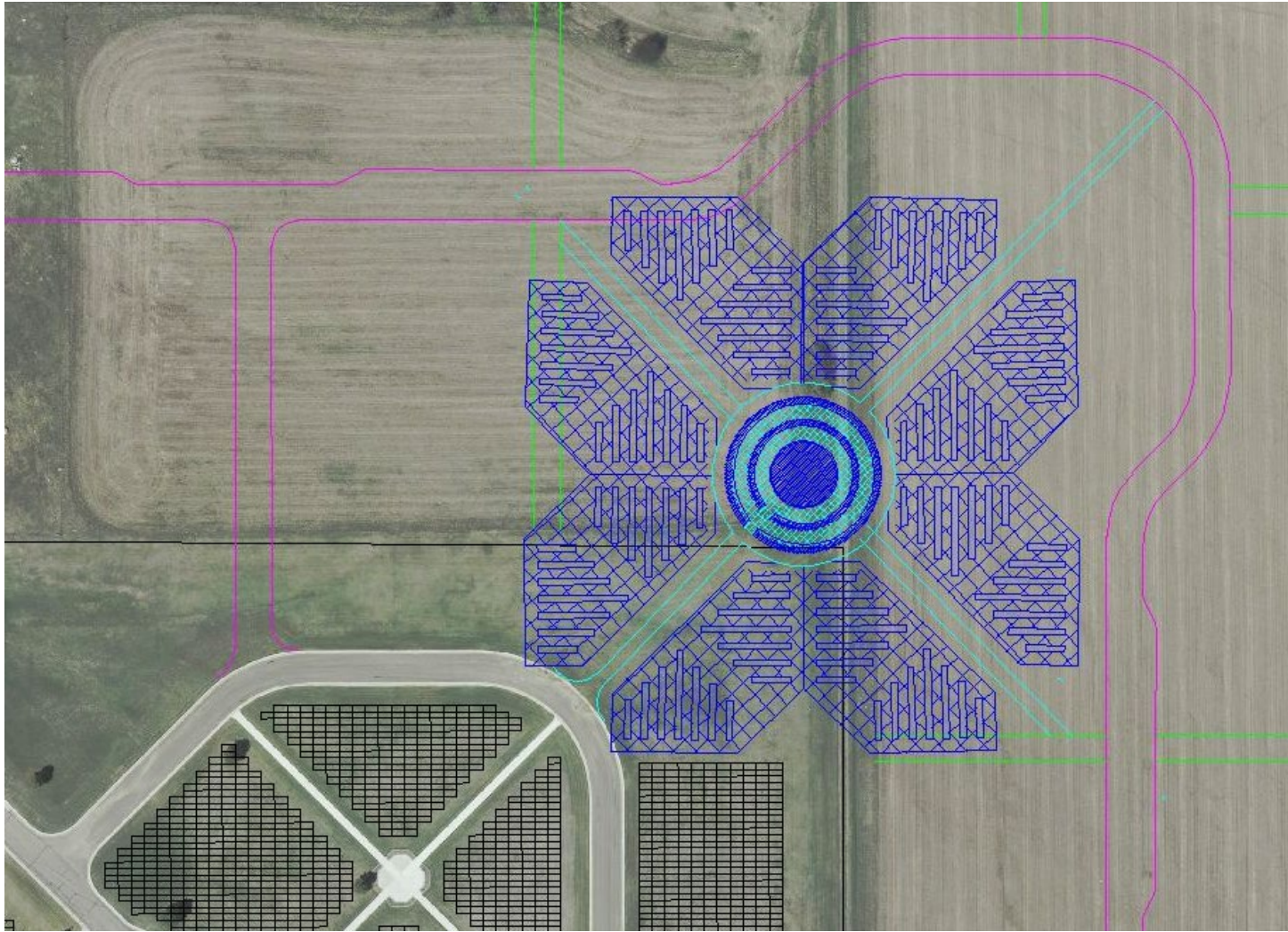
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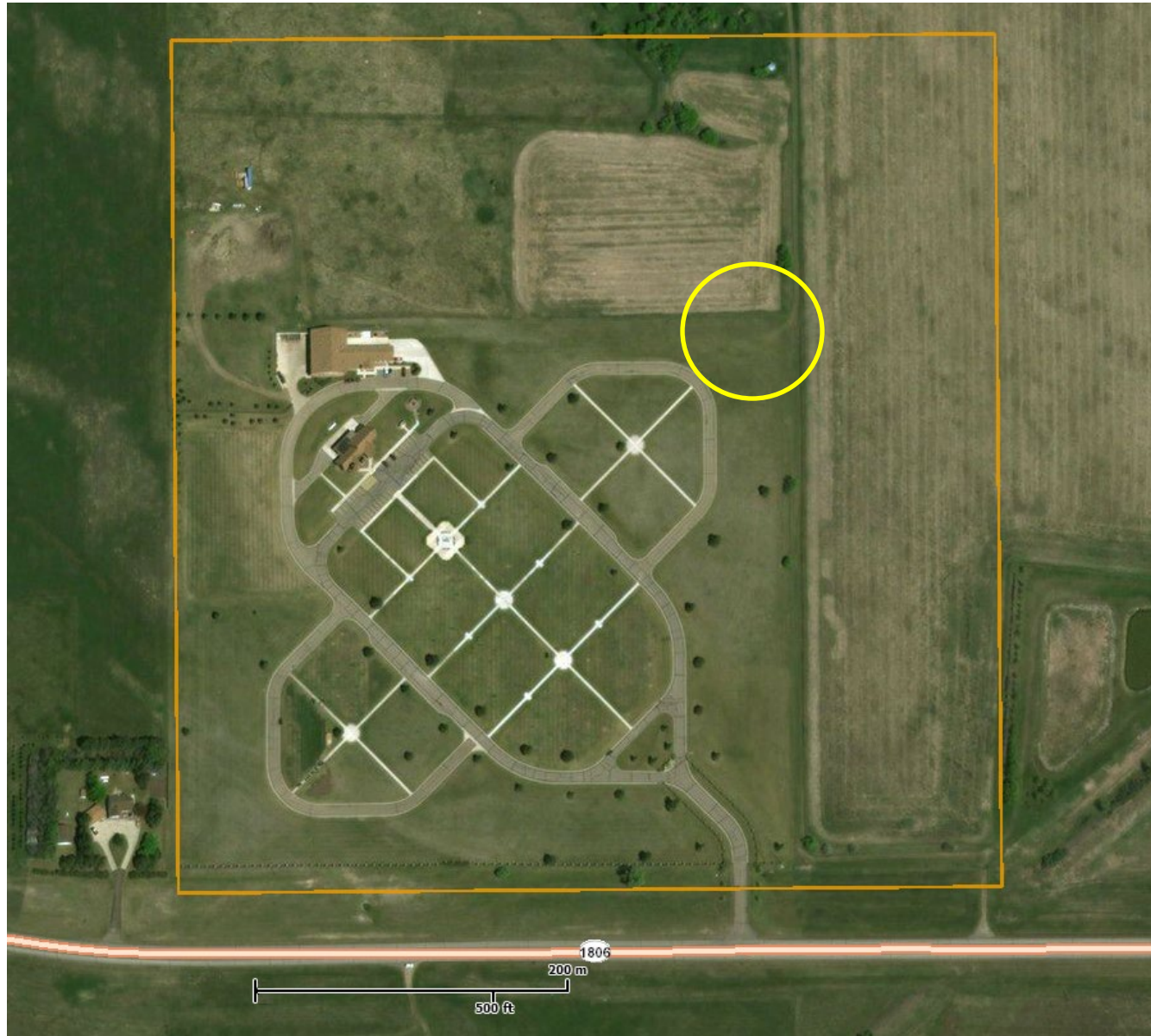
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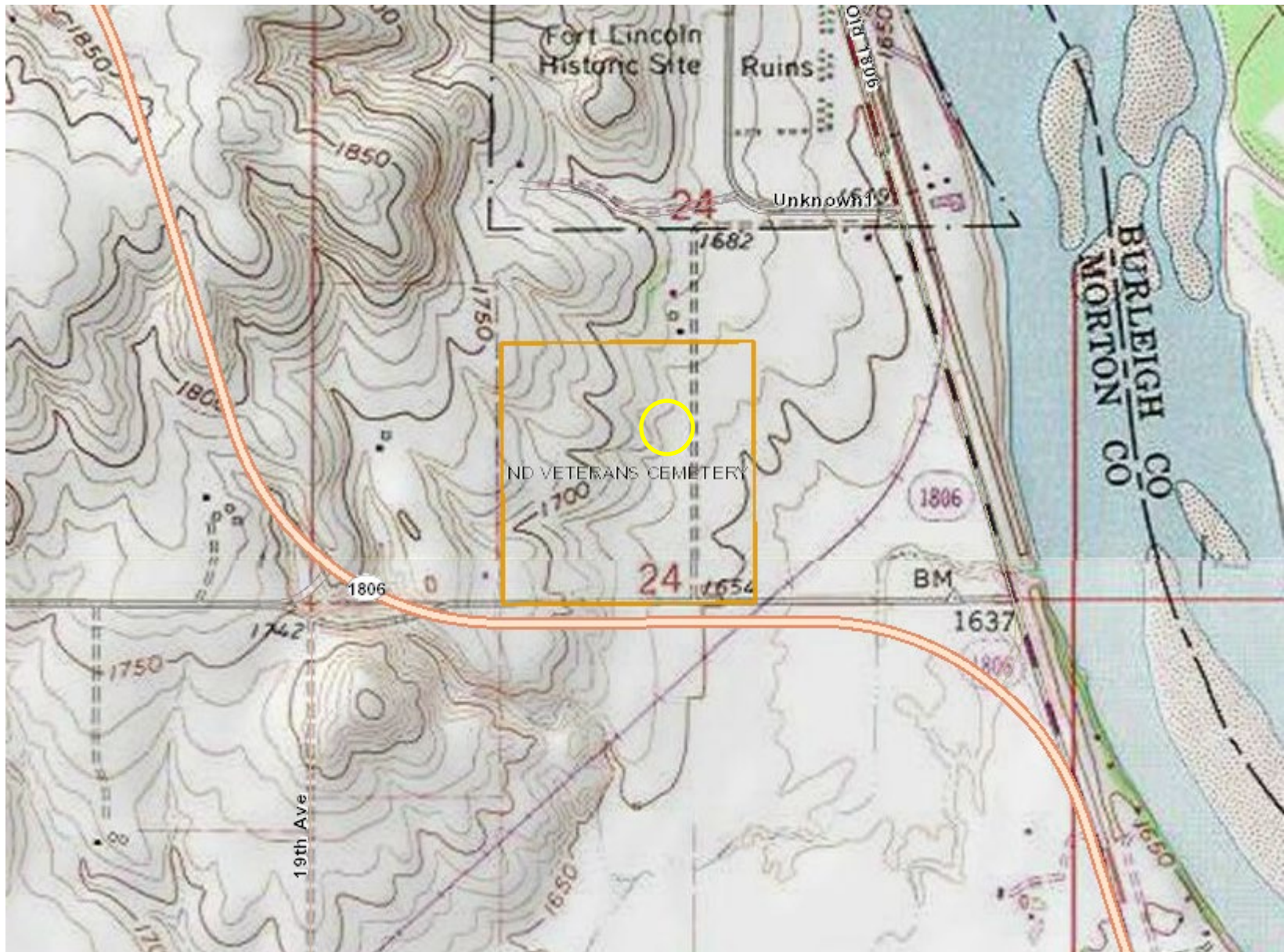
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Ryan Jockers
Chairman
Morton County Planning and Zoning
210 2nd Avenue NW
Mandan, ND 58554

Dear Mr. Jockers:

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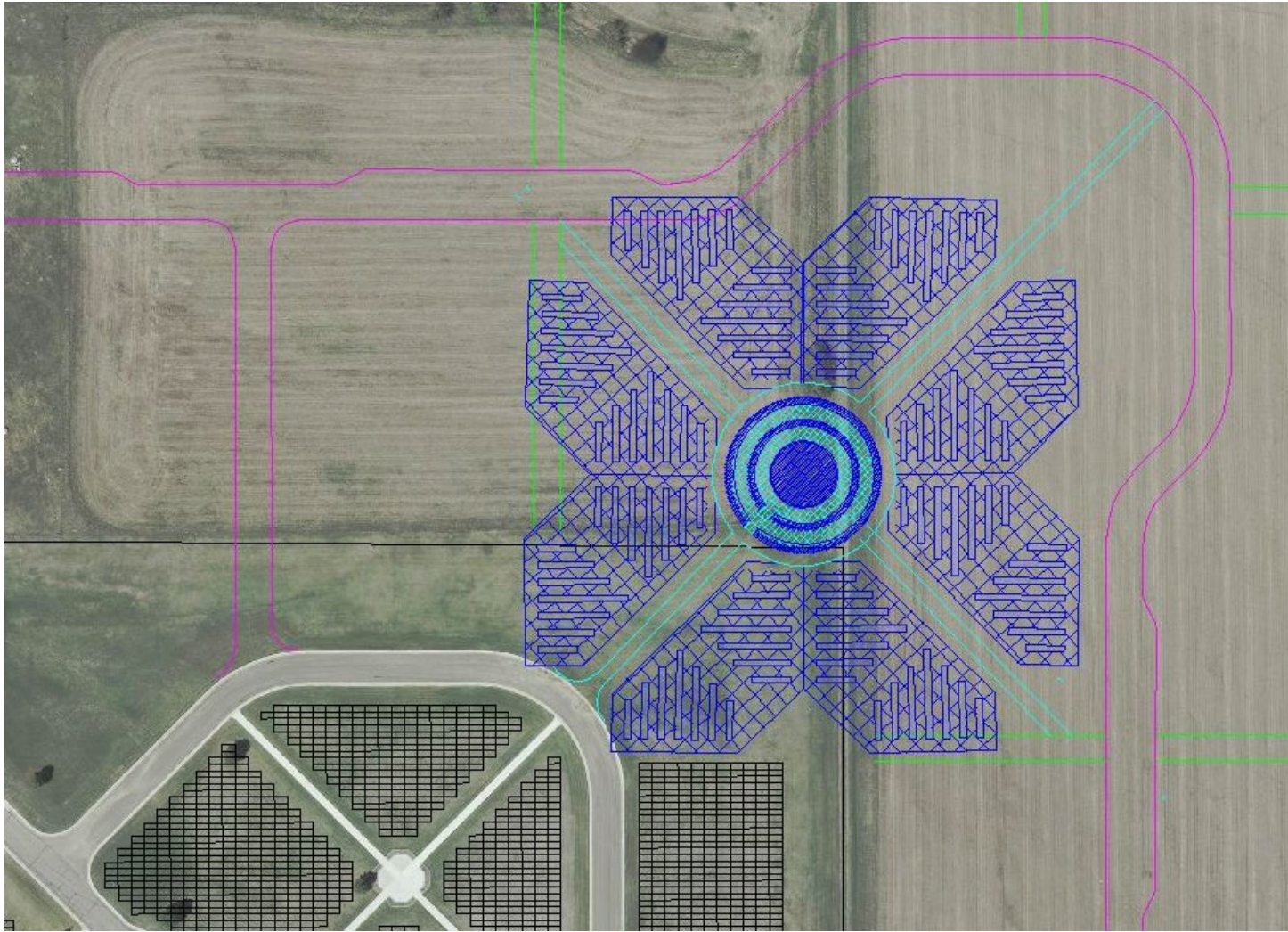
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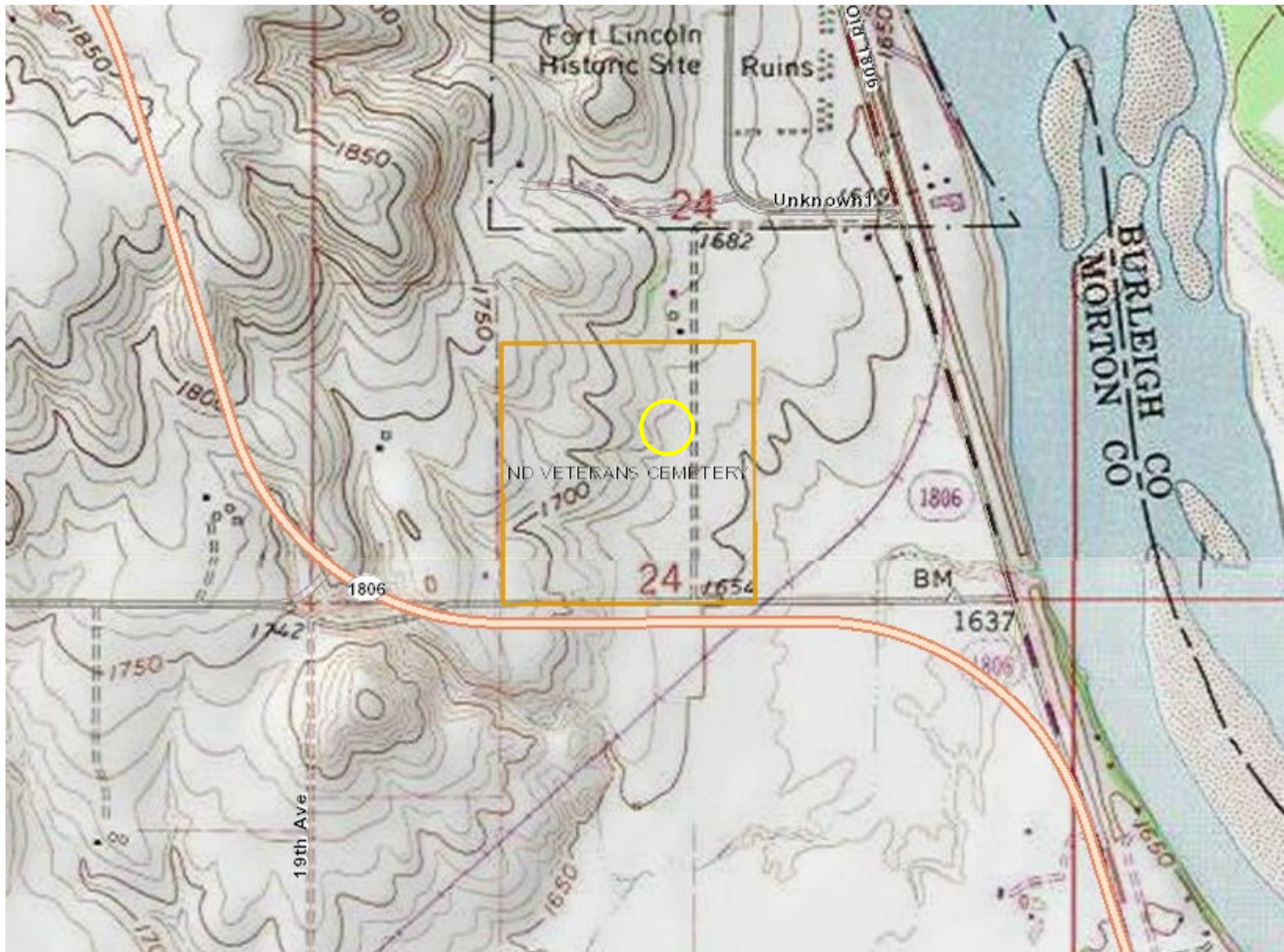
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Jim Eliasson
Transmission Manager
Montana Dakota Utilities
400 N 4th St
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Mr. Eliasson:

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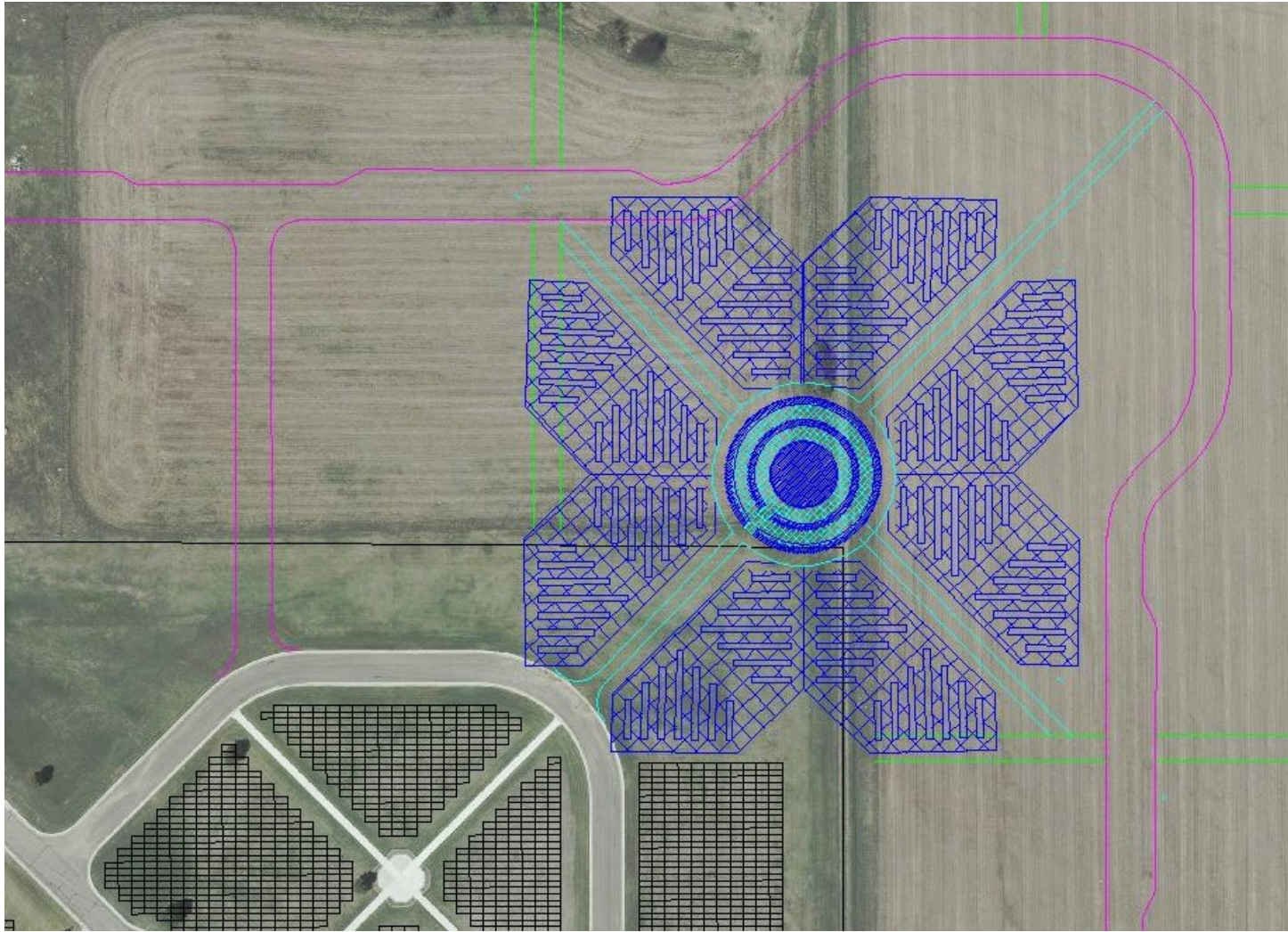
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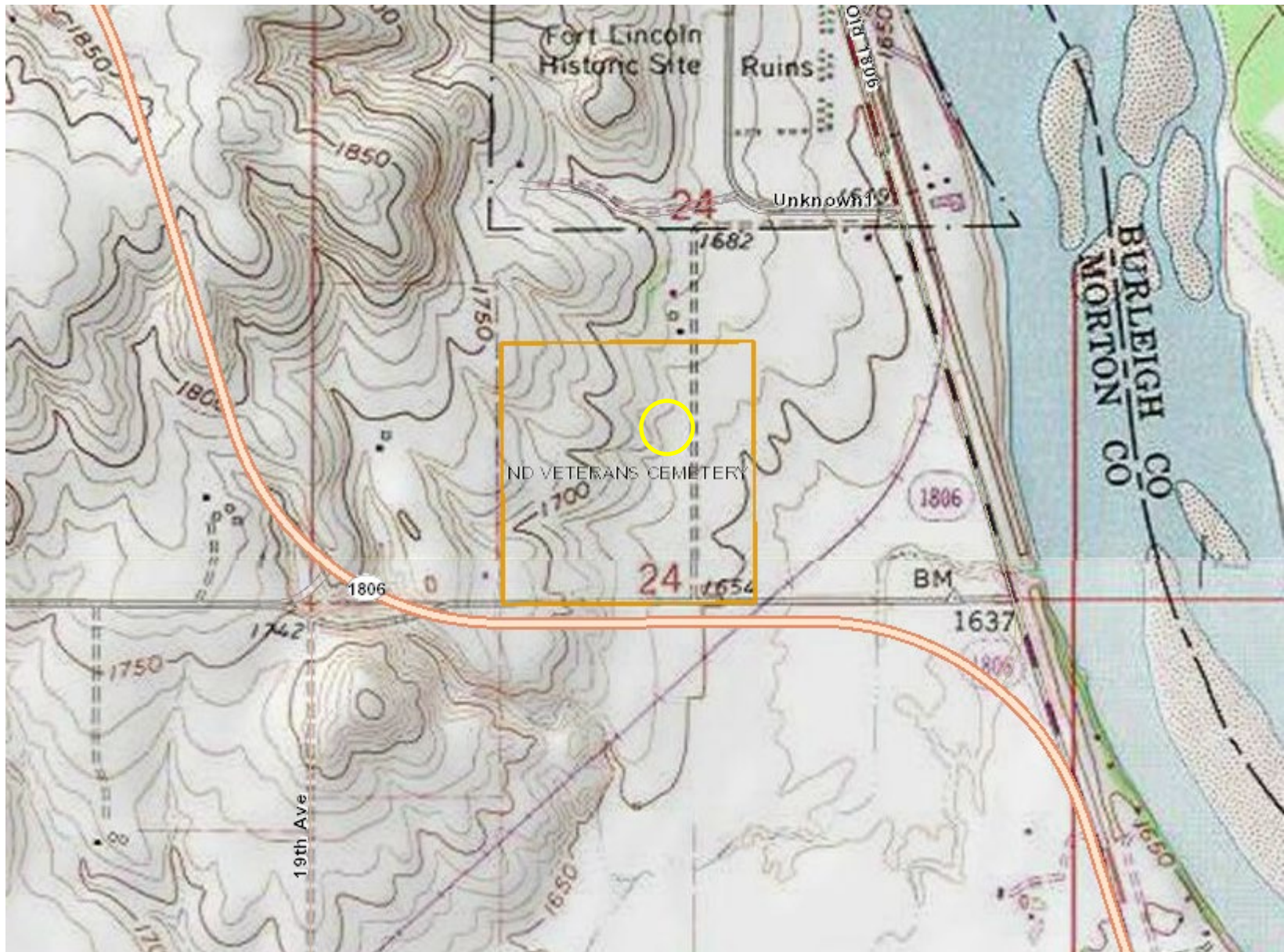
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Leland Barth
Chairman
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative
202 6th Avenue West
Flasher, ND 58535-0297

Dear Mr. Barth:

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The NDVC is in the process of creating a master plan to guide development of the cemetery. The initial design and construction of the NDVC has reached its goals, and the addition of 35 adjacent acres requires future planning consideration. Part of the master plan and to address veteran requests, the NDVC is proposing to design and construct a columbarium. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and part of that grant proposal is to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

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Prior assessments done to date include several cultural resources surveys on the 35 acres to determine the presence of sites, and a survey to determine eligibility of newly identified sites. Work to be done during the initial land clearing phase has already been evaluated under the NEPA process, and no adverse effects were determined from that assessment.

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If you need further information regarding the proposed project, you may contact me at stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil or 701.333.2070, or Ms. Pam Helbling-Schafer at 701.667.1418 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

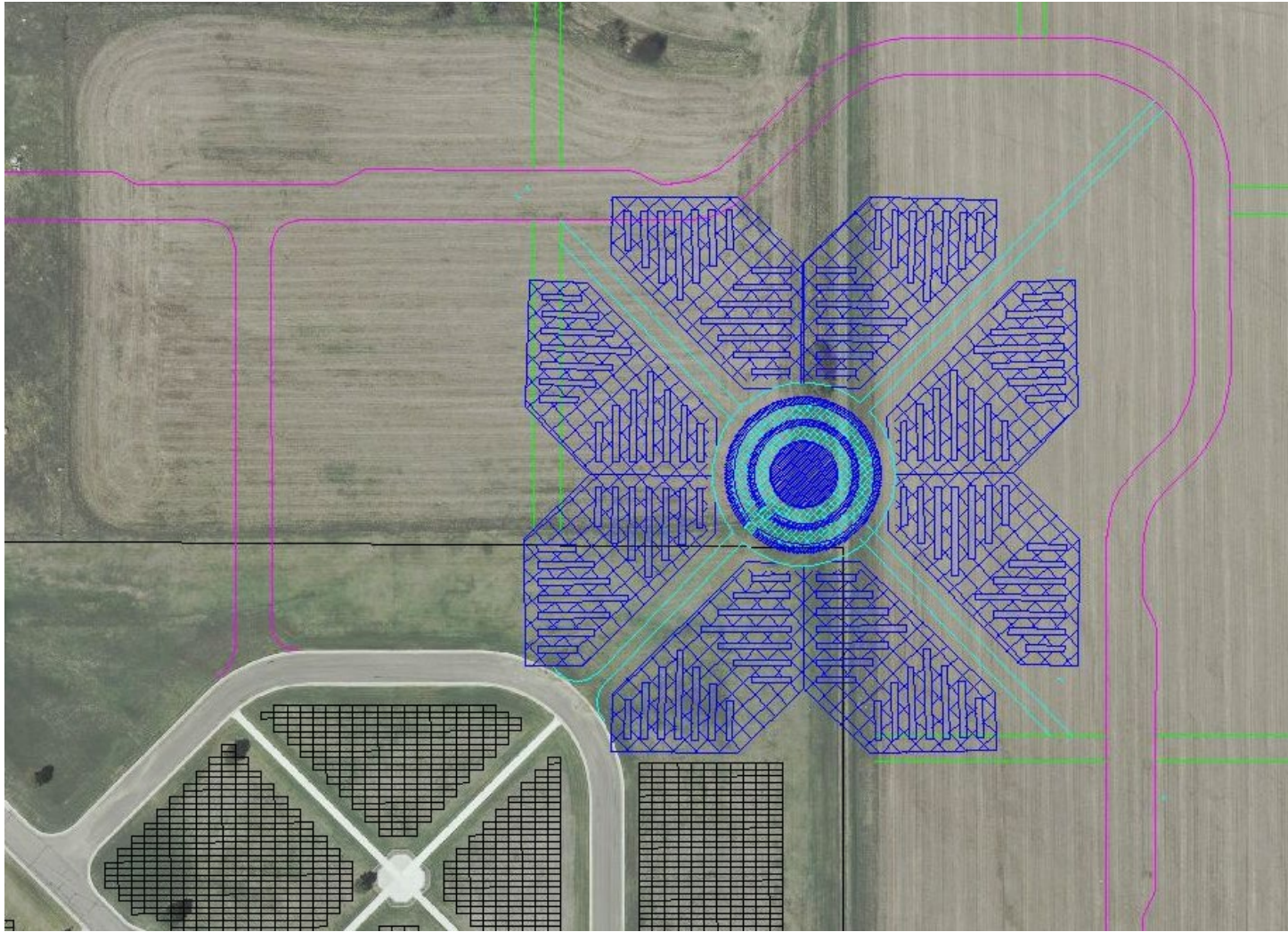
Sincerely,

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Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

Encls.

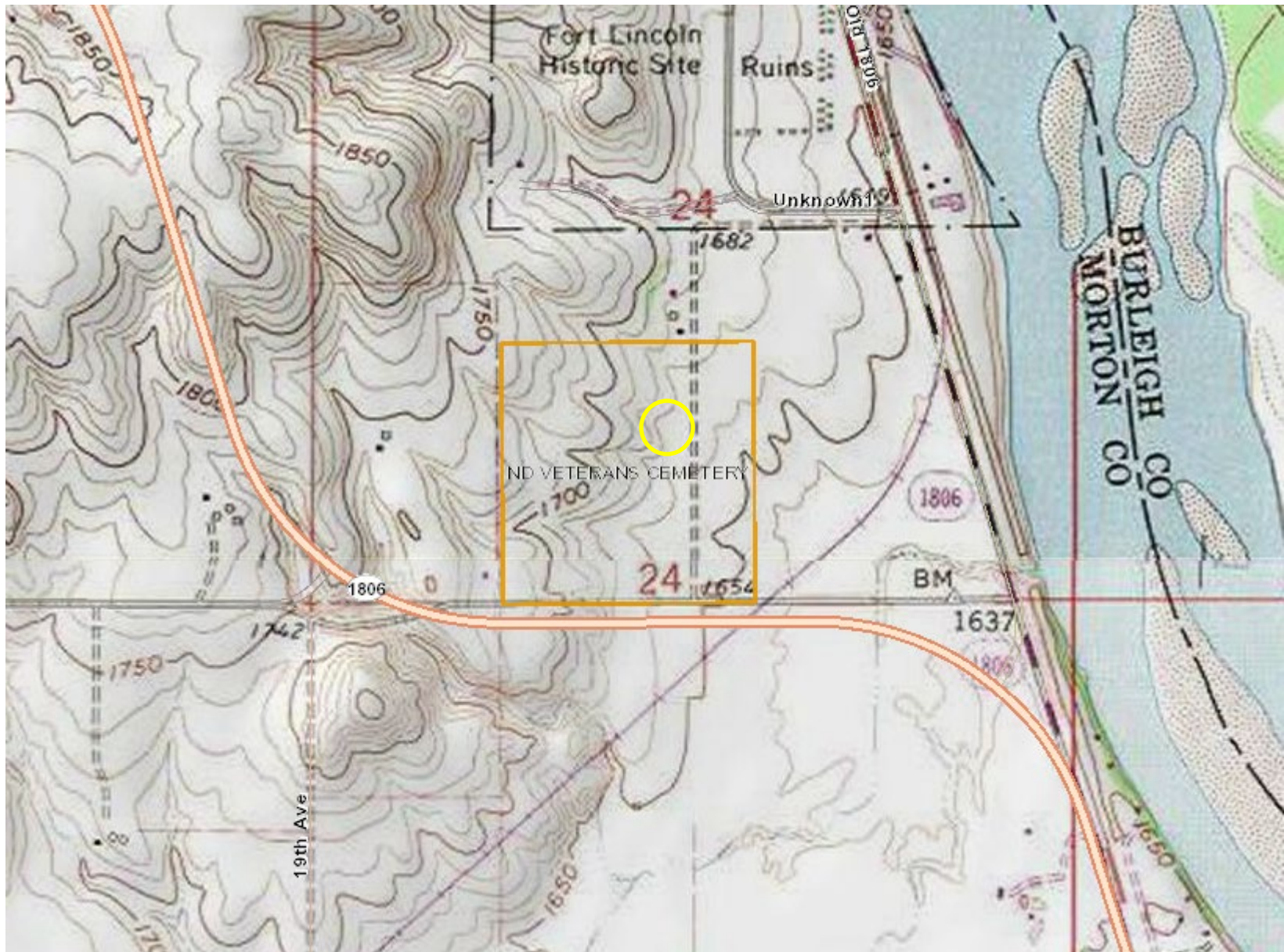
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Enclosure 2. Aerial photograph of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.



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**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Pete Coffey
Acting Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation
404 Frontage Road
New Town, ND 58763

Dear Mr. Coffey:

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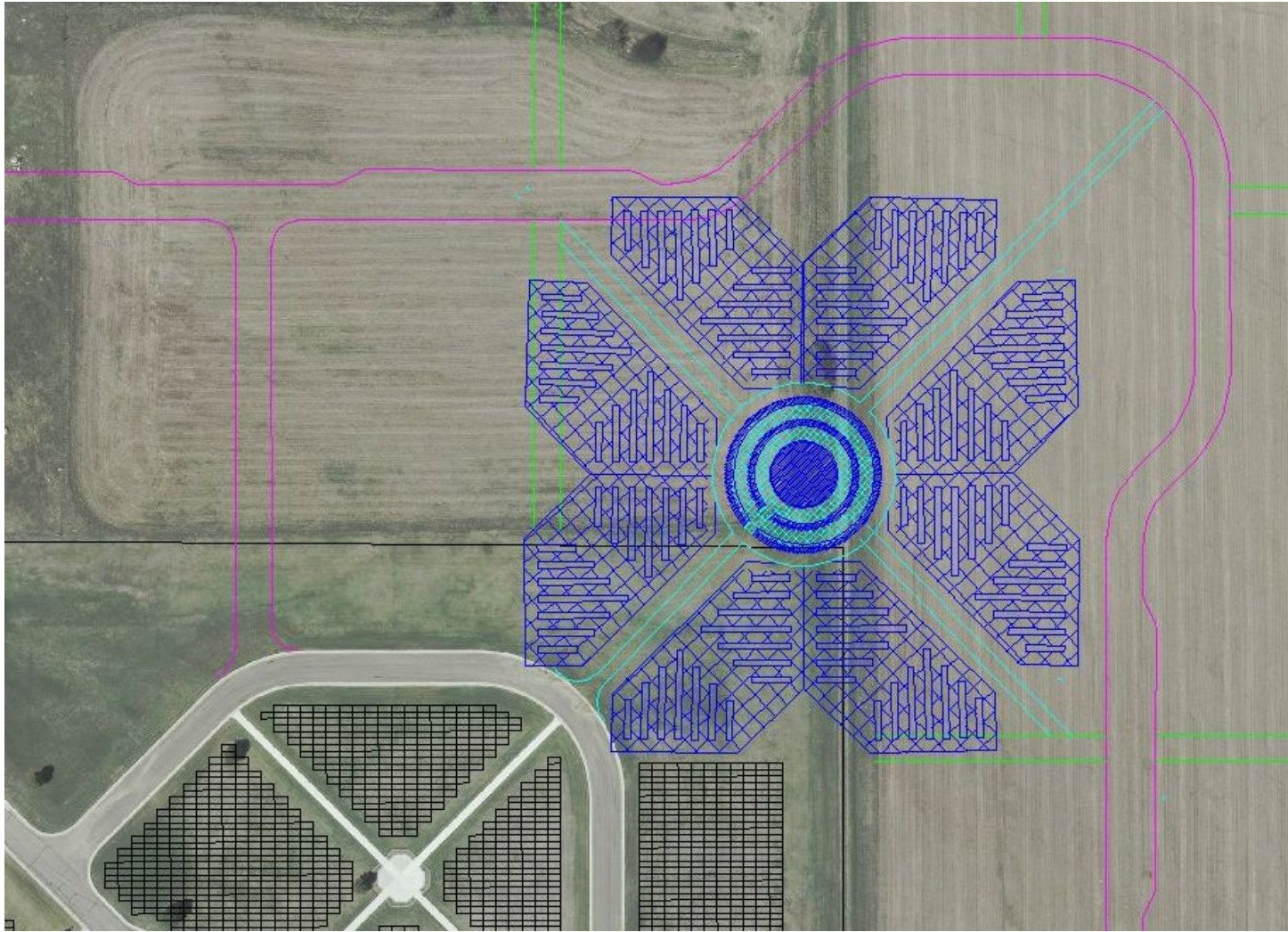
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North Dakota National Guard

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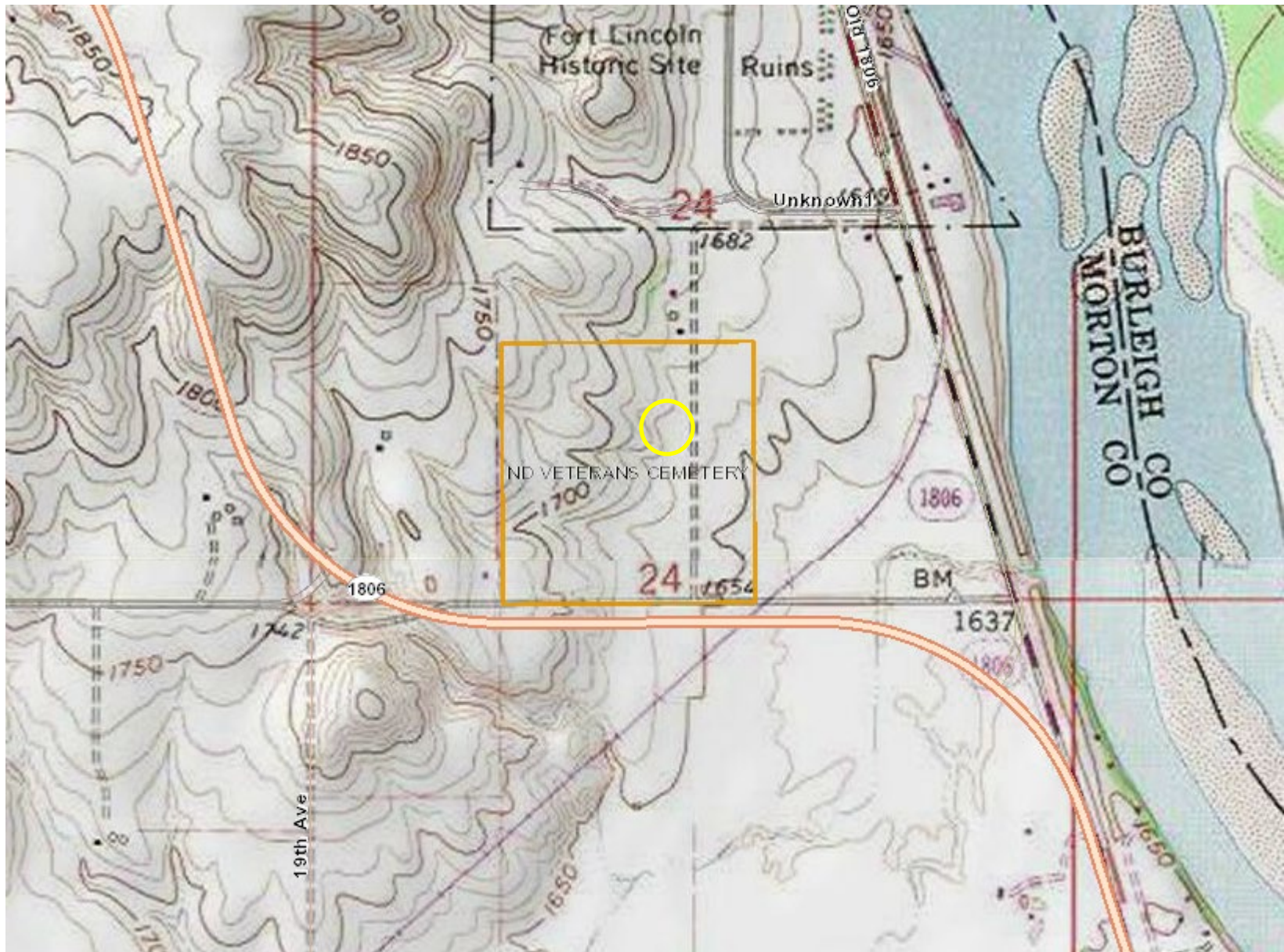
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Mike Kemnitz
General Manager
Missouri West Water System
2816 37th Street NW
Mandan, ND 58554

Dear Mr. Kemnitz:

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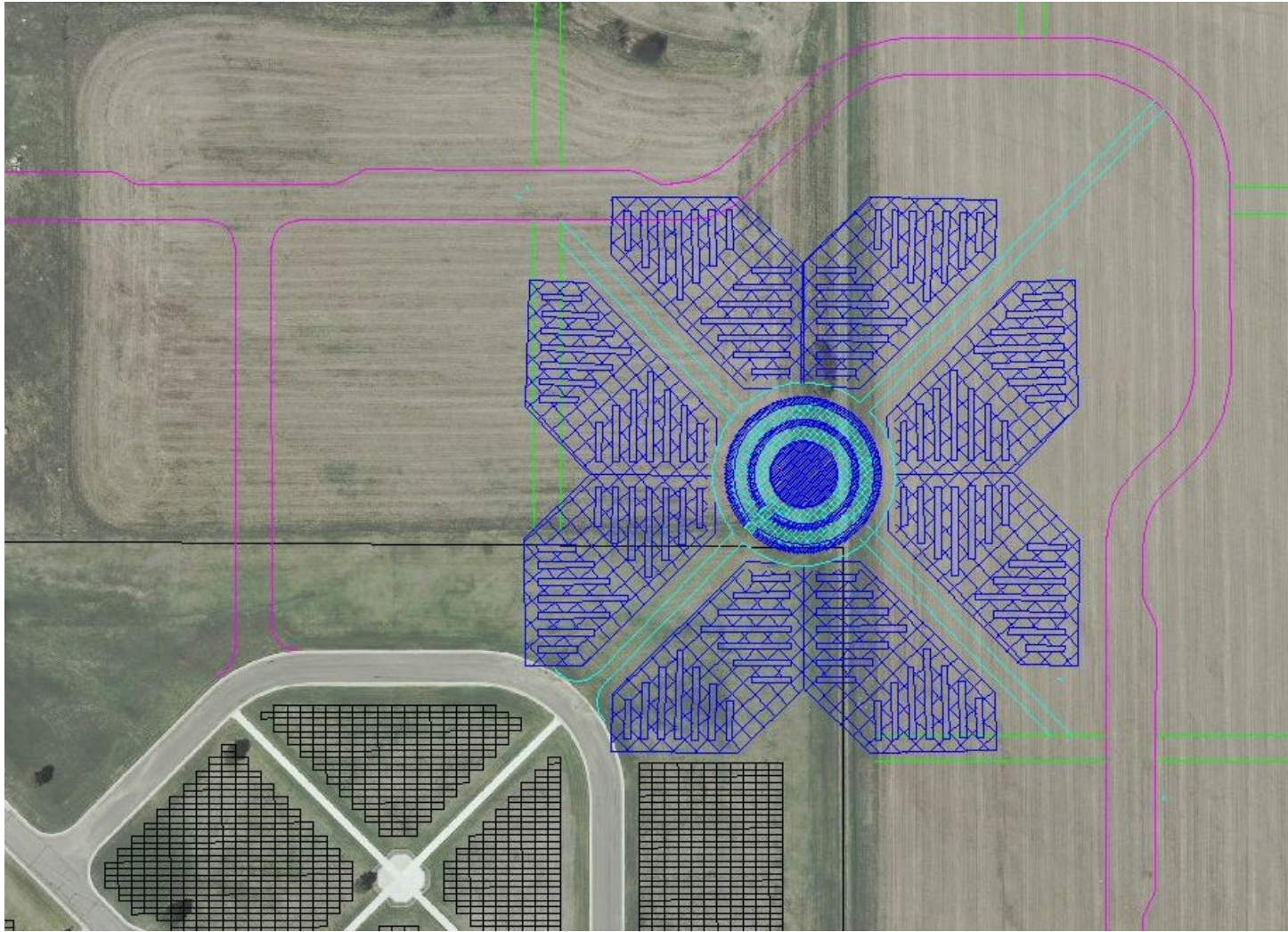
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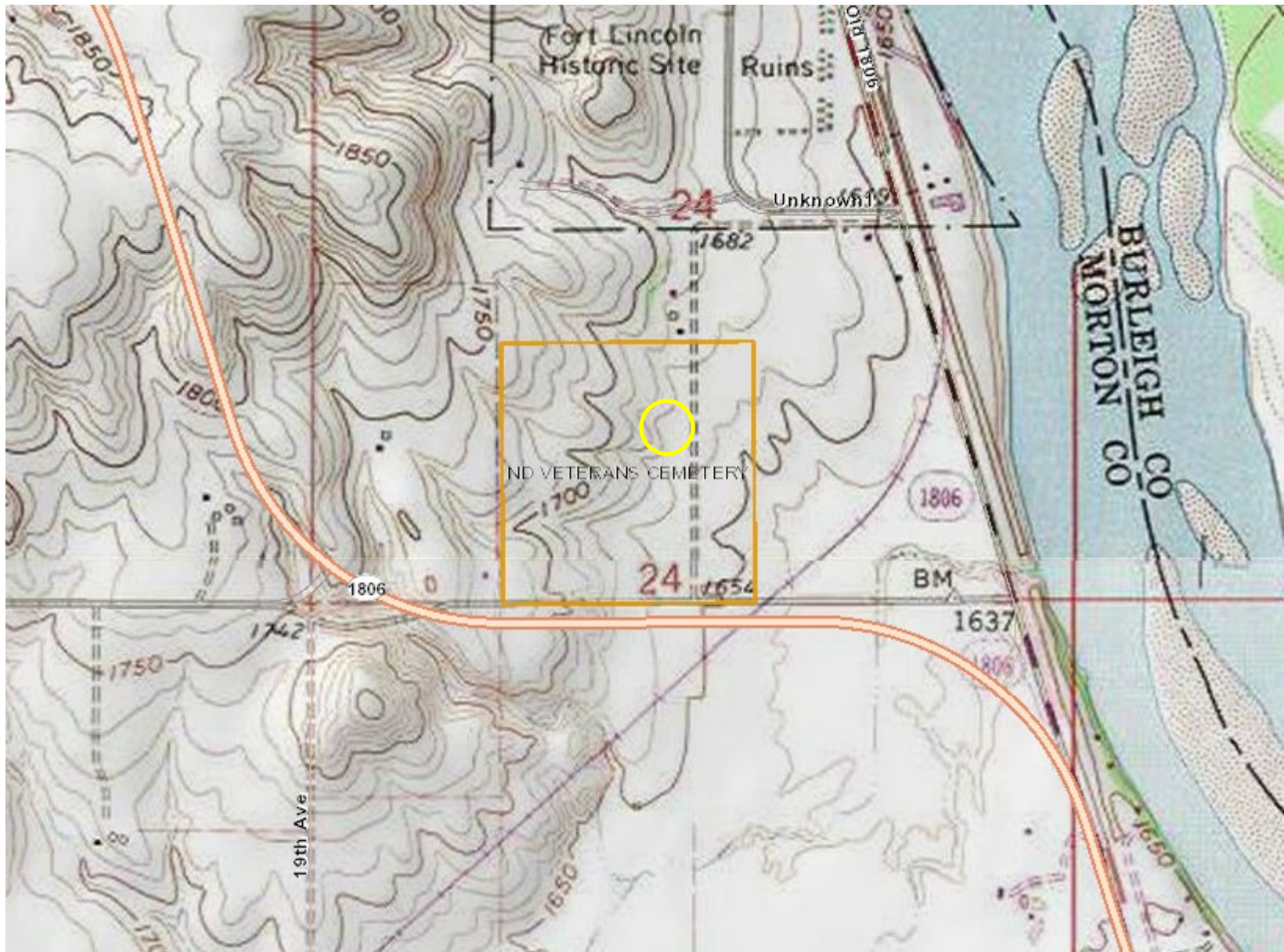
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Teanna Limpy
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
PO Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Ms. Limpy:

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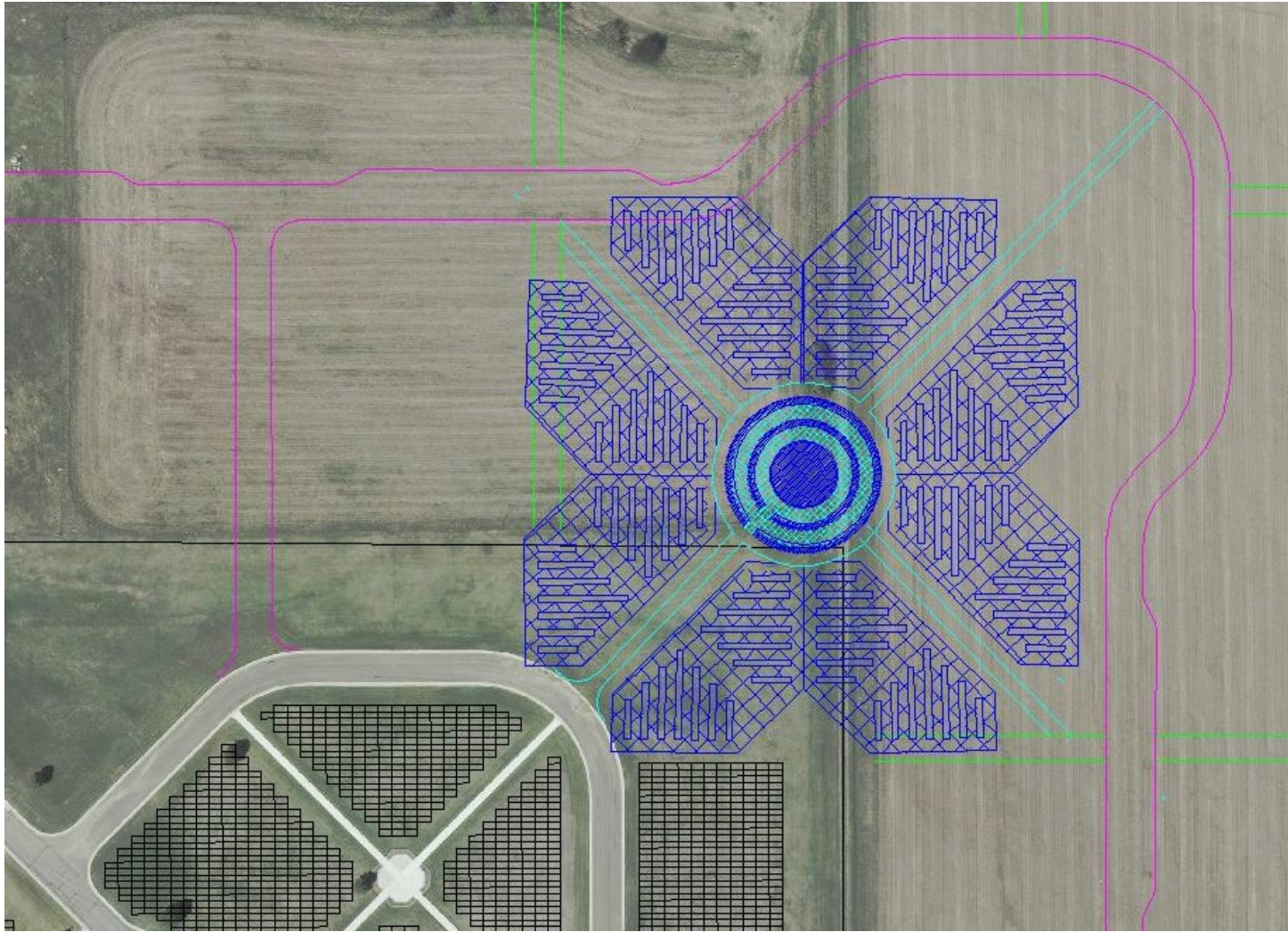
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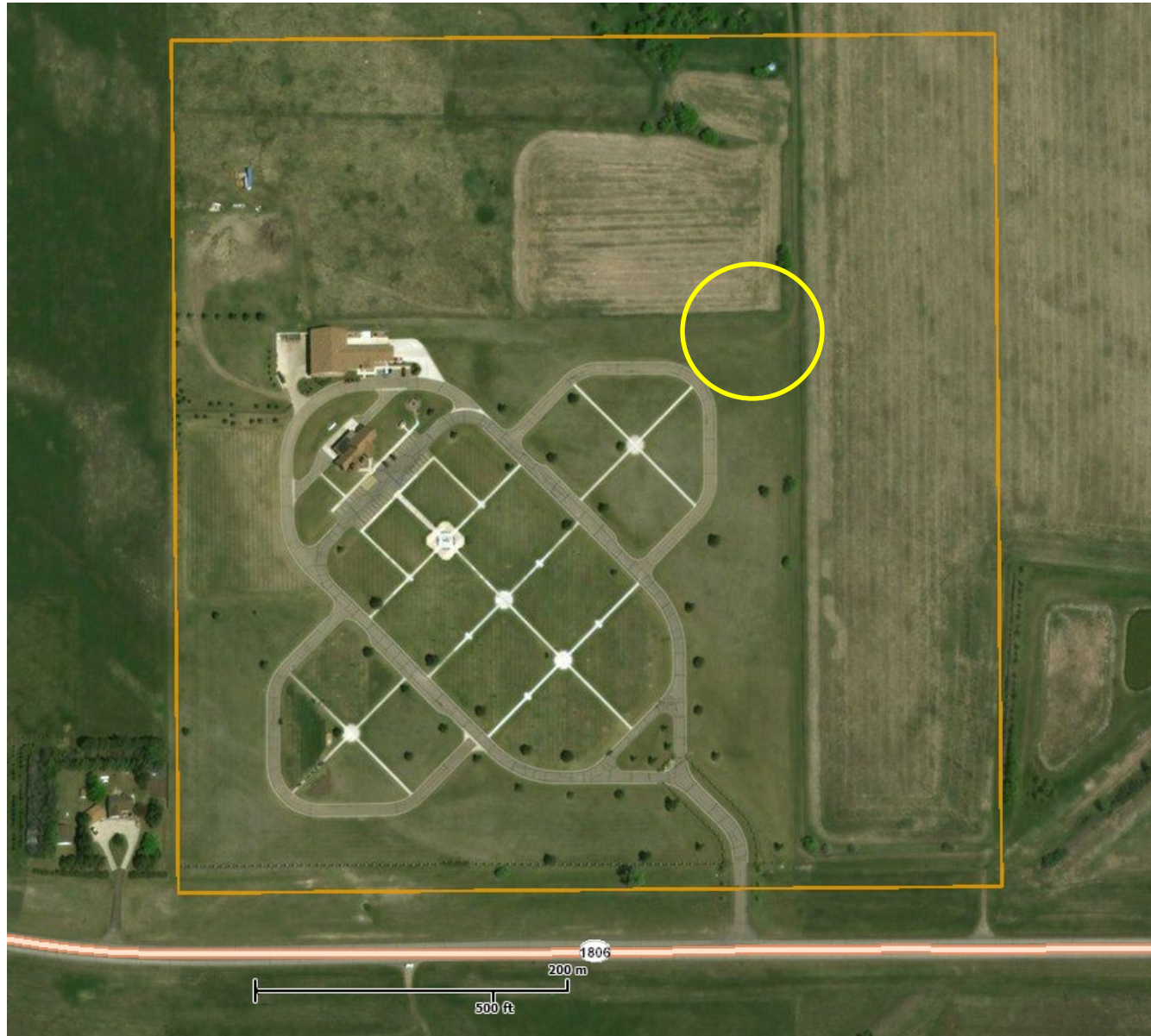
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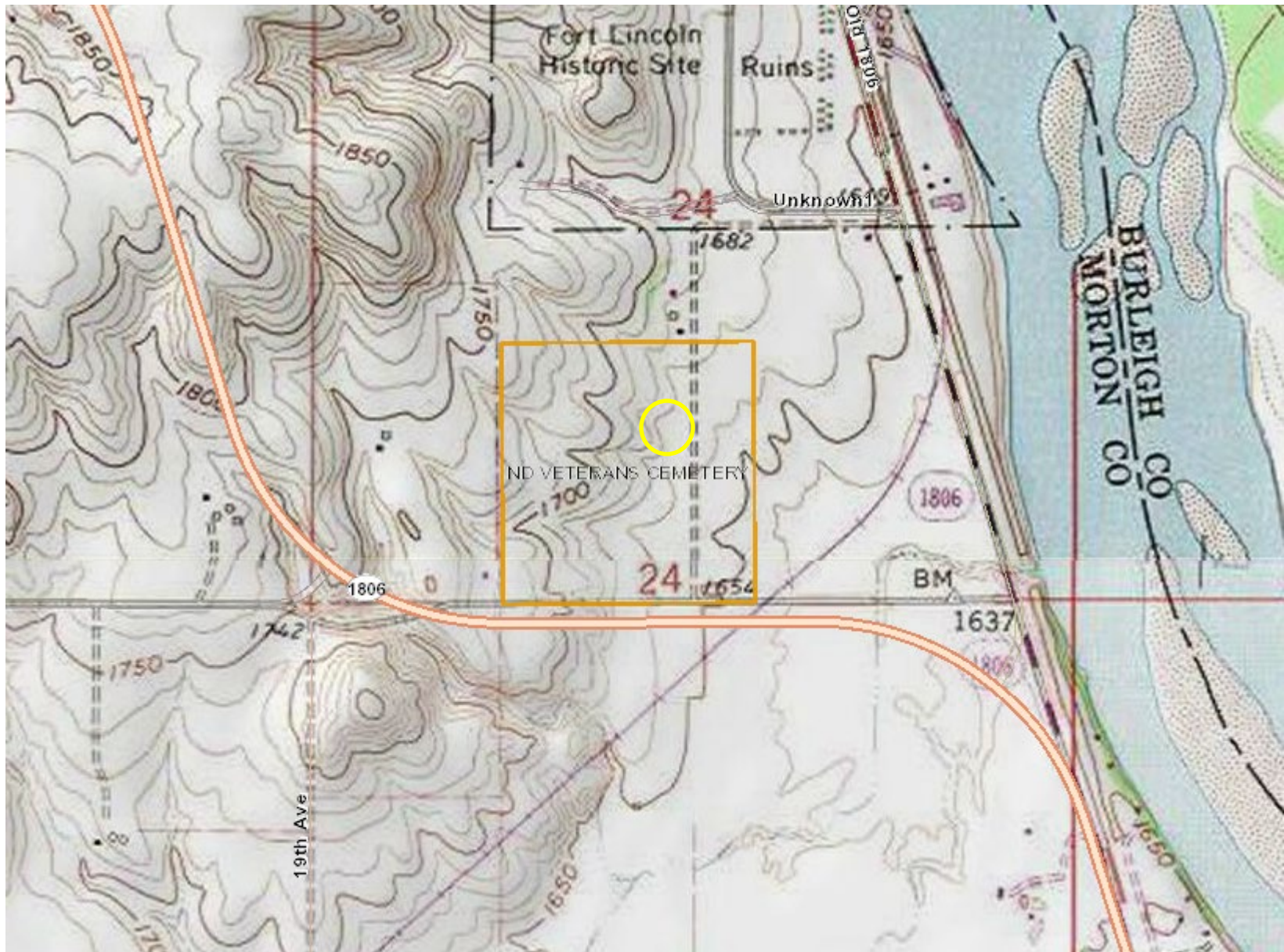
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Kyle Wanner
Director
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
PO Box 5020
Bismarck, ND 58502-5020

Dear Mr. Wanner:

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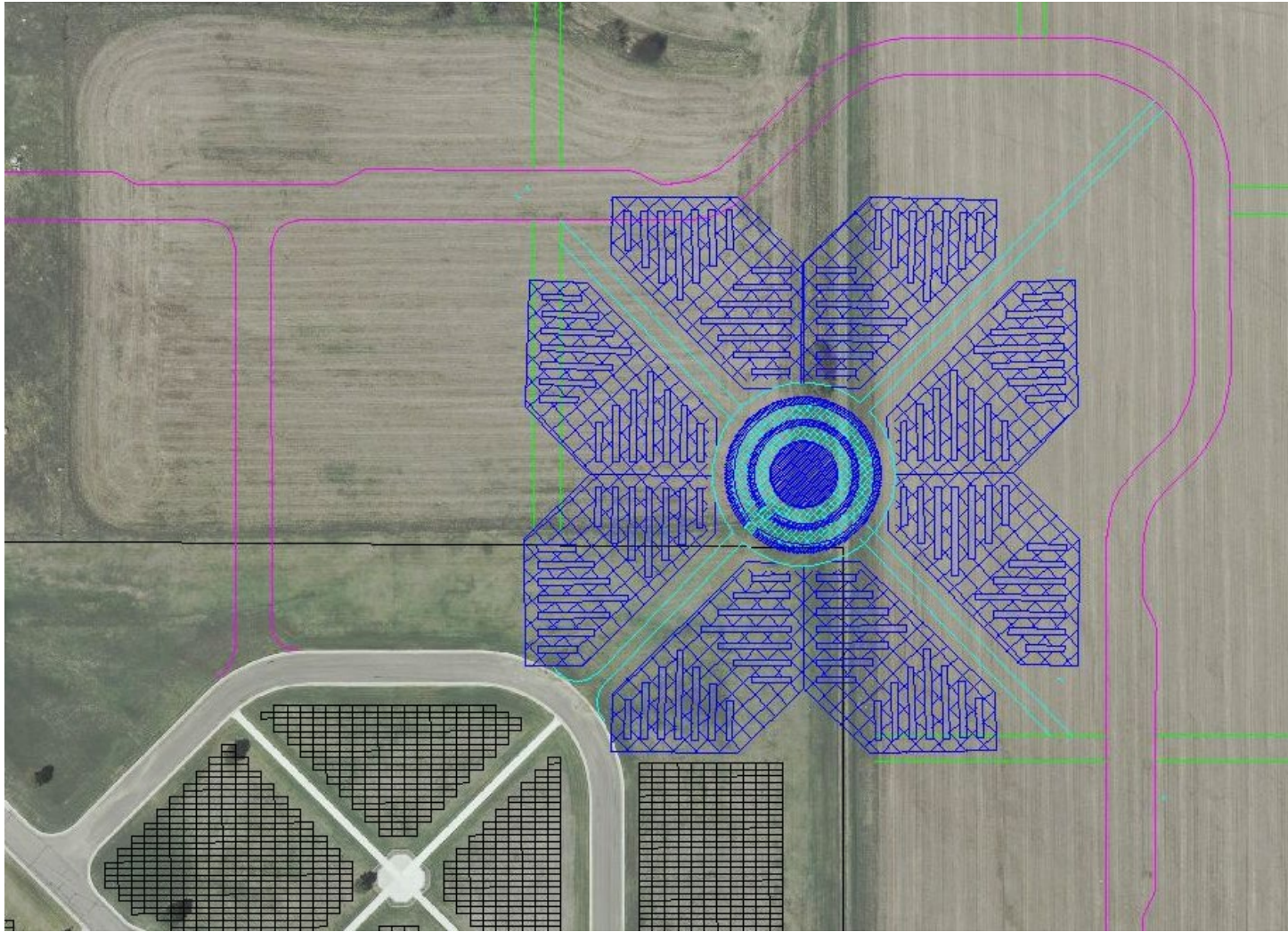
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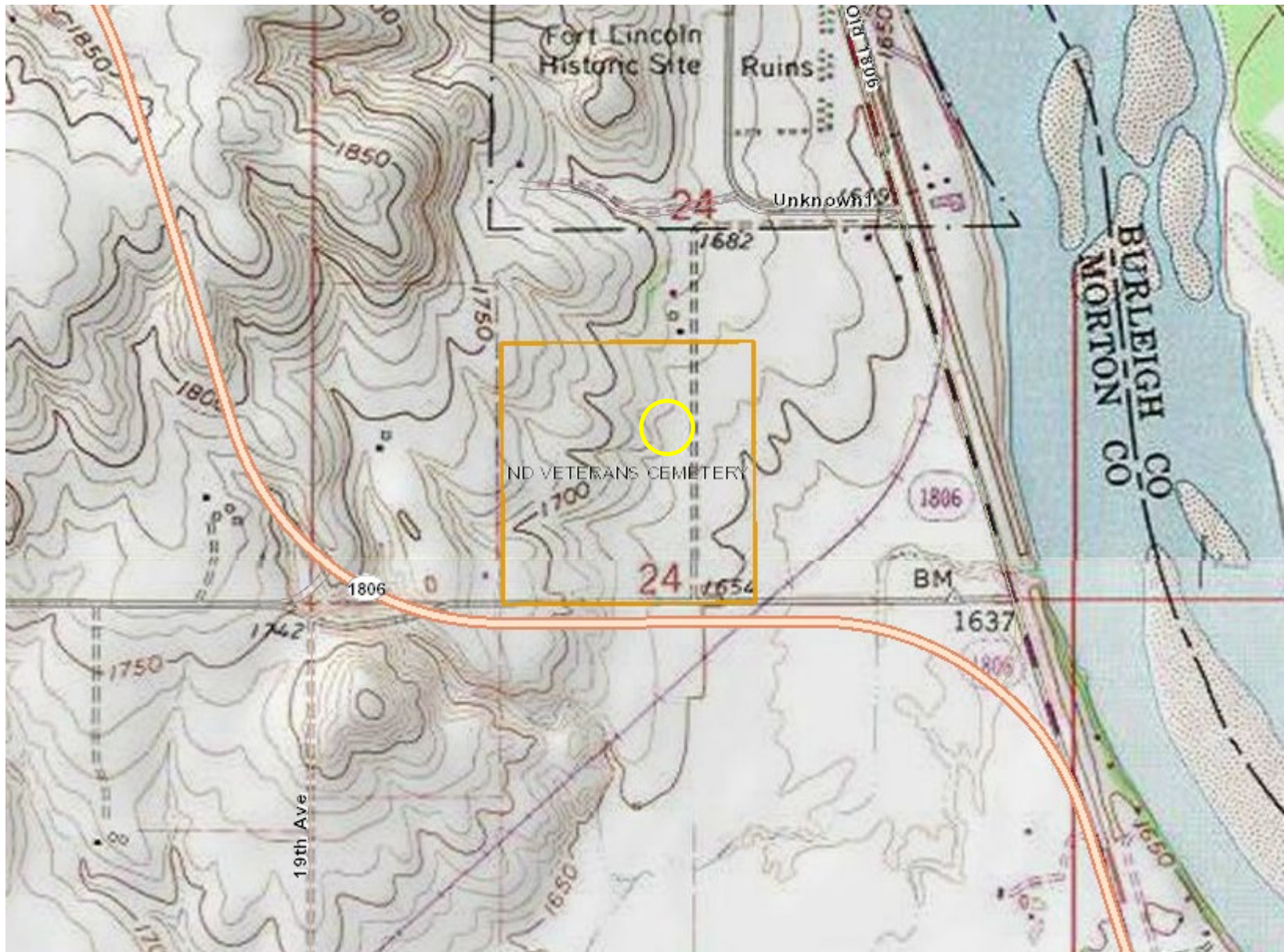
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Terry Traynor
Executive Director
North Dakota Association of Counties
PO Box 877
Bismarck, ND 58502

Dear Mr. Traynor:

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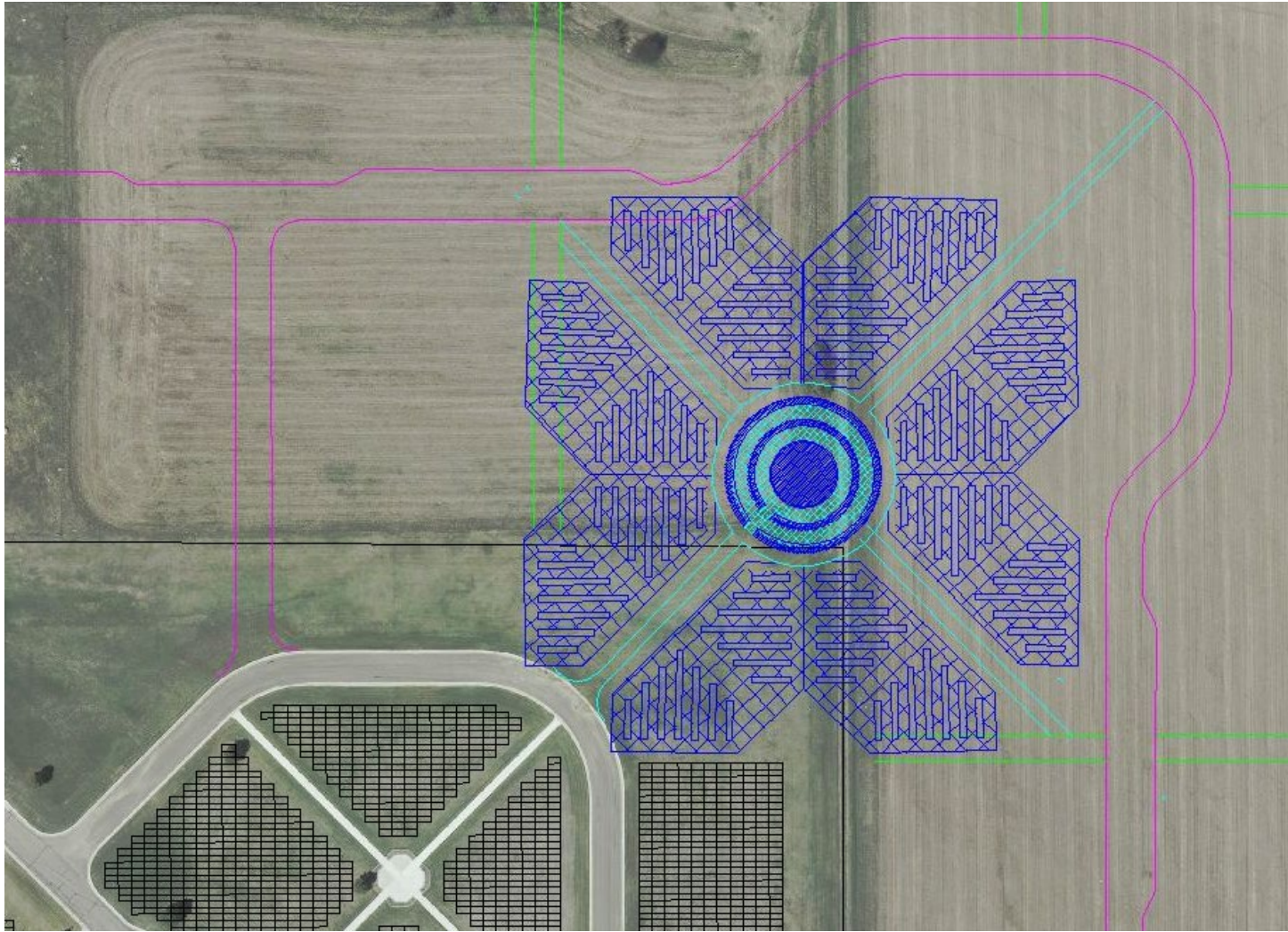
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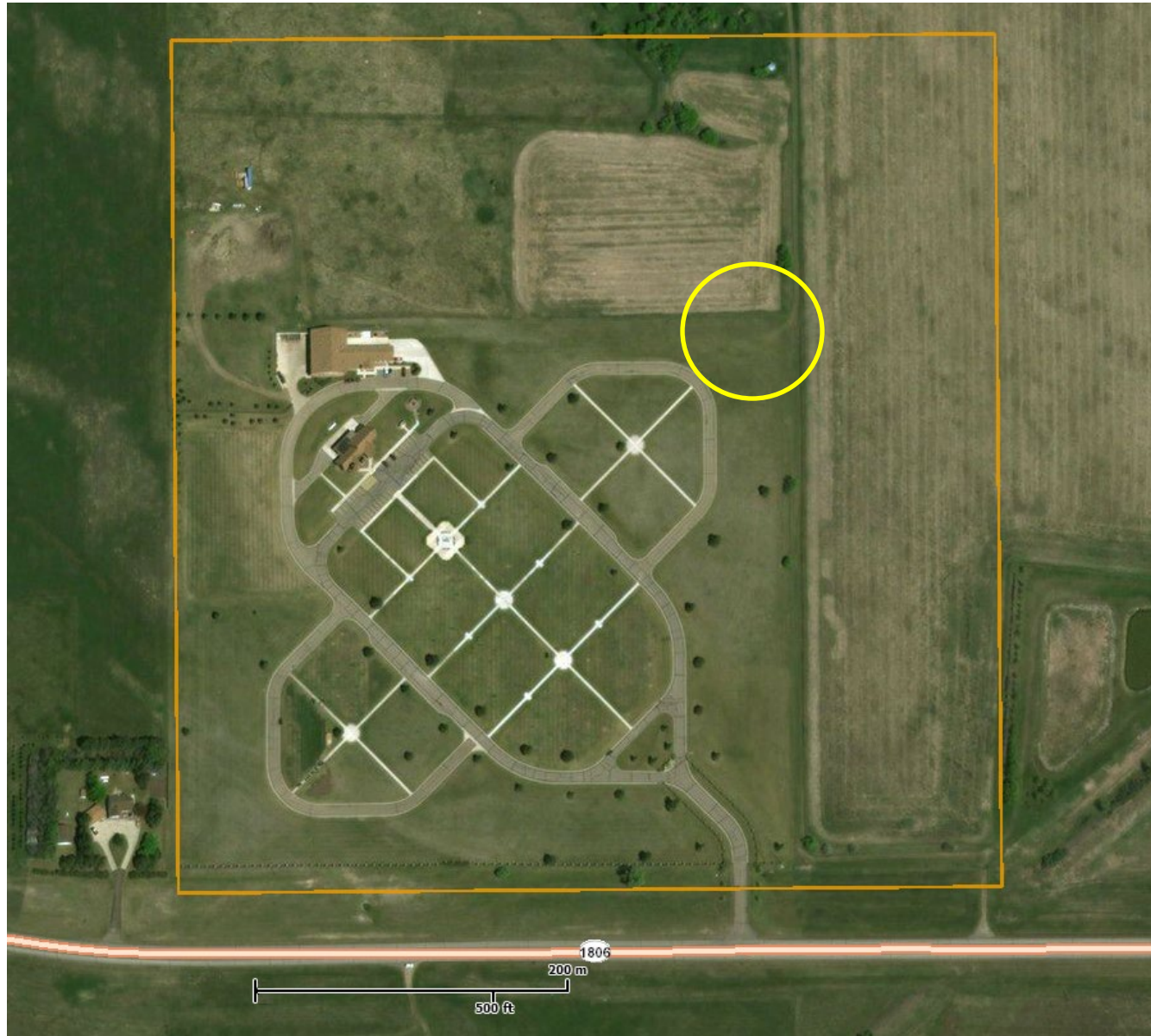
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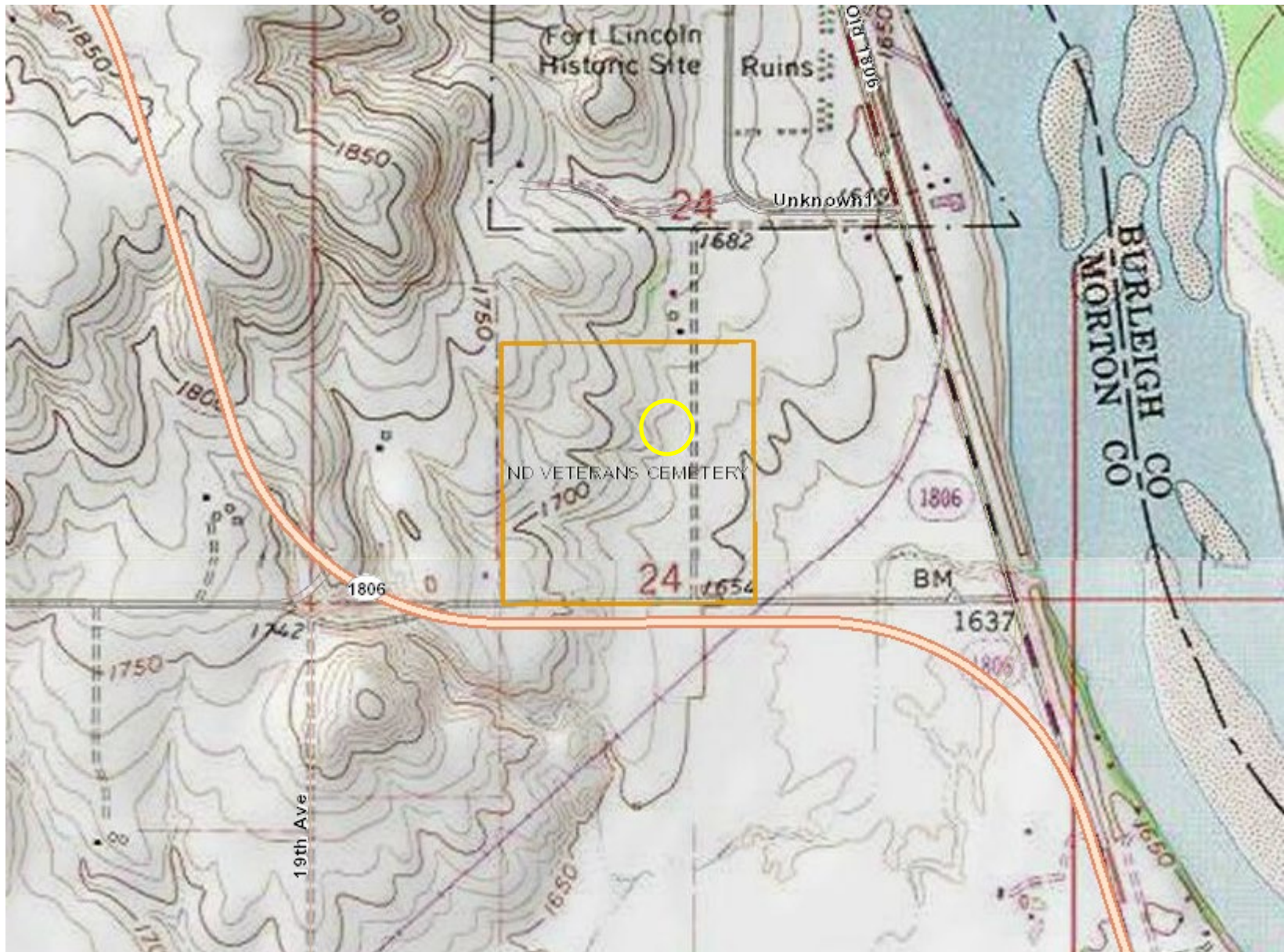
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Douglas Goehring
Commissioner
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

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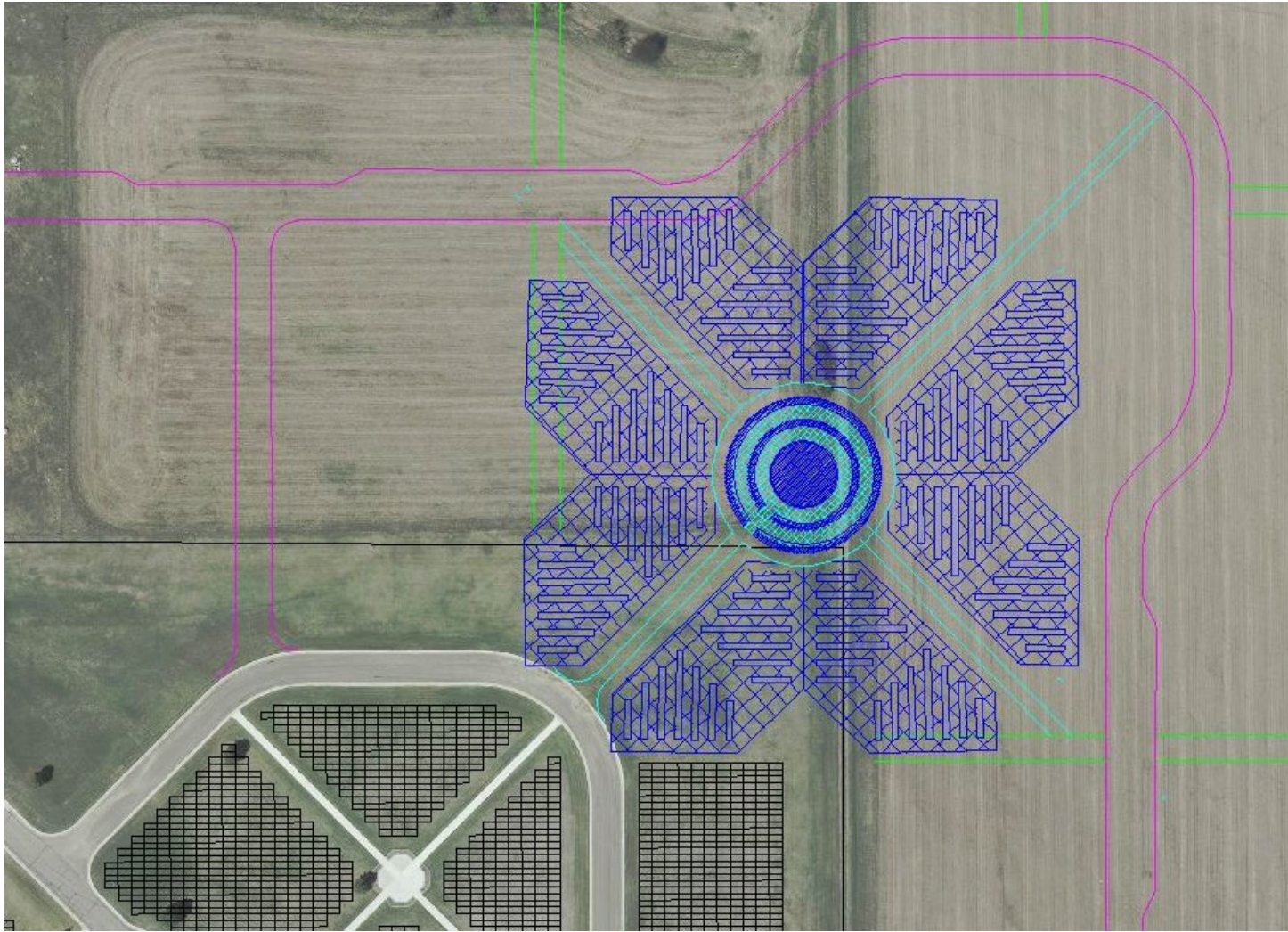
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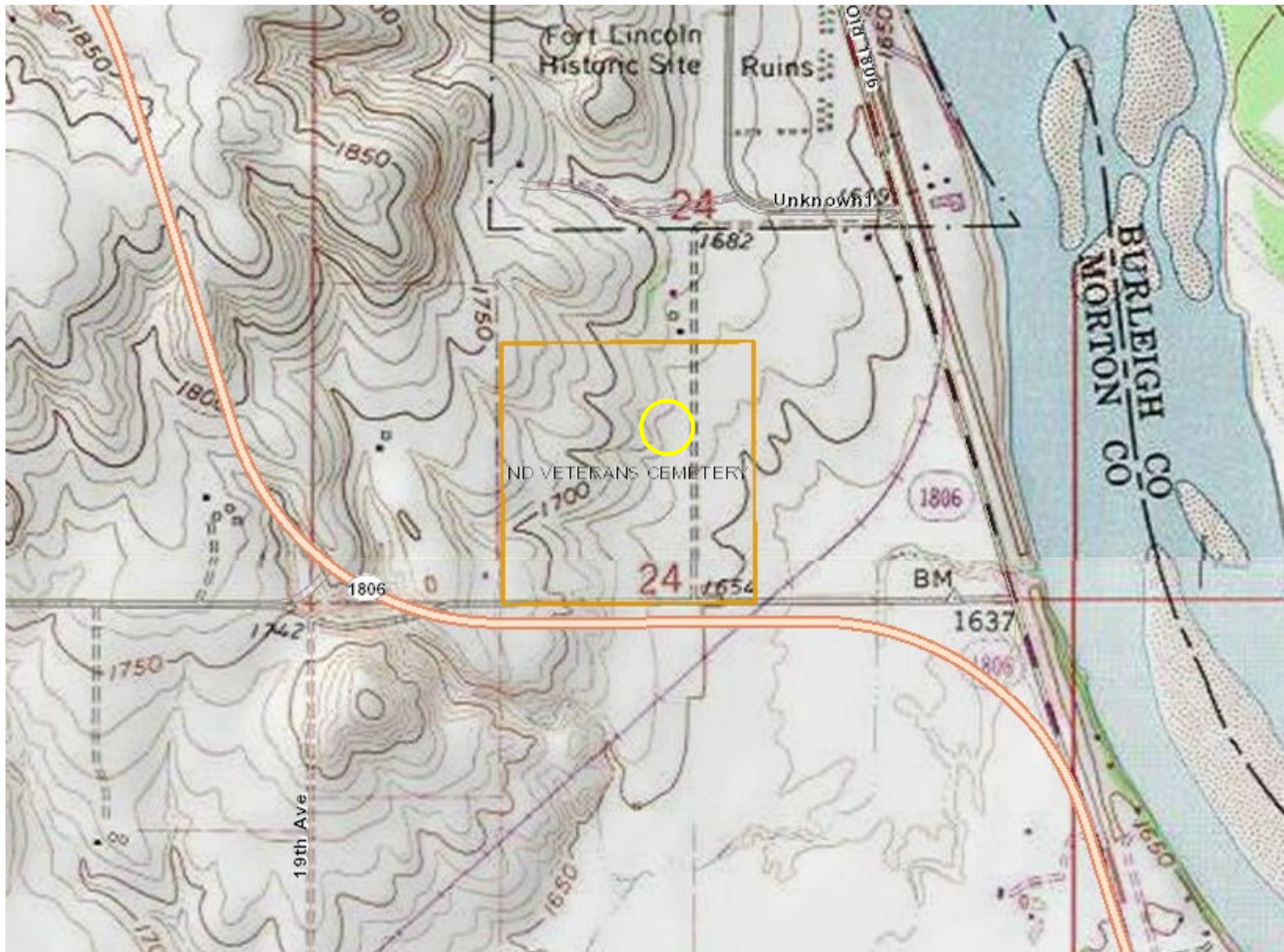
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3. Topographic Map



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Enclosure 2. Aerial photograph of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.



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**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

L. David Glatt
Section Chief
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
918 East Divide Ave, 4th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947

Dear Mr. Glatt:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

The NDVC is in the process of creating a master plan to guide development of the cemetery. The initial design and construction of the NDVC has reached its goals, and the addition of 35 adjacent acres requires future planning consideration. Part of the master plan and to address veteran requests, the NDVC is proposing to design and construct a columbarium. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and part of that grant proposal is to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

The proposed action requires several phases to arrive at the final design appearance. In order to complete this proposed action, the following phases are necessary:

- Initial land clearing – Clears the land of obstructions and prepares the area for future phases of construction;
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Prior assessments done to date include several cultural resources surveys on the 35 acres to determine the presence of sites, and a survey to determine eligibility of newly identified sites. Work to be done during the initial land clearing phase has already been evaluated under the NEPA process, and no adverse effects were determined from that assessment.

To ensure that all social, economic and environmental effects are considered in the development of this project, we are soliciting your views and comments on the proposed development project pursuant to Section 102(2)(D)(iv) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. We are particularly interested in any property that your department may own, or have interest in, and which would be adjacent to the proposed project area. We would also appreciate being made aware of any environmental concerns your department may have regarding the proposed project. Any information that might help us in our evaluation would be appreciated.

We request that any information and comments be forwarded to our office on or before September 30, 2019. We request your comments by that date to ensure we have adequate time to review them and to incorporate them into the necessary environmental documentation.

If you need further information regarding the proposed project, you may contact me at stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil or 701.333.2070, or Ms. Pam Helbling-Schafer at 701.667.1418 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

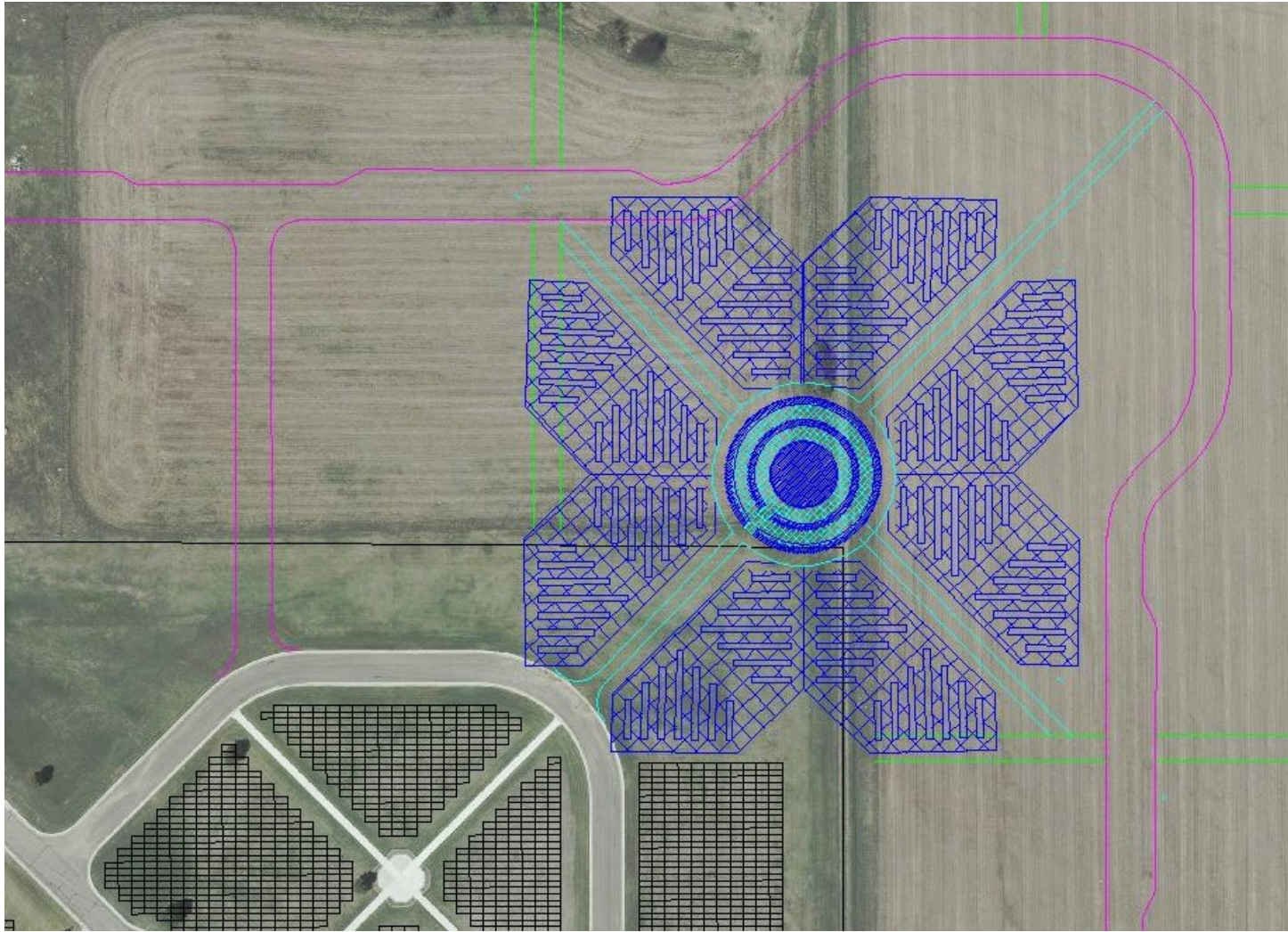
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Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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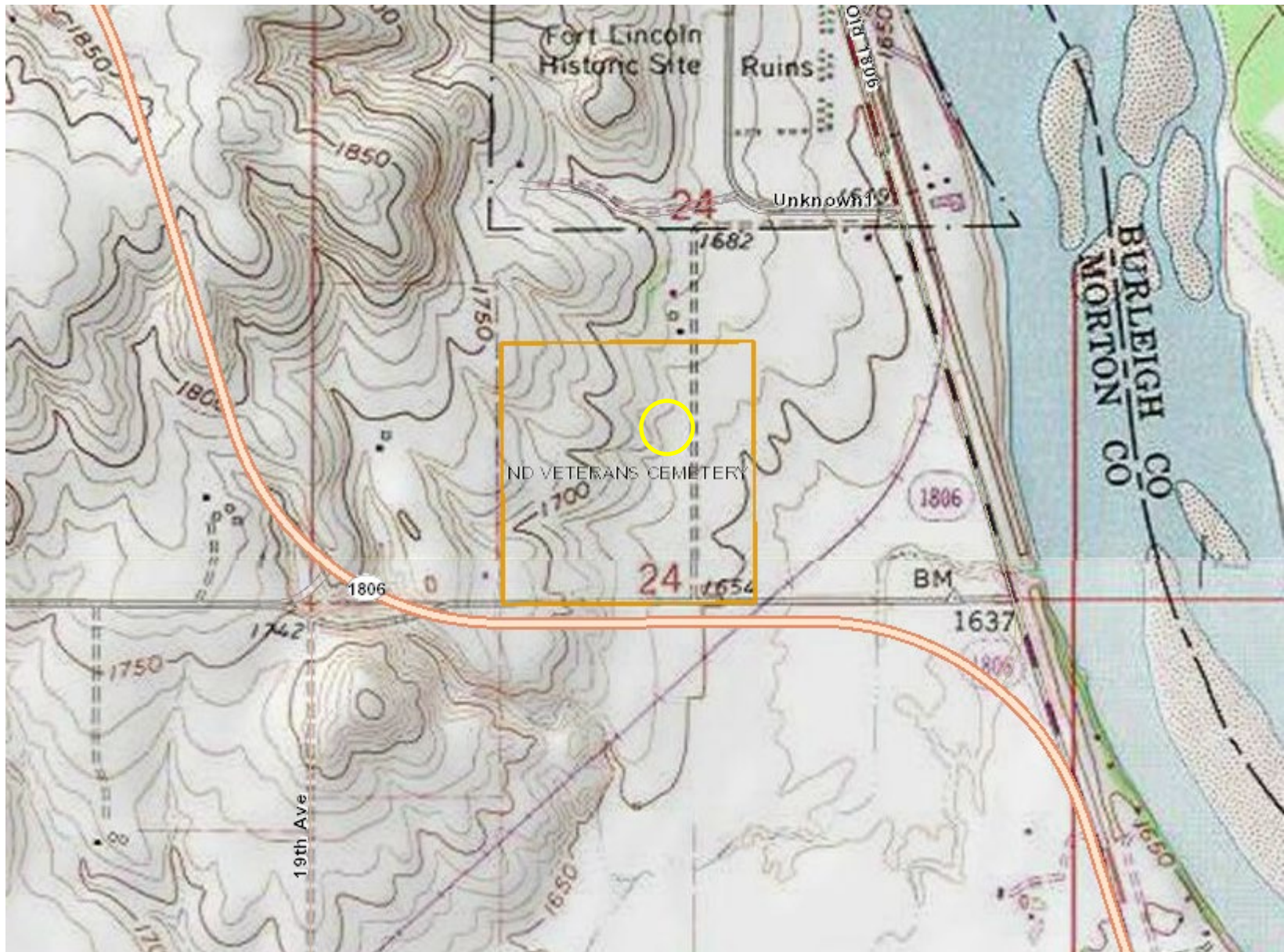
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Cody Schulz
Director
North Dakota Emergency Management
PO Box 5511
Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

Dear Mr. Schulz:

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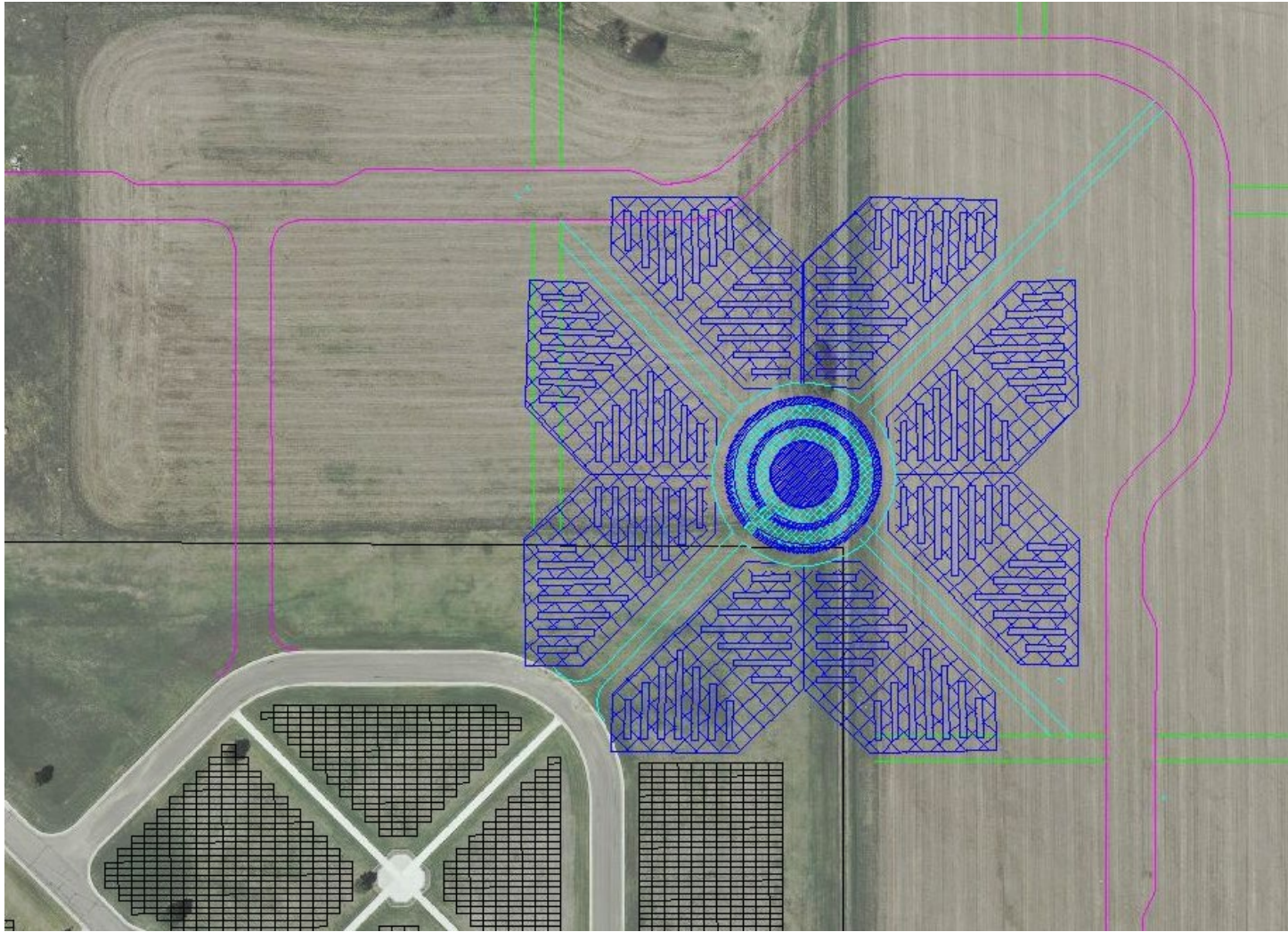
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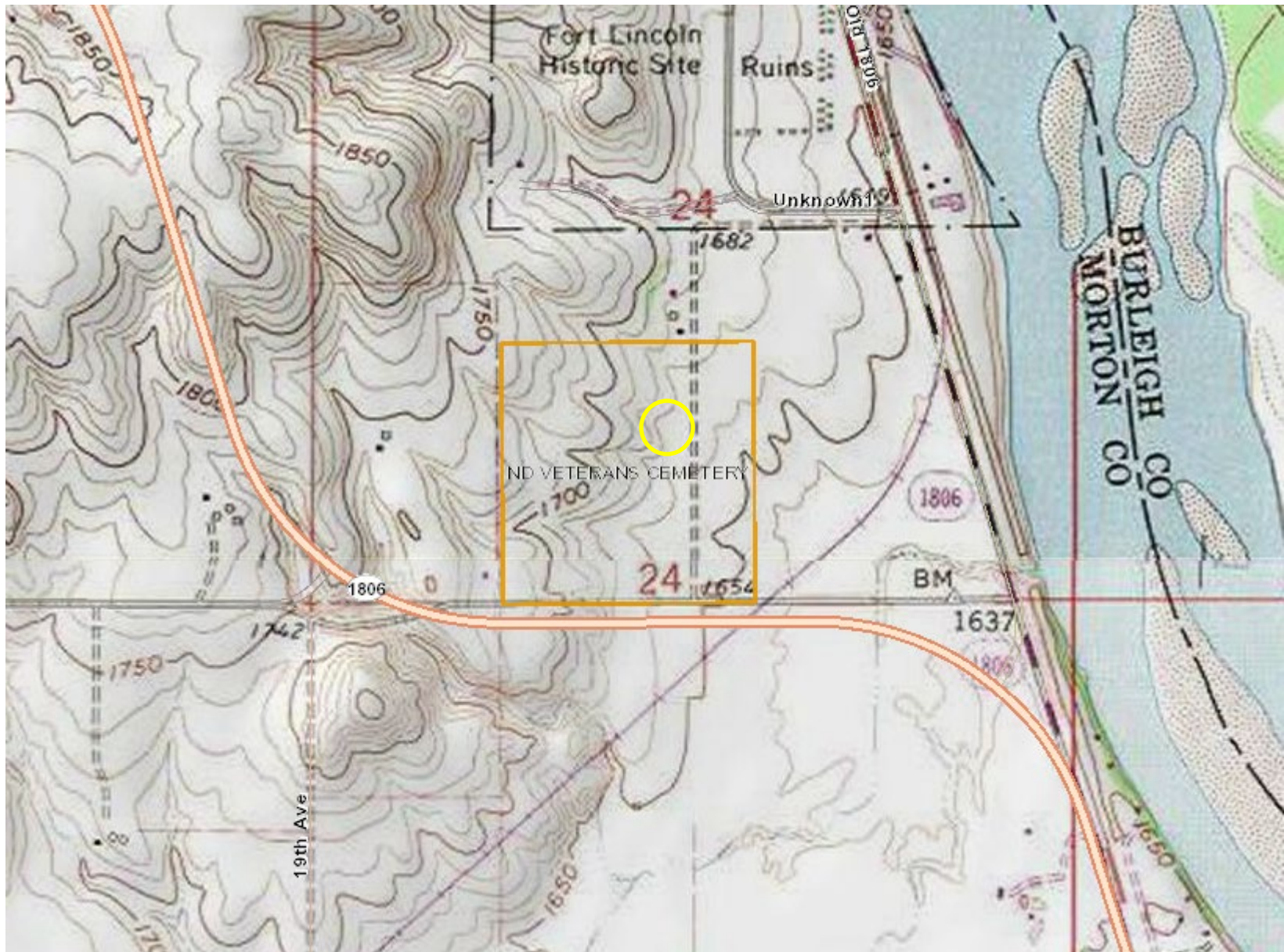
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Tom Sorel
Director of Transportation
North Dakota Department of Transportation
608 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700

Dear Mr. Sorel:

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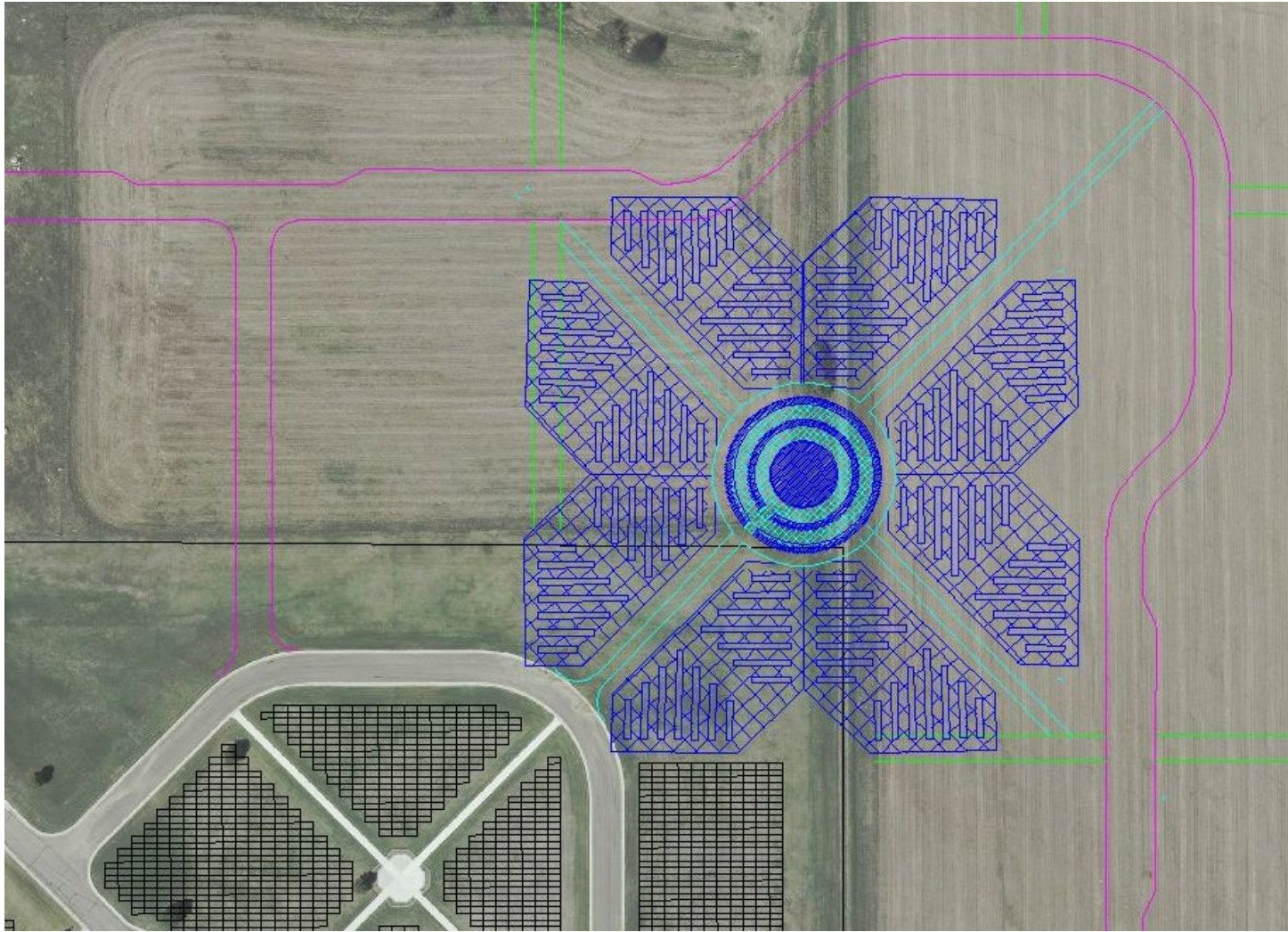
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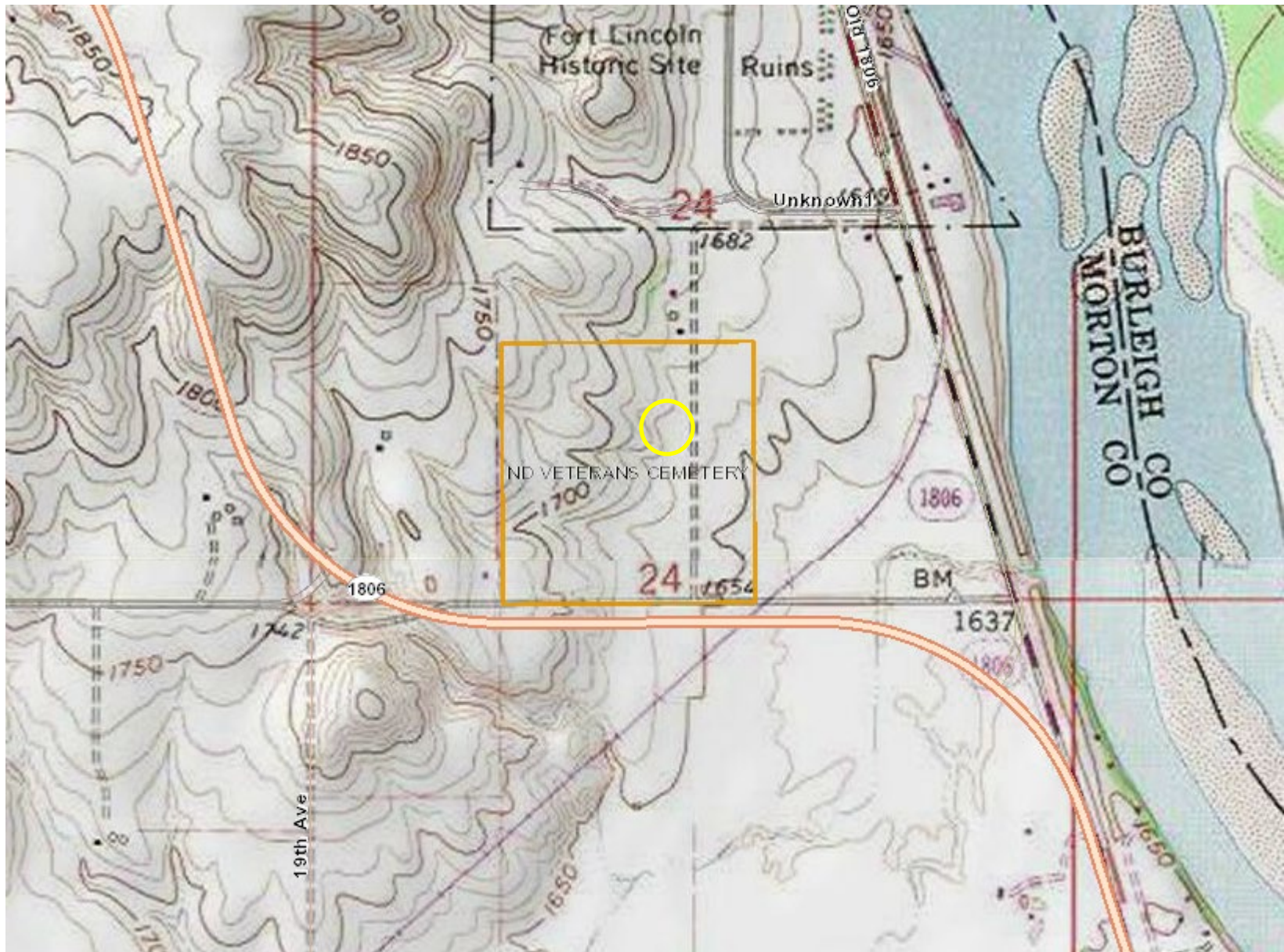
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Robyn Throlson
Acting State Director
North Dakota Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1000 E Dvidie Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Ms. Throlson:

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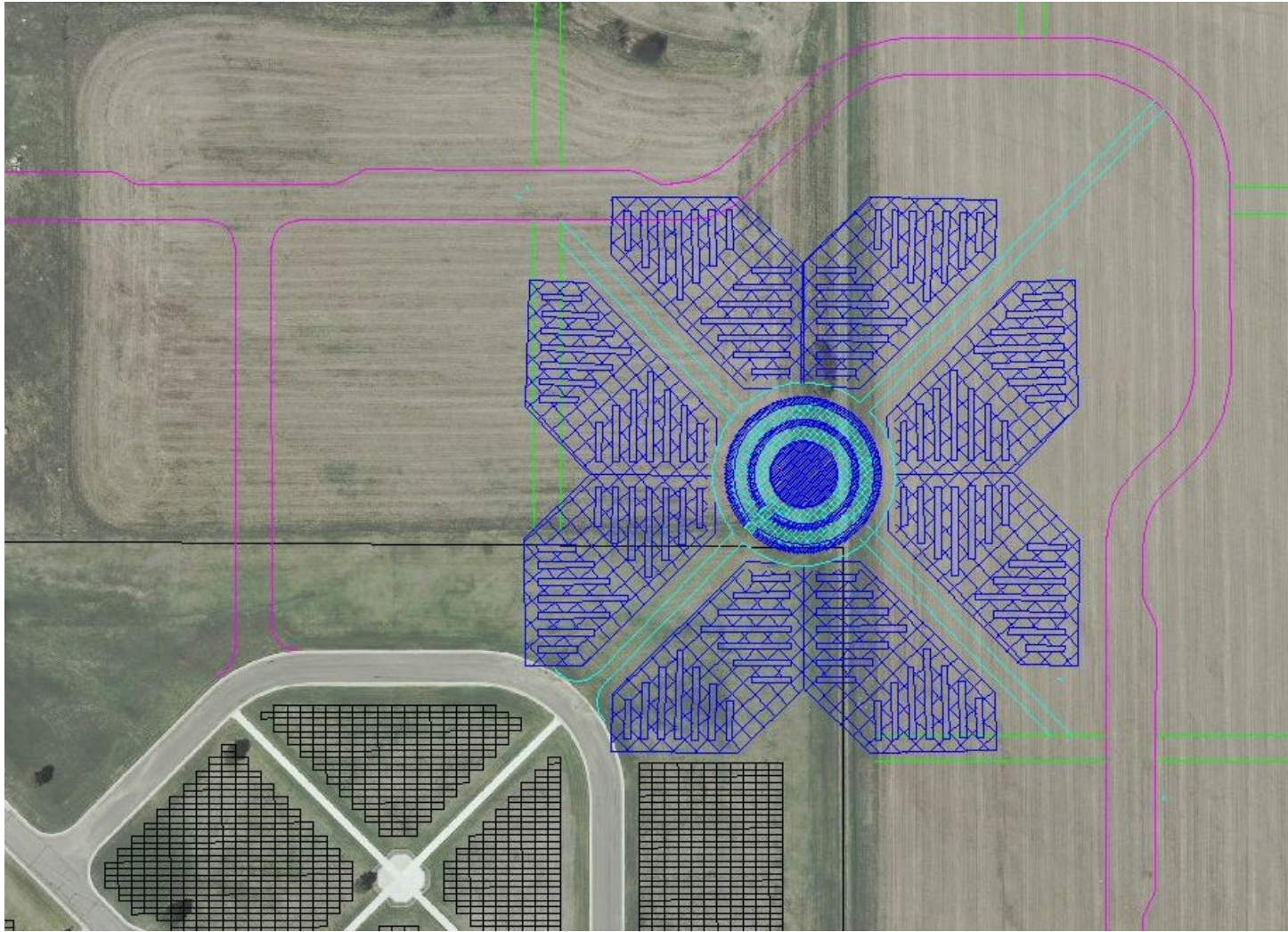
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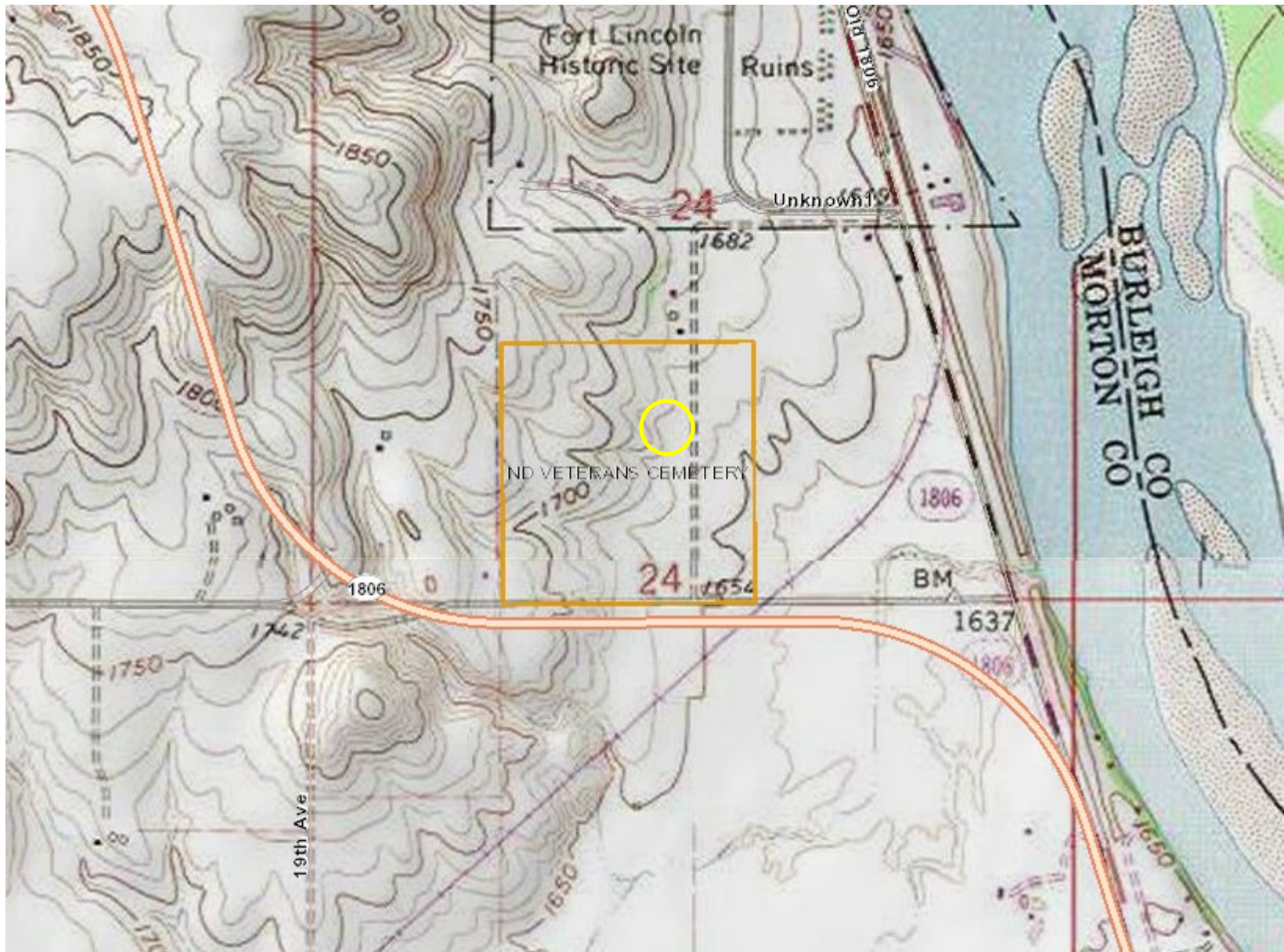
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PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Larry Kotchman
State Forester
North Dakota Forest Service, Molberg Center
307 1st Street East
Bottineau, ND 58318-1100

Dear Mr. Kotchman:

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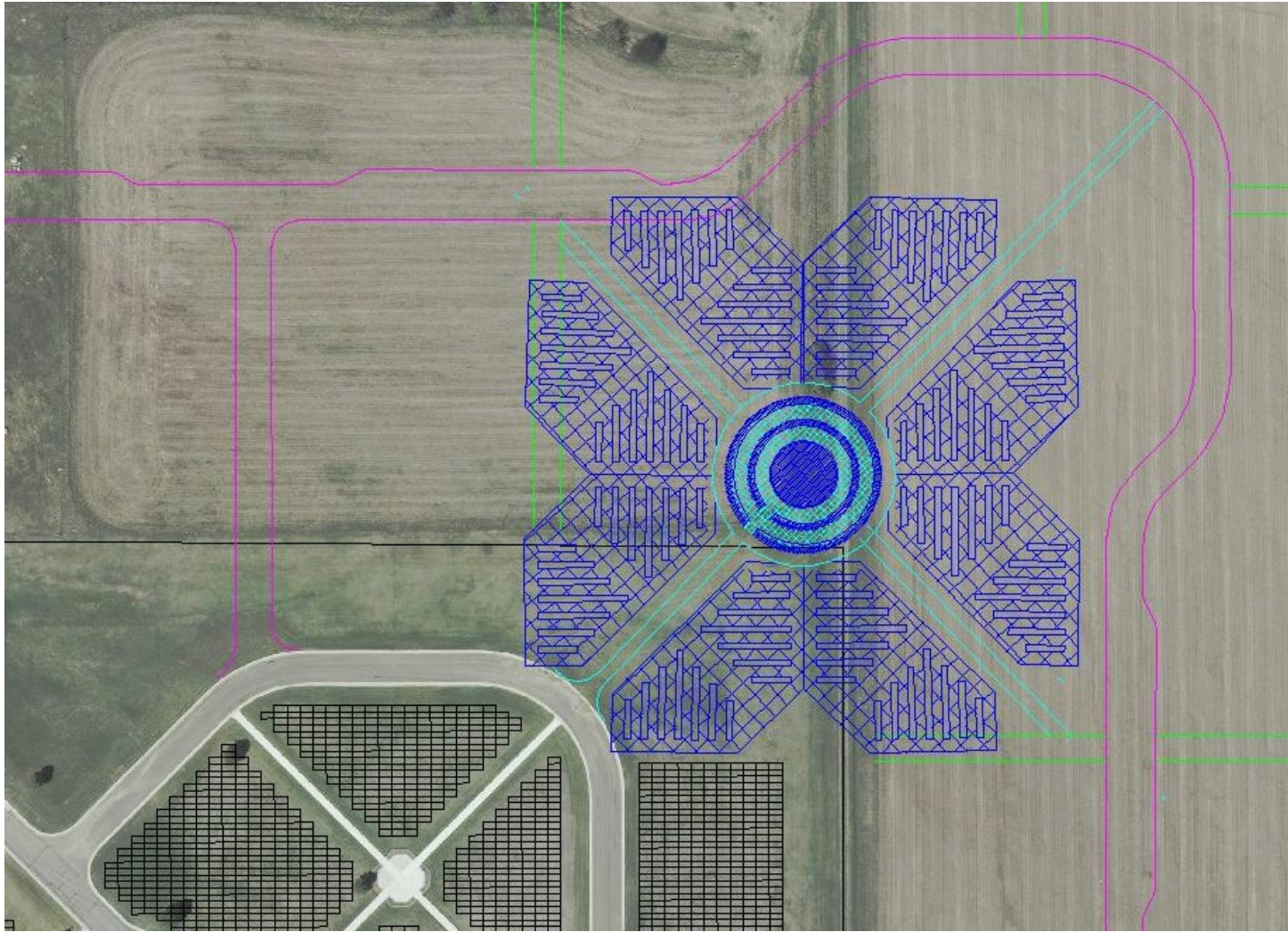
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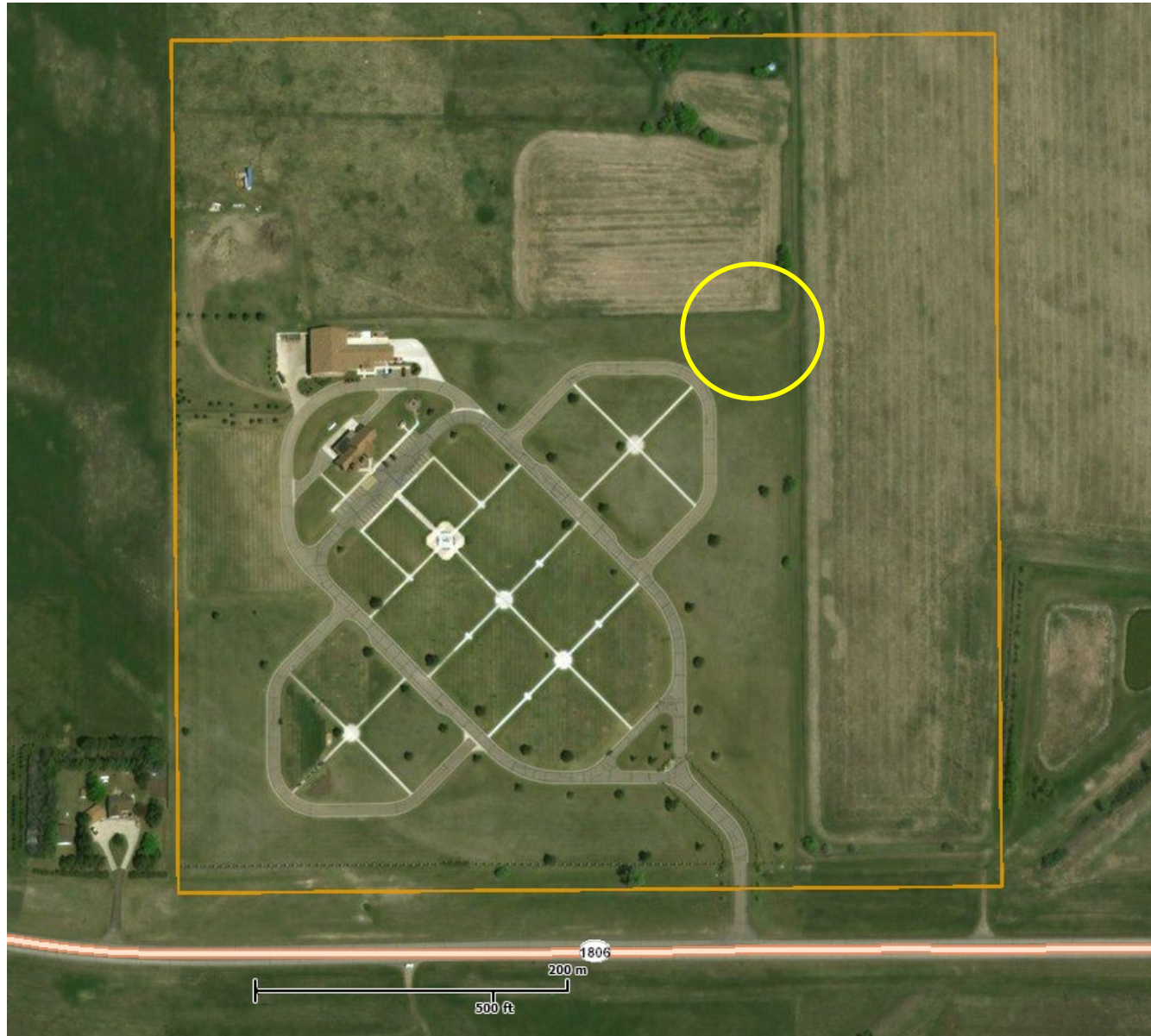
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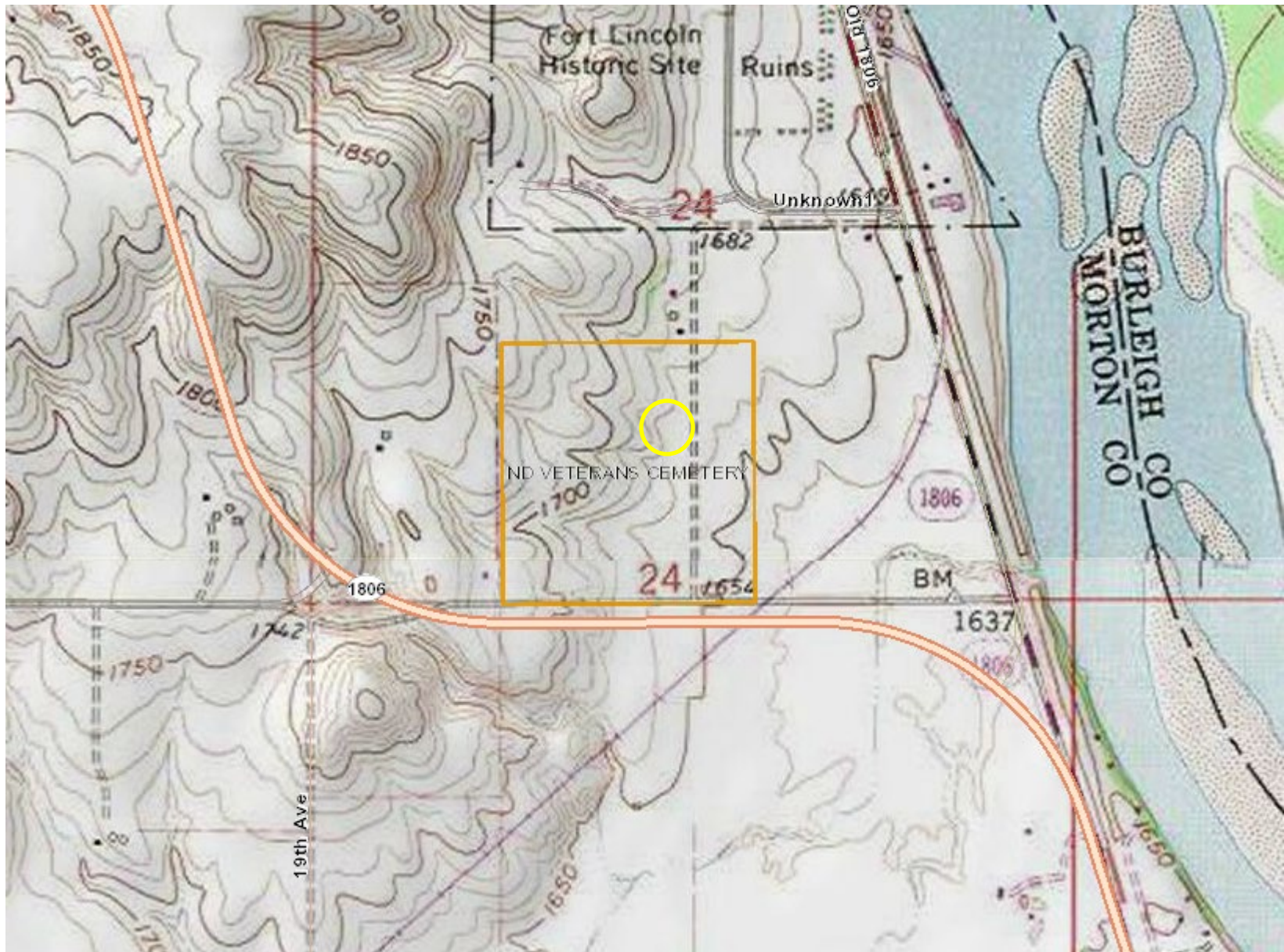
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Terry Steinwand
Director
North Dakota Game & Fish
100 N Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

Dear Mr. Steinwand:

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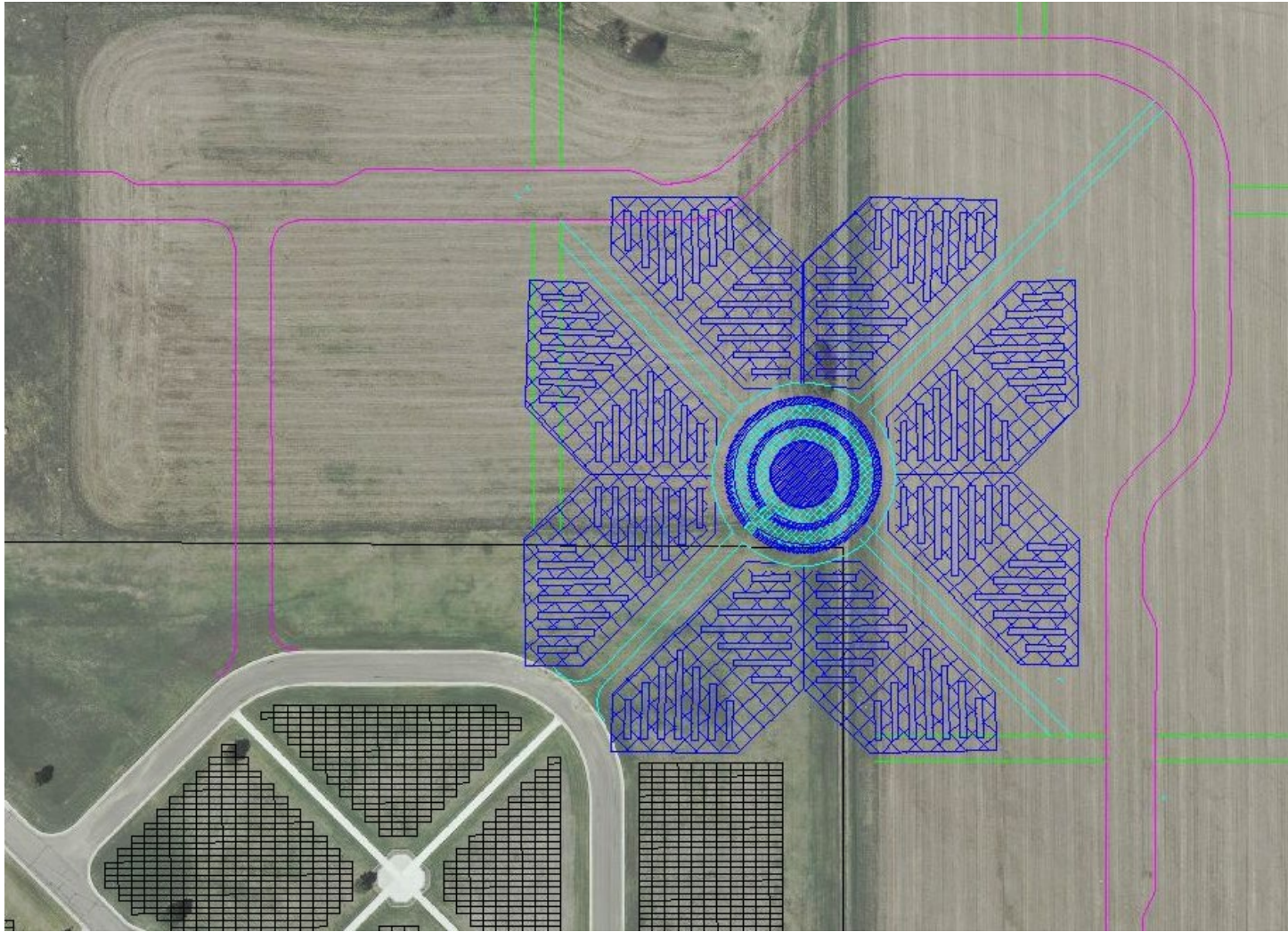
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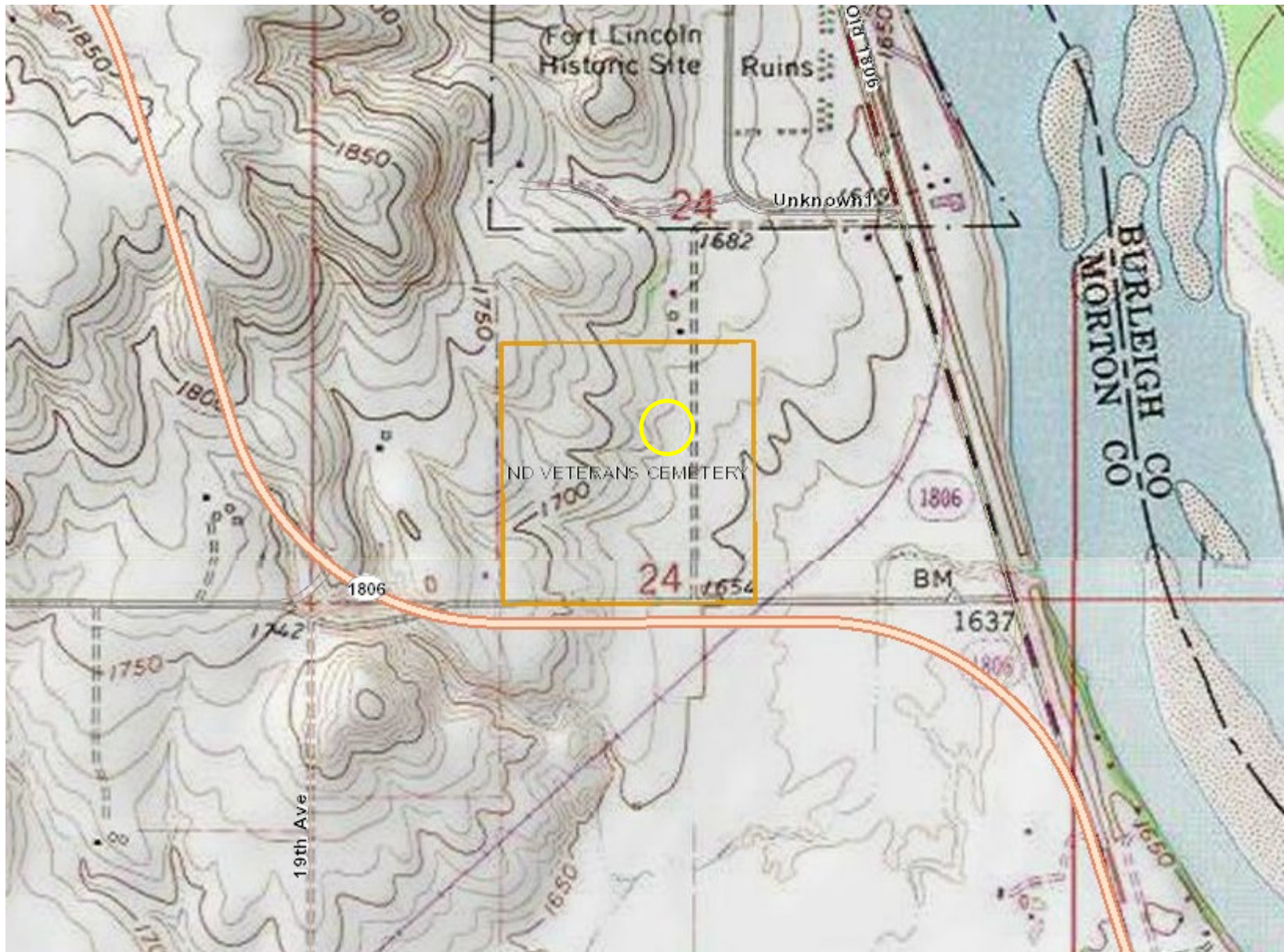
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Lynn Helms
Director
North Dakota Geological Survey
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Dear Mr. Helms:

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We request that any information and comments be forwarded to our office on or before September 30, 2019. We request your comments by that date to ensure we have adequate time to review them and to incorporate them into the necessary environmental documentation.

If you need further information regarding the proposed project, you may contact me at stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil or 701.333.2070, or Ms. Pam Helbling-Schafer at 701.667.1418 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

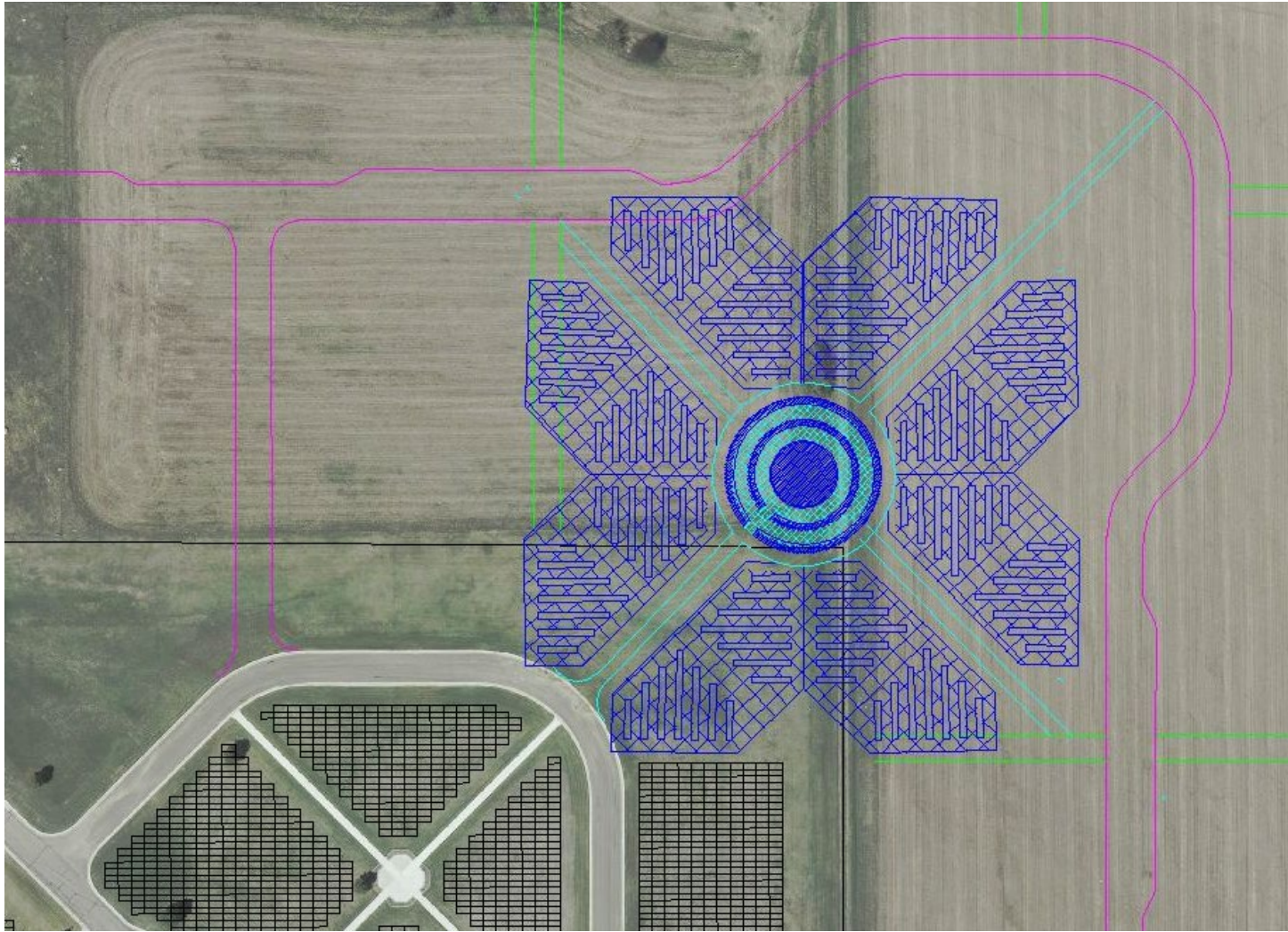
Sincerely,

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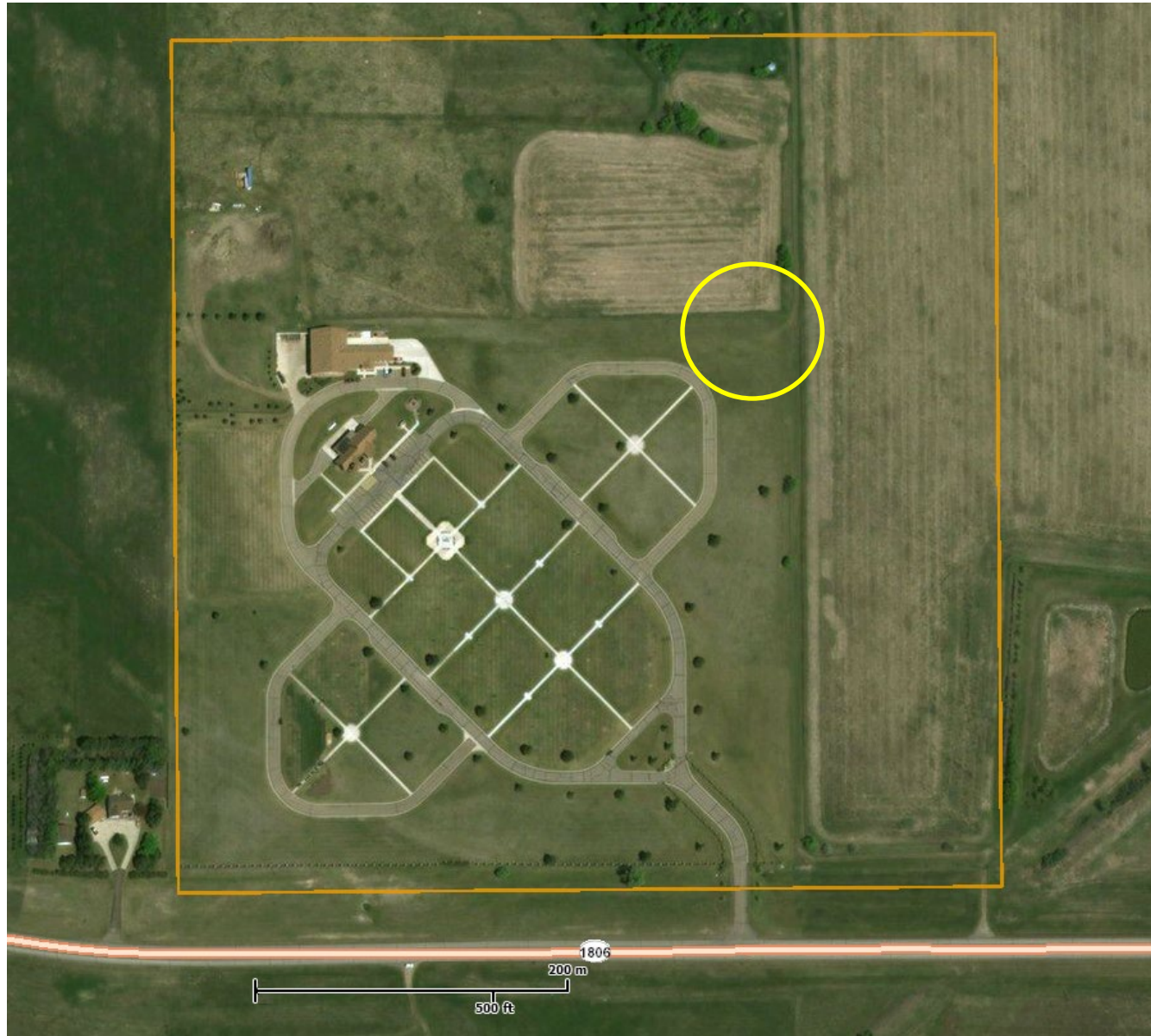
Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

Encls.

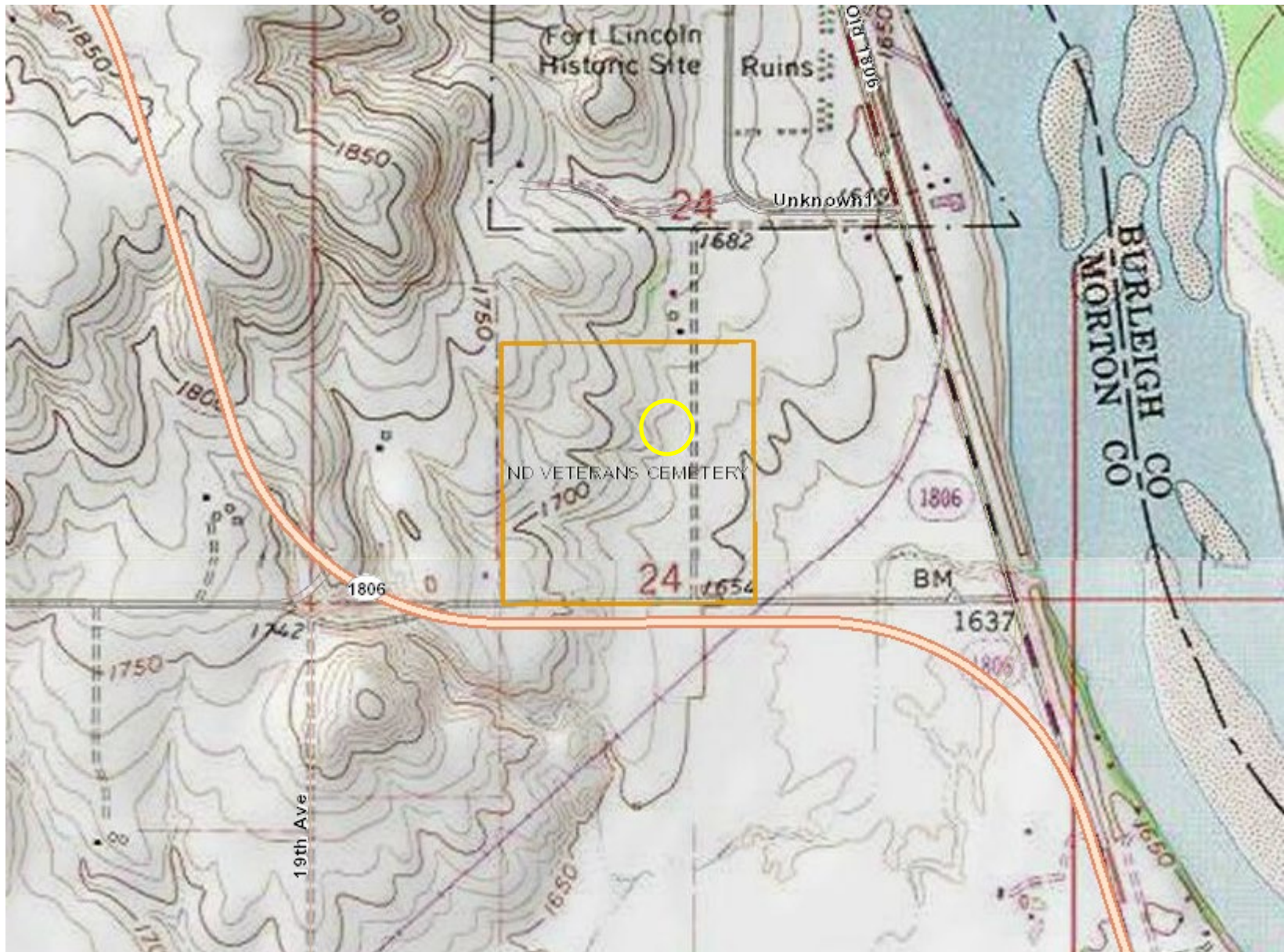
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Enclosure 2. Aerial photograph of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.



Enclosure 3. Topographic map of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.

**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Melissa Baker
Director
North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

Dear Ms. Baker:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

The NDVC is in the process of creating a master plan to guide development of the cemetery. The initial design and construction of the NDVC has reached its goals, and the addition of 35 adjacent acres requires future planning consideration. Part of the master plan and to address veteran requests, the NDVC is proposing to design and construct a columbarium. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and part of that grant proposal is to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

The proposed action requires several phases to arrive at the final design appearance. In order to complete this proposed action, the following phases are necessary:

- Initial land clearing – Clears the land of obstructions and prepares the area for future phases of construction;
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- Interment facilities – Constructs a columbarium in multiple phases; initial is the circular structure and subsequent phases are for the wings to be added in a symmetric order and lays out sections for whole body burial.

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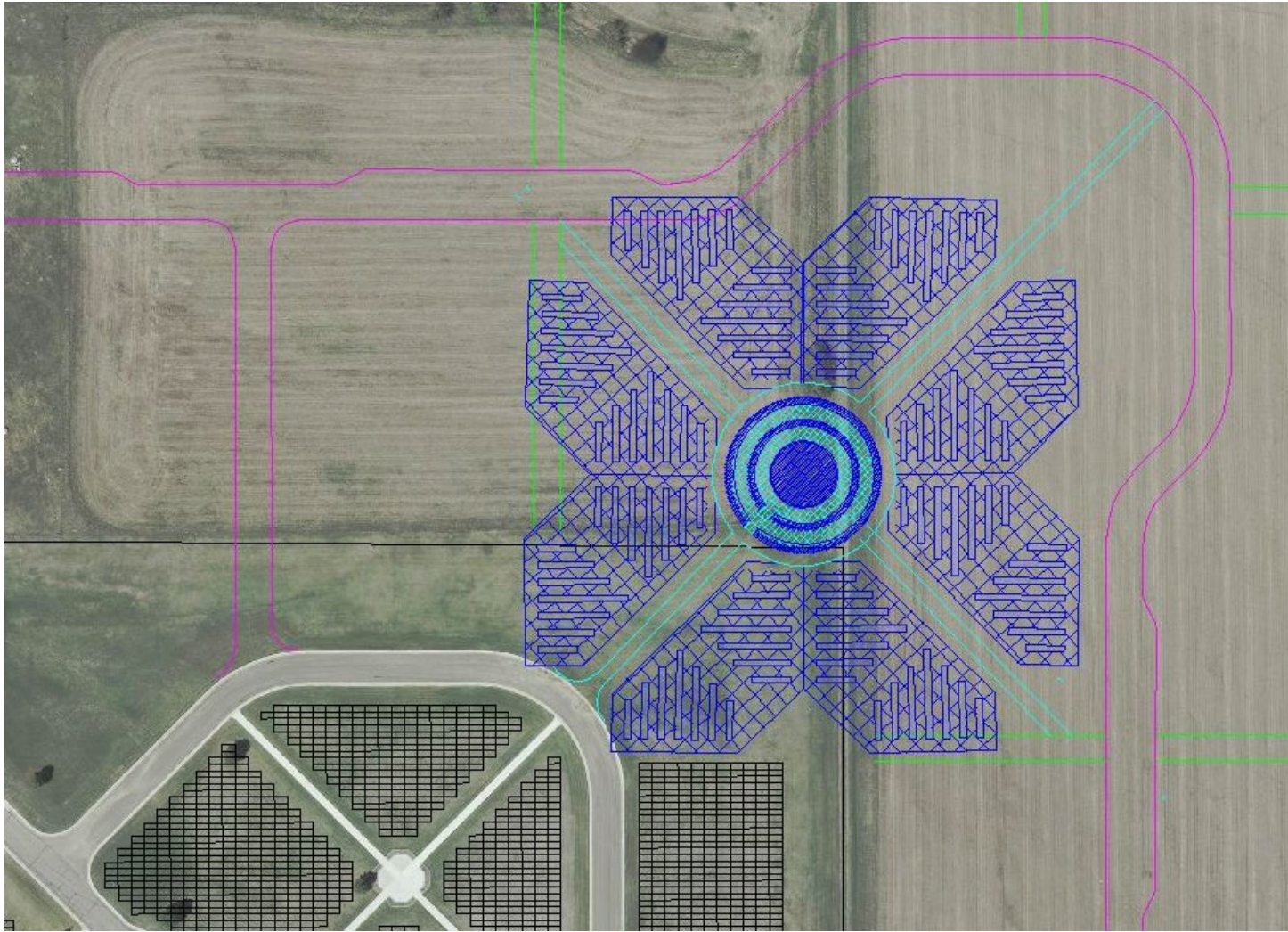
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Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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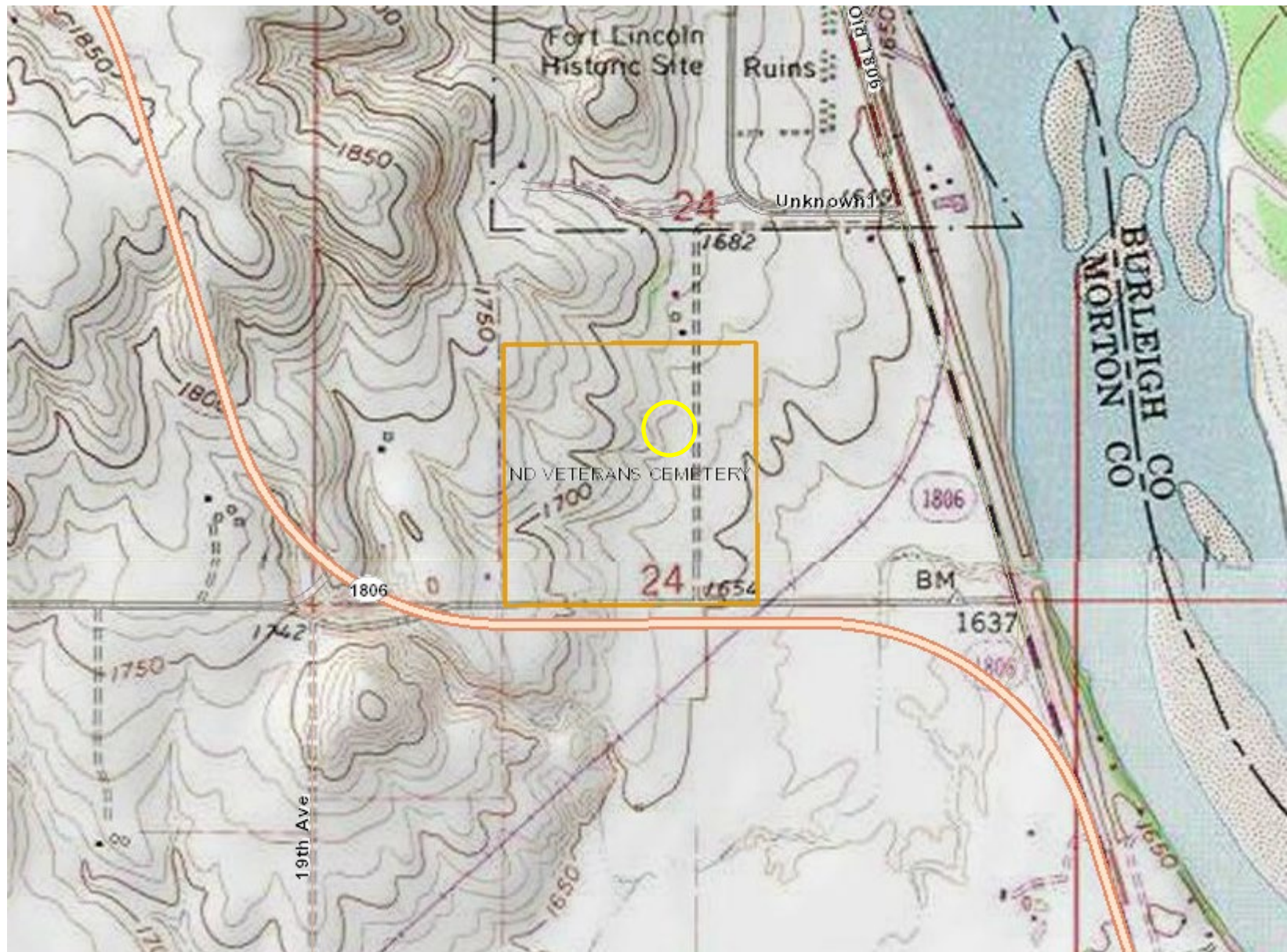
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Randy Christmann
Chairman
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Christmann:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S½ NE¼ SW¼ , W½ SW¼ SE¼, SW¼ NW¼ SE ¼, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

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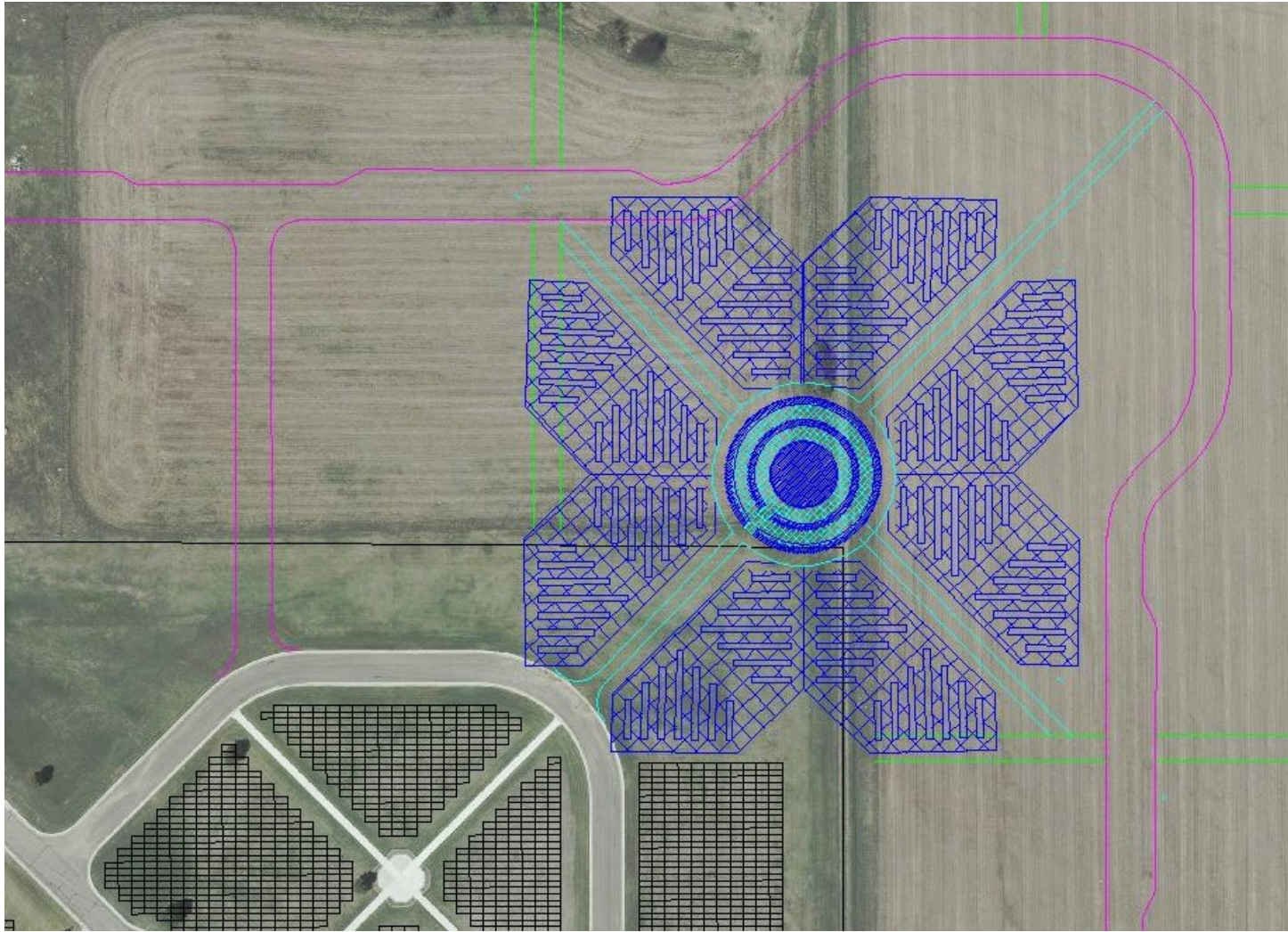
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North Dakota National Guard

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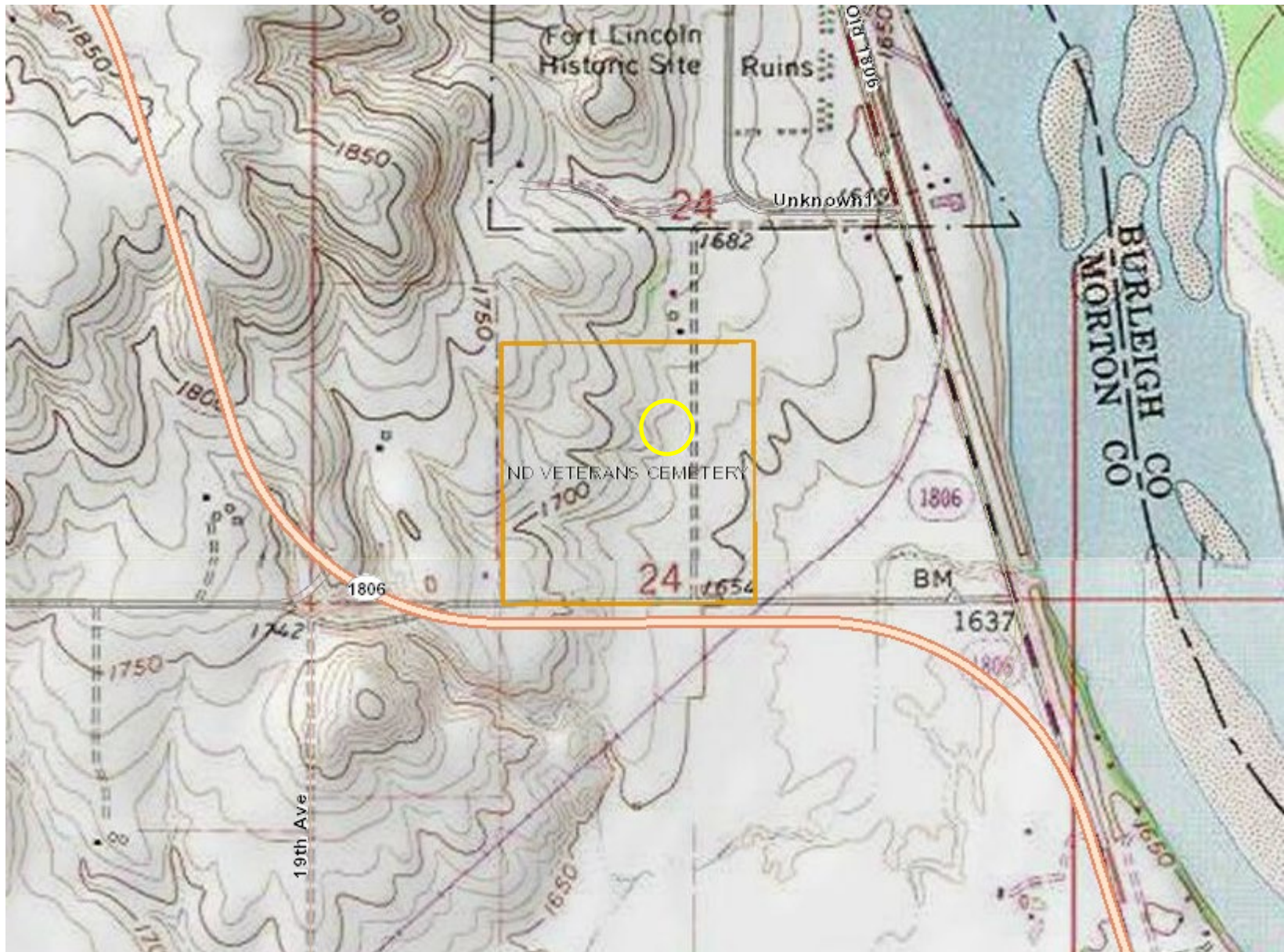
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Claudia Berg
ND SHPO
North Dakota State Historical Preservation Office
612 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

Dear Ms. Berg:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S½ NE¼ SW¼ , W½ SW¼ SE¼, SW¼ NW¼ SE ¼, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

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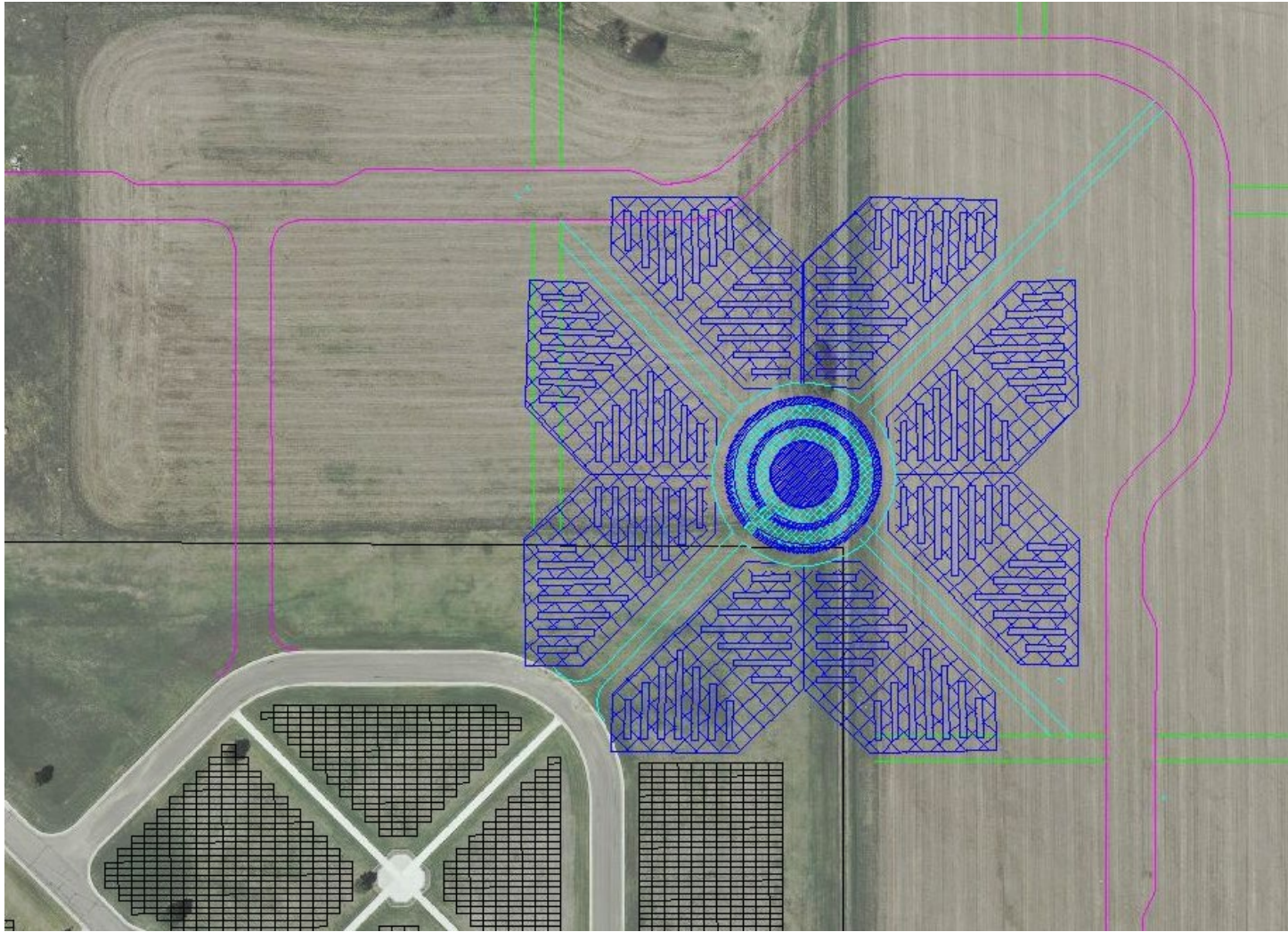
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North Dakota National Guard

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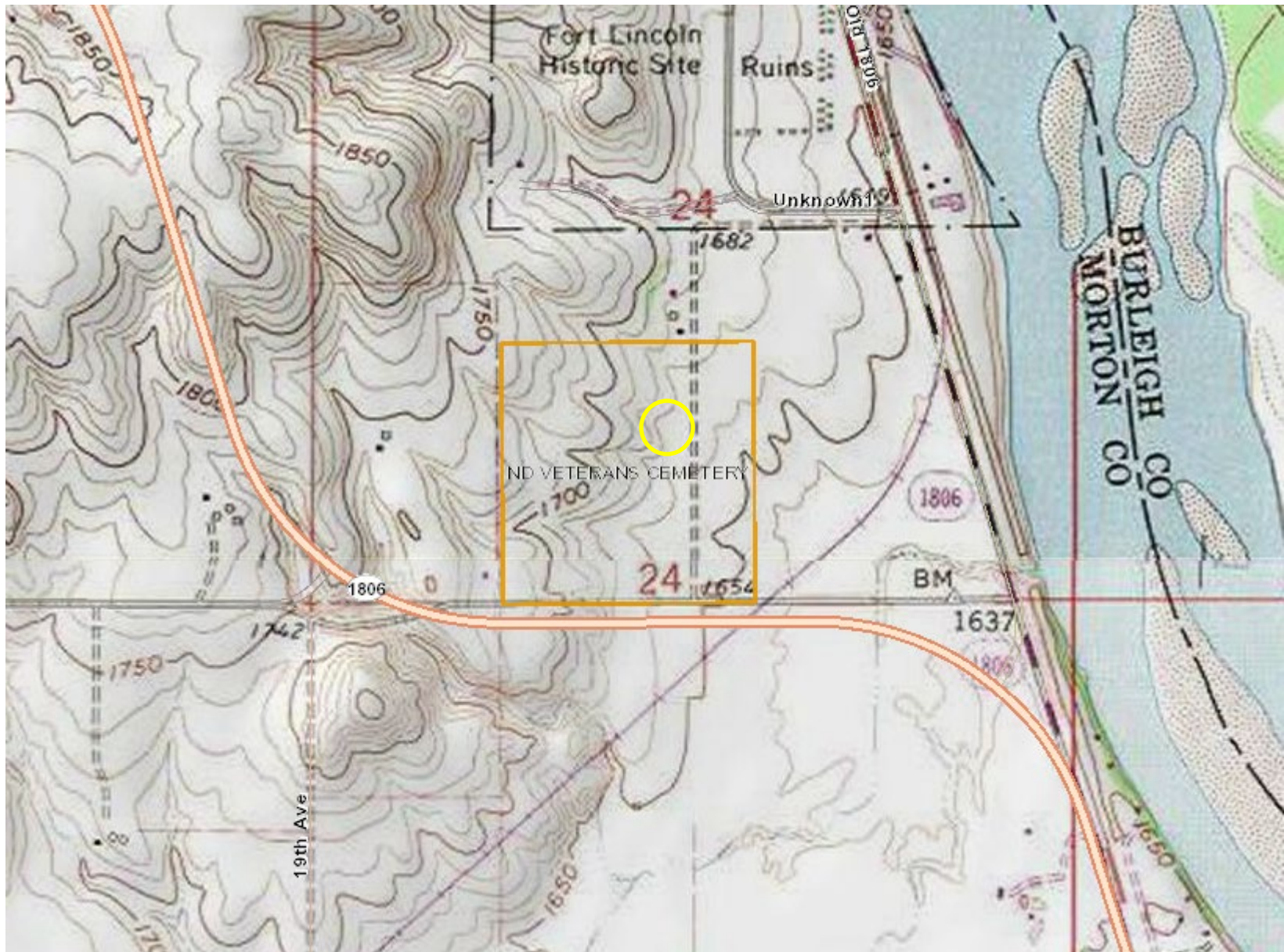
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Scott Hochhalter
Soil Conservation Specialist
NDSU Extension Service
2718 Gateway Ave, Unit 104
Bismarck, ND 58503

Dear Mr. Hochhalter:

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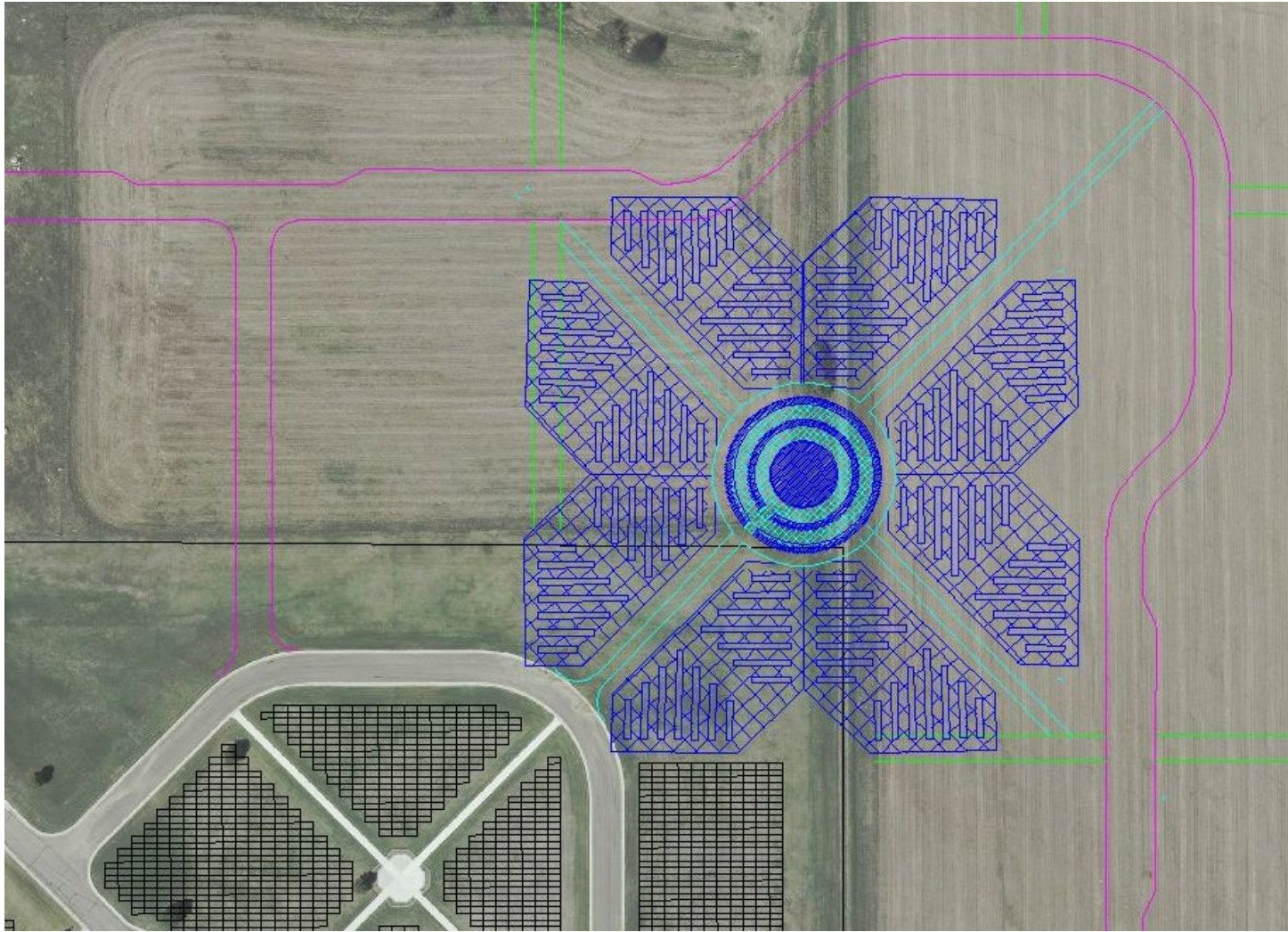
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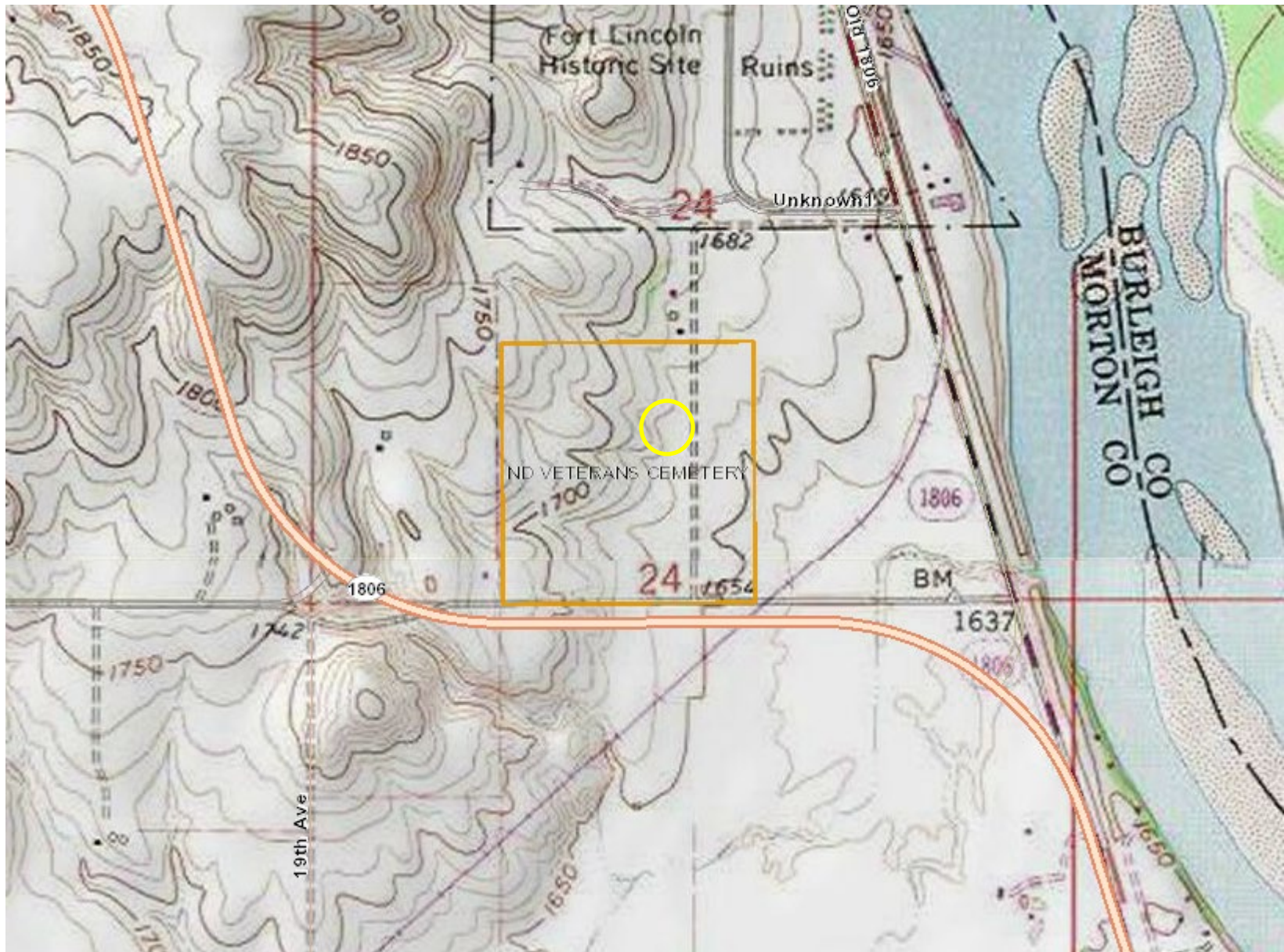
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Jodi Smith
State Land Commissioner
Department of North Dakota Trust Lands
PO Box 5523
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523

Dear Ms. Smith:

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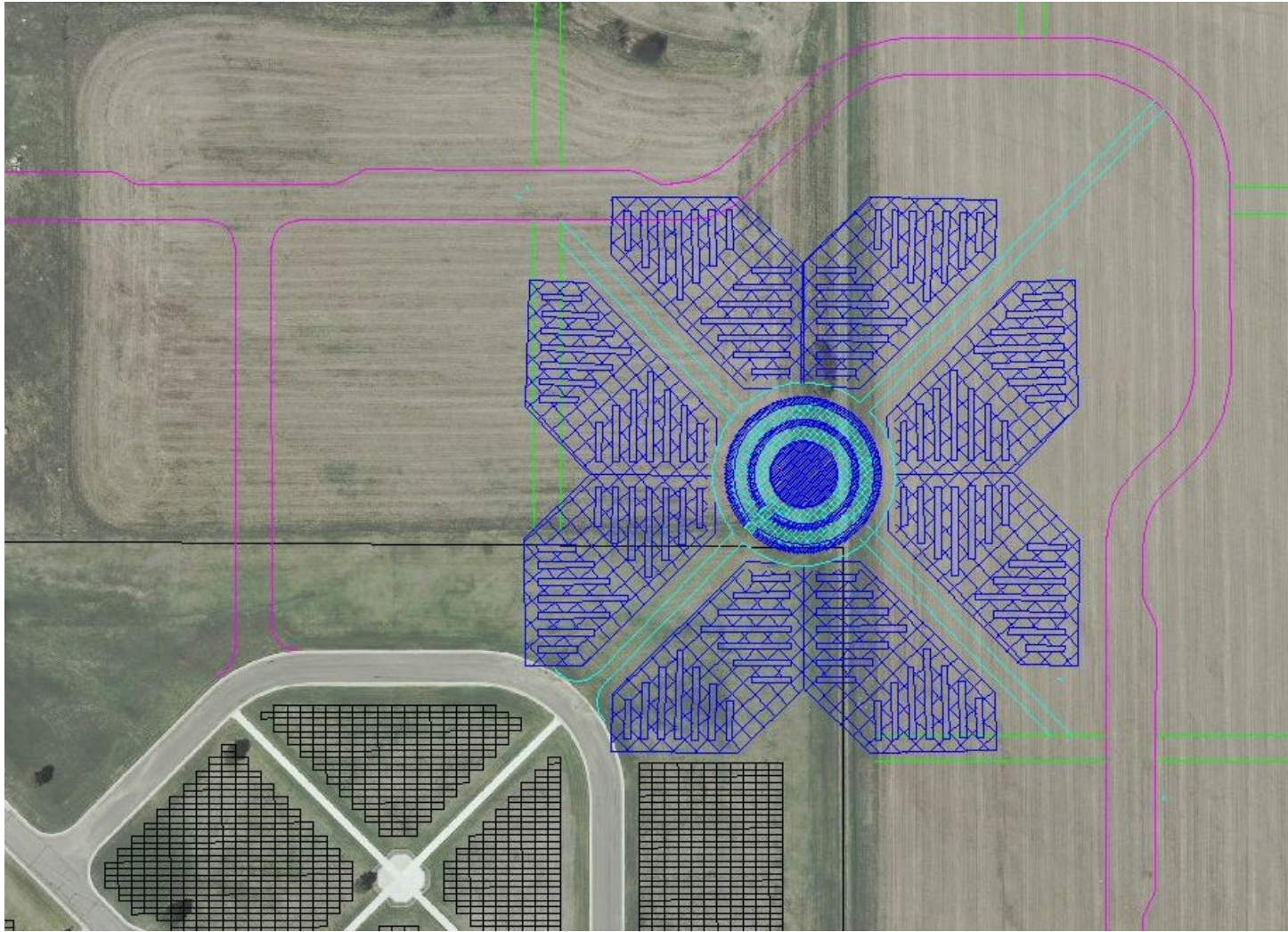
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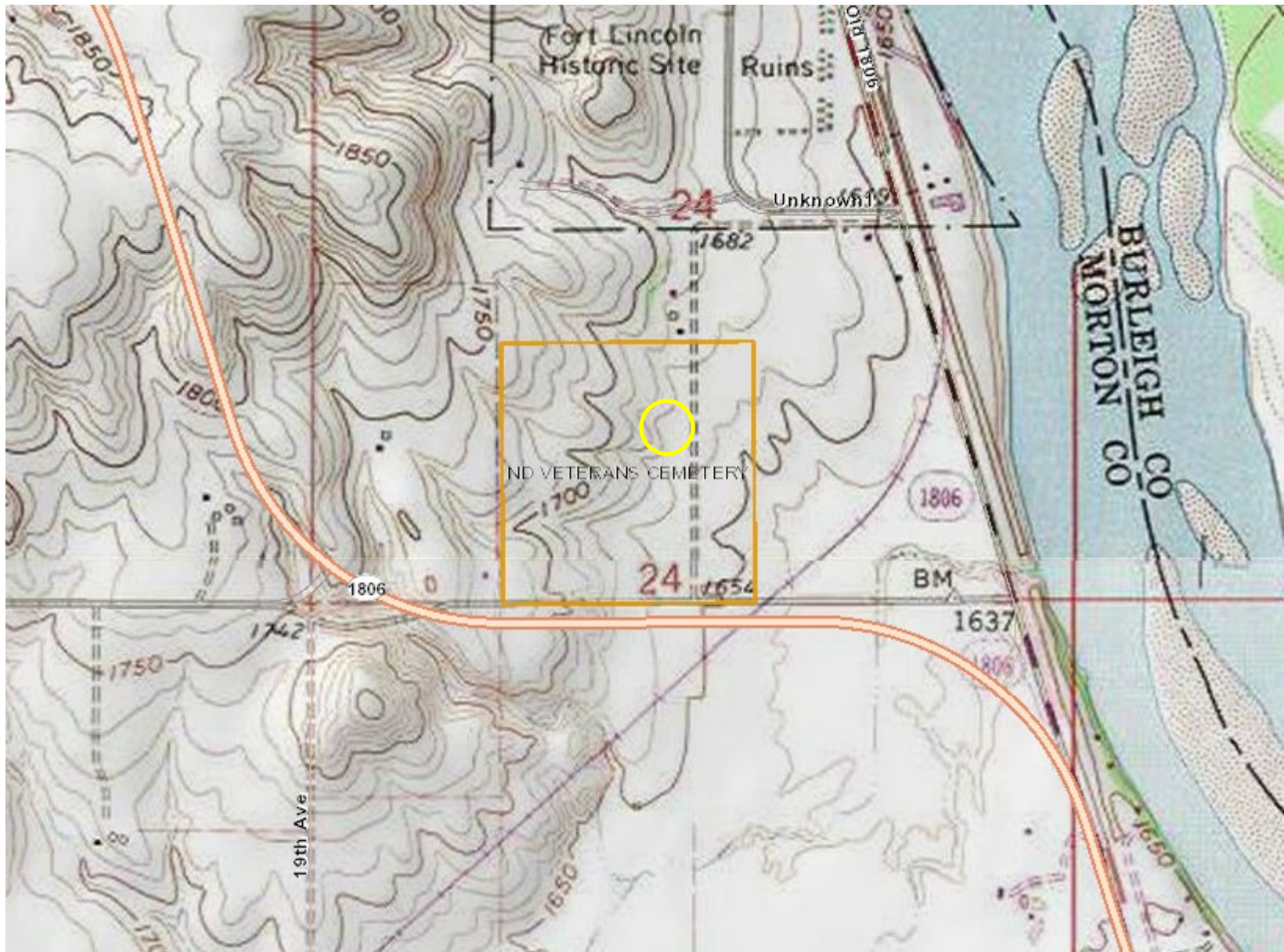
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Sarah Otte Coleman
Director
North Dakota Tourism Division
PO Box 2057
Bismarck, ND 58502-2057

Dear Ms. Coleman:

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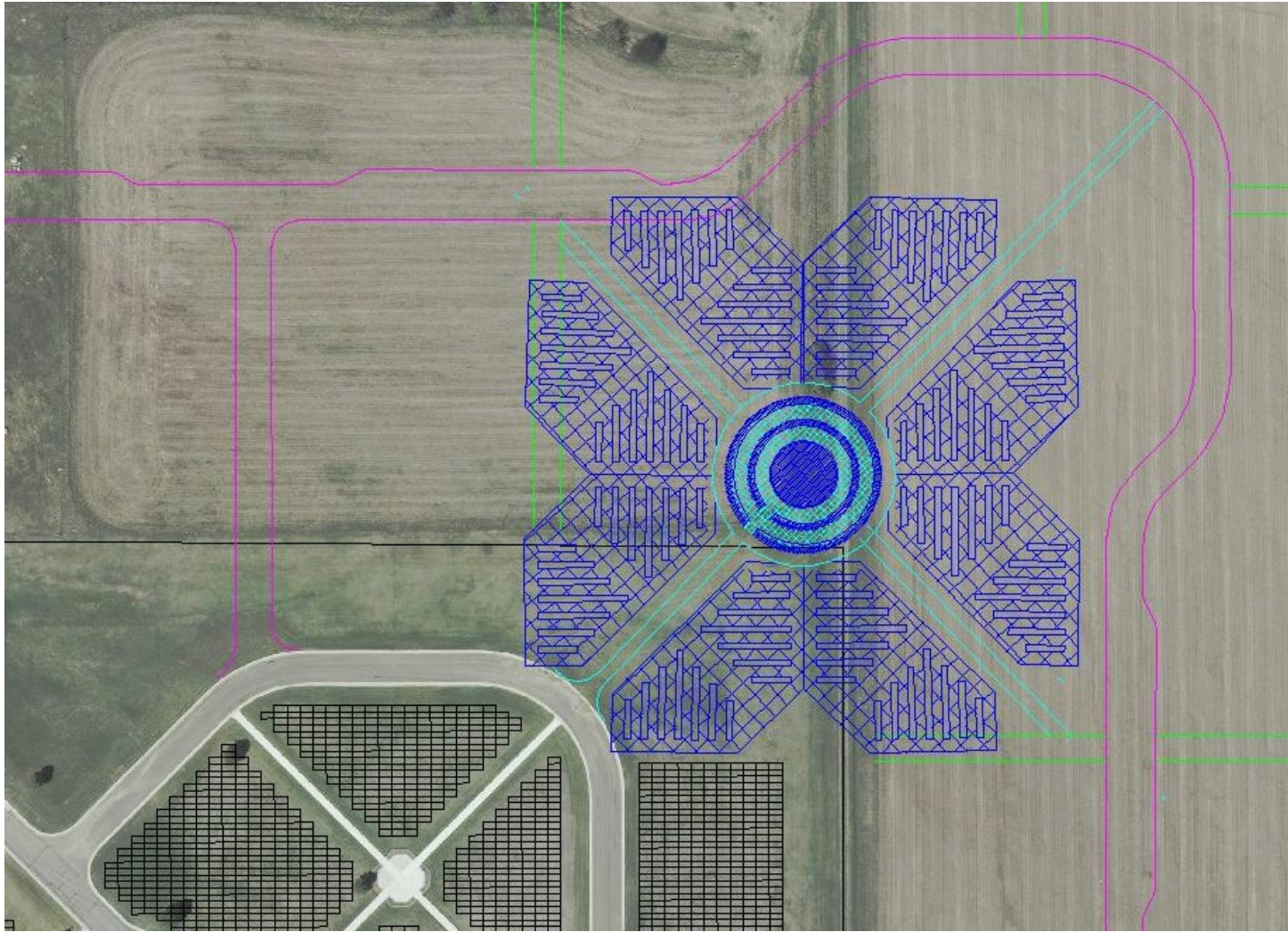
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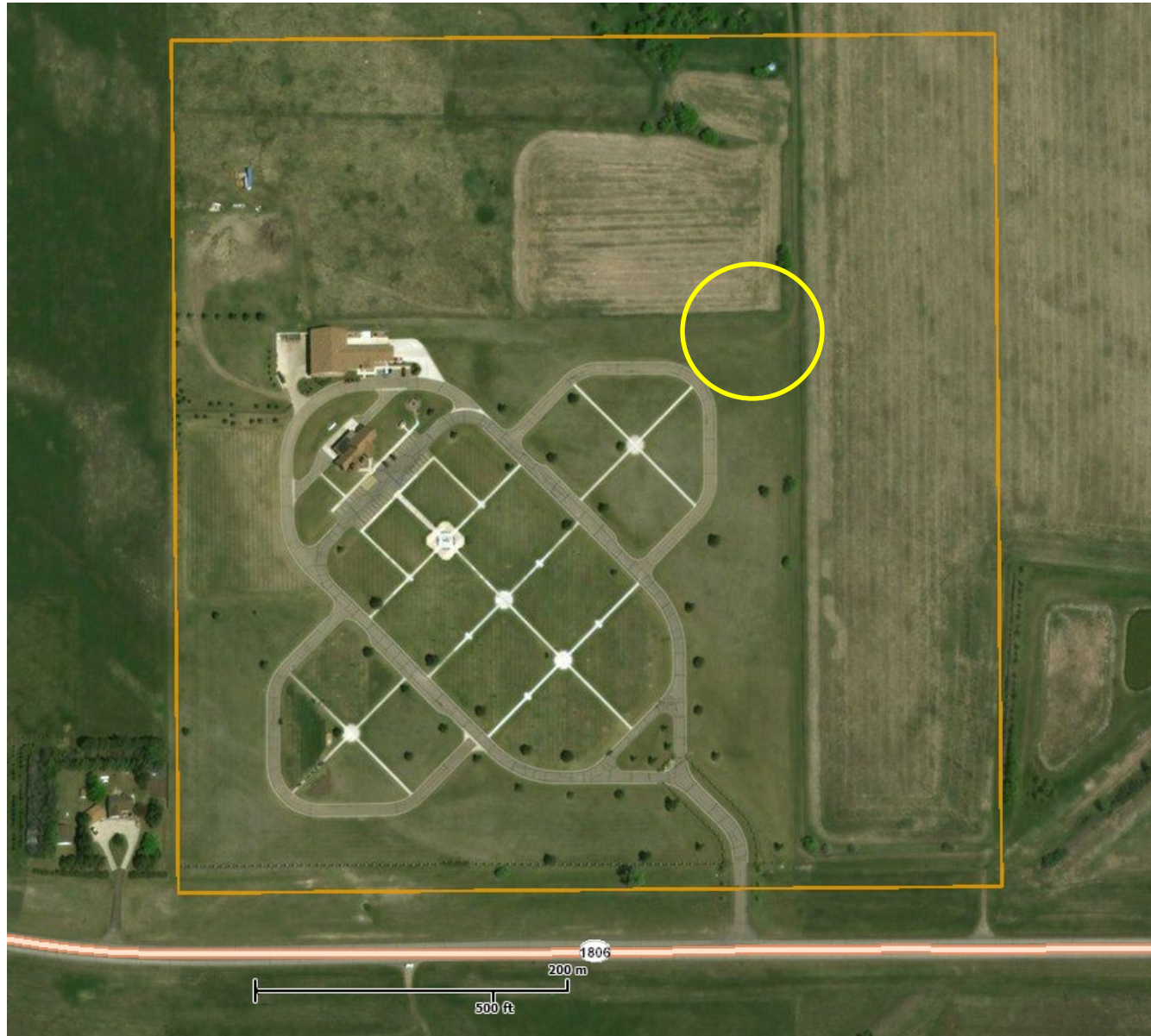
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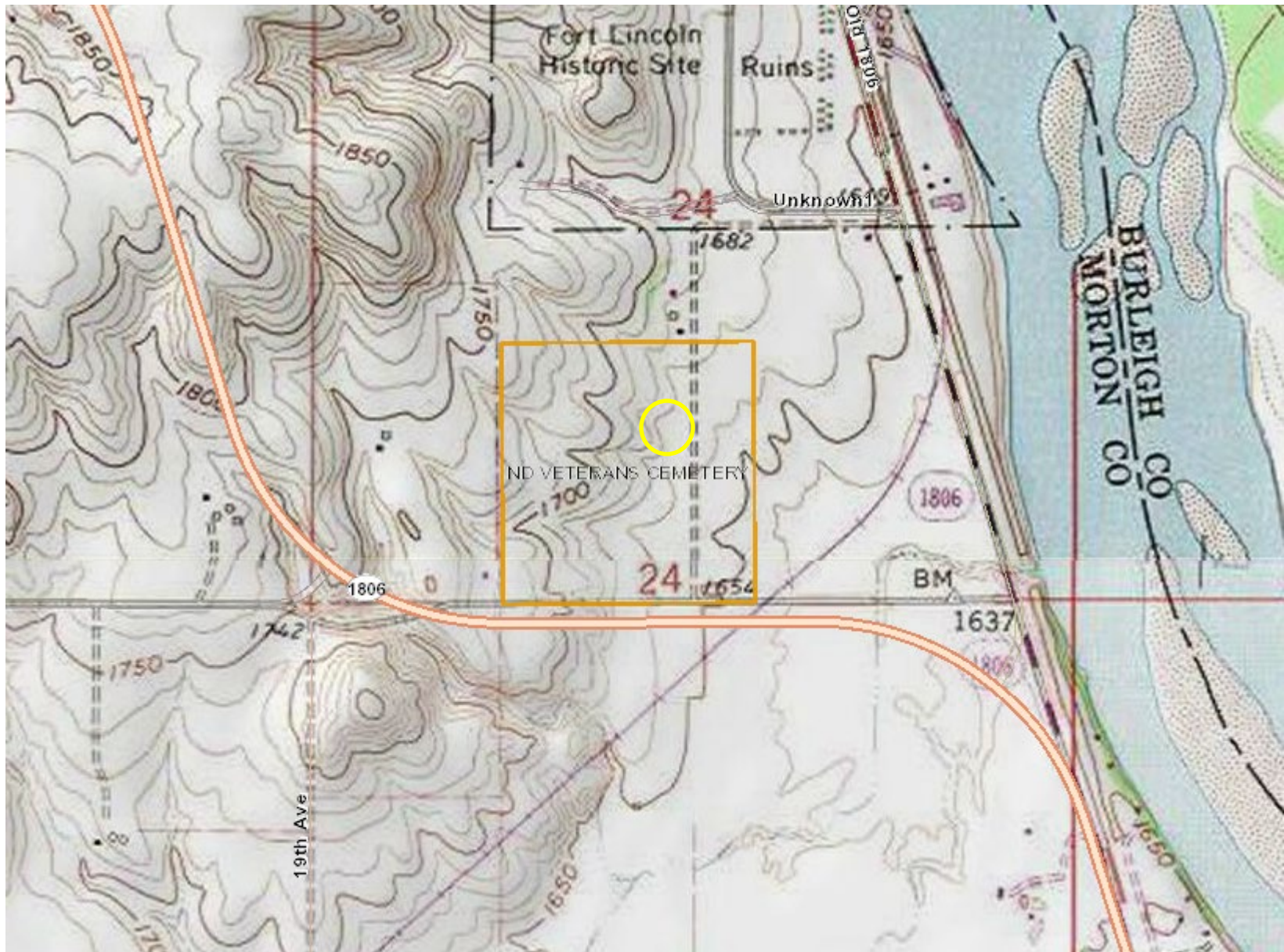
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Katie Clyde
President
North Dakota Weed Control Association
6135 Highway 49
Elgin, ND 58533-9226

Dear Ms. Clyde:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S½ NE¼ SW¼ , W½ SW¼ SE¼, SW¼ NW¼ SE ¼, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

The NDVC is in the process of creating a master plan to guide development of the cemetery. The initial design and construction of the NDVC has reached its goals, and the addition of 35 adjacent acres requires future planning consideration. Part of the master plan and to address veteran requests, the NDVC is proposing to design and construct a columbarium. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and part of that grant proposal is to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

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Prior assessments done to date include several cultural resources surveys on the 35 acres to determine the presence of sites, and a survey to determine eligibility of newly identified sites. Work to be done during the initial land clearing phase has already been evaluated under the NEPA process, and no adverse effects were determined from that assessment.

To ensure that all social, economic and environmental effects are considered in the development of this project, we are soliciting your views and comments on the proposed development project pursuant to Section 102(2)(D)(iv) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. We are particularly interested in any property that your department may own, or have interest in, and which would be adjacent to the proposed project area. We would also appreciate being made aware of any environmental concerns your department may have regarding the proposed project. Any information that might help us in our evaluation would be appreciated.

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If you need further information regarding the proposed project, you may contact me at stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil or 701.333.2070, or Ms. Pam Helbling-Schafer at 701.667.1418 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

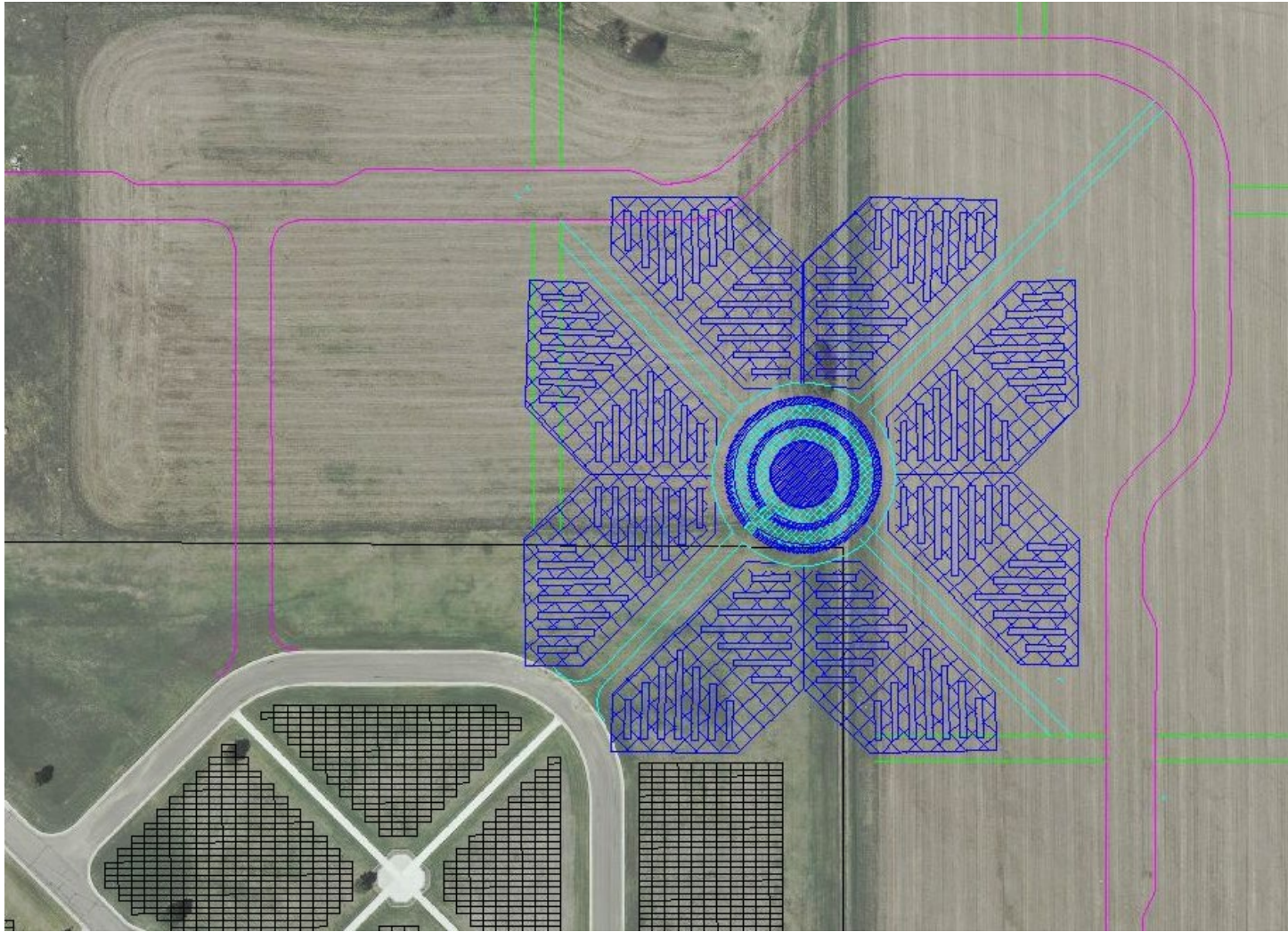
Sincerely,

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Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

Encls.

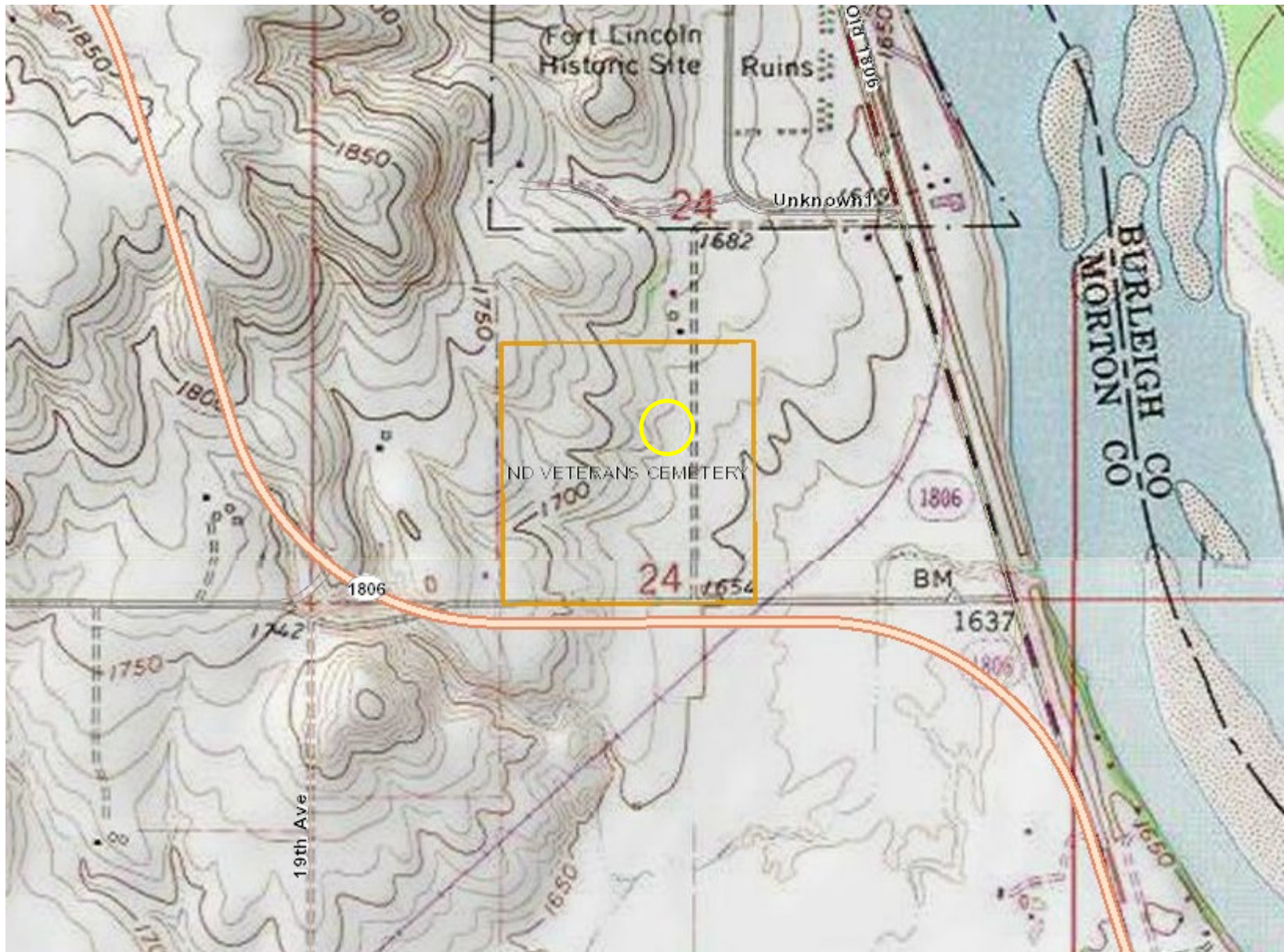
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Enclosure 2. Aerial photograph of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.



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**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Trina Lone Hill
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Oglala Sioux Tribe
PO Box 320
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Dear Ms. Lone Hill:

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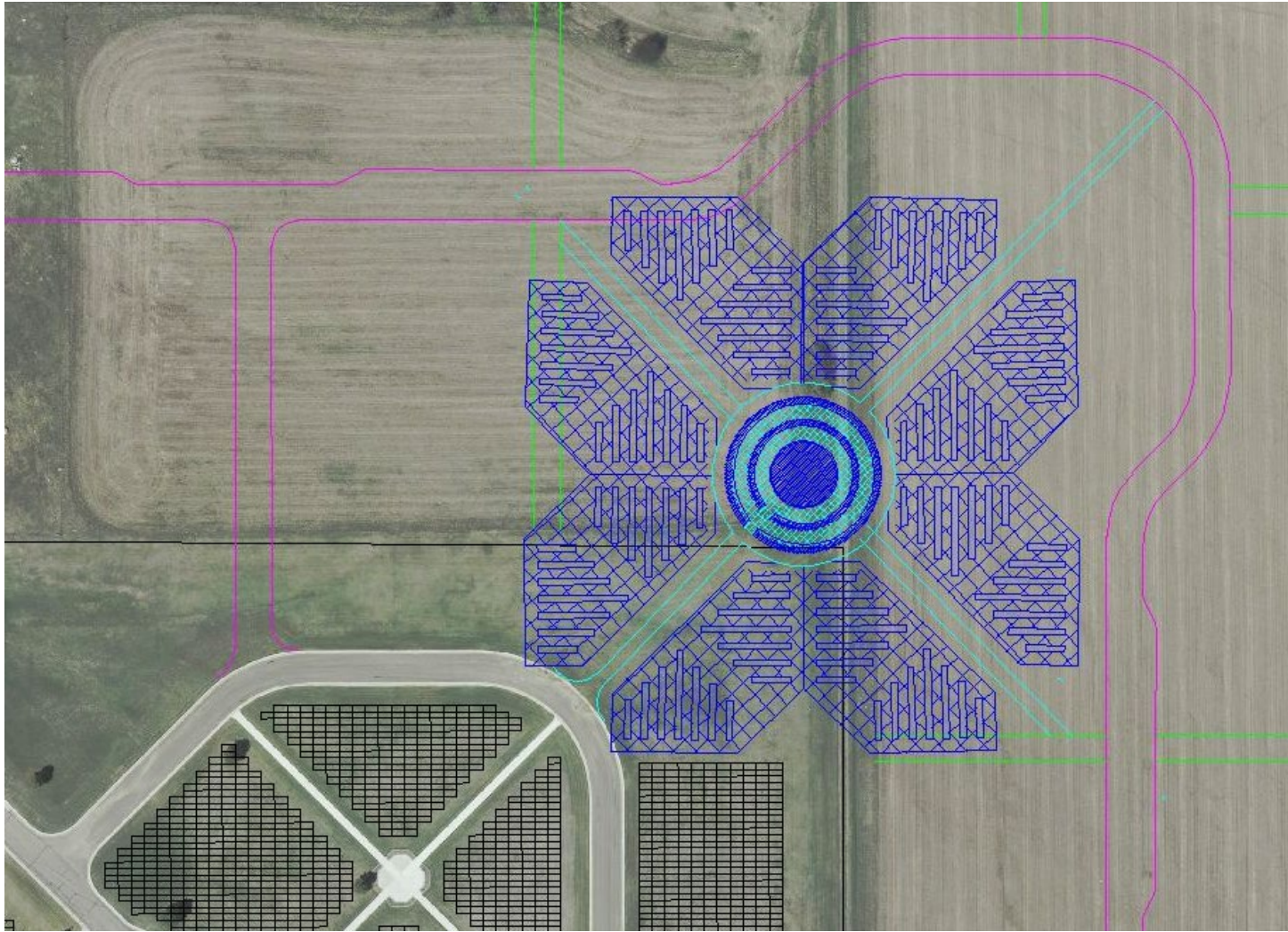
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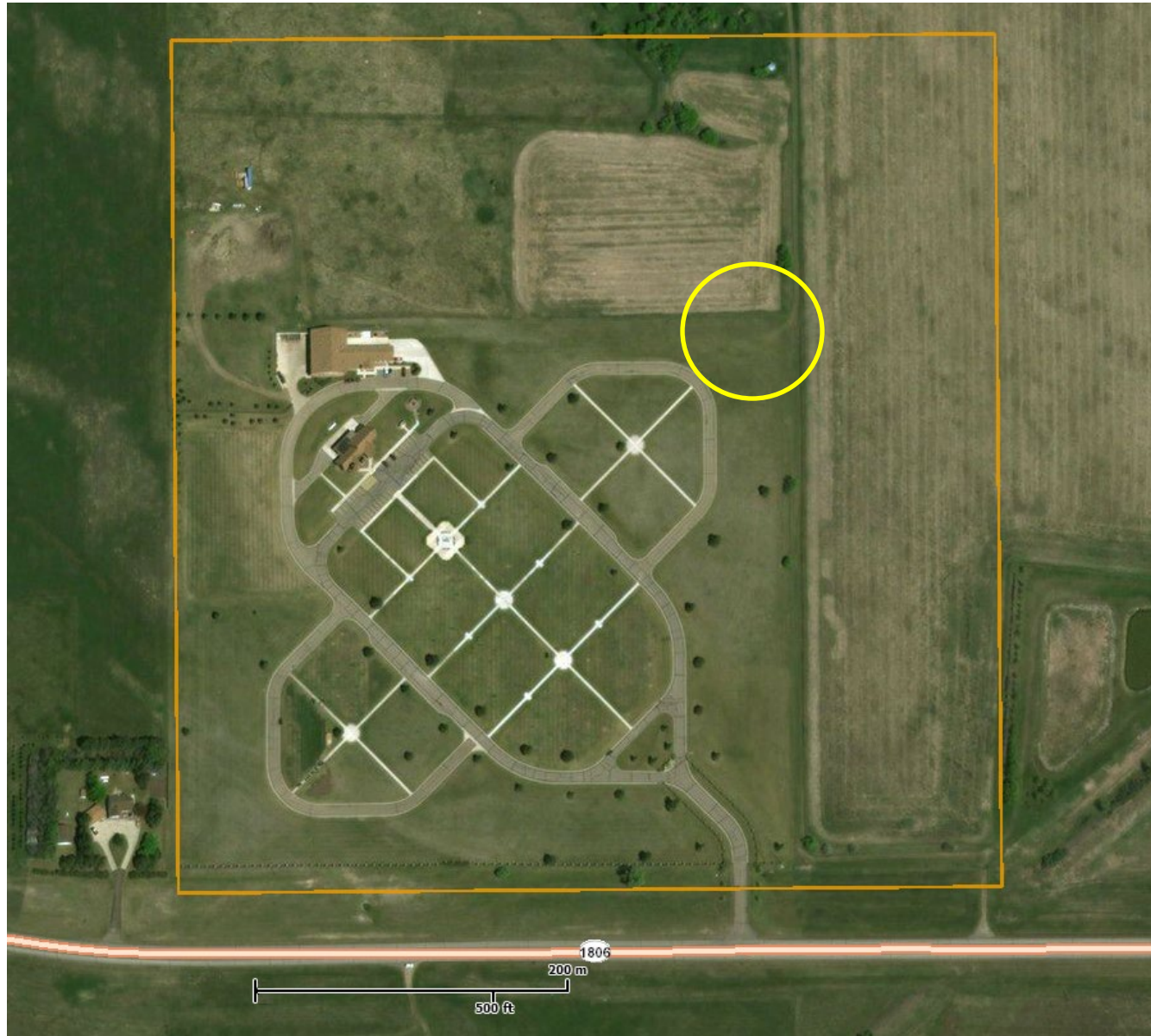
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Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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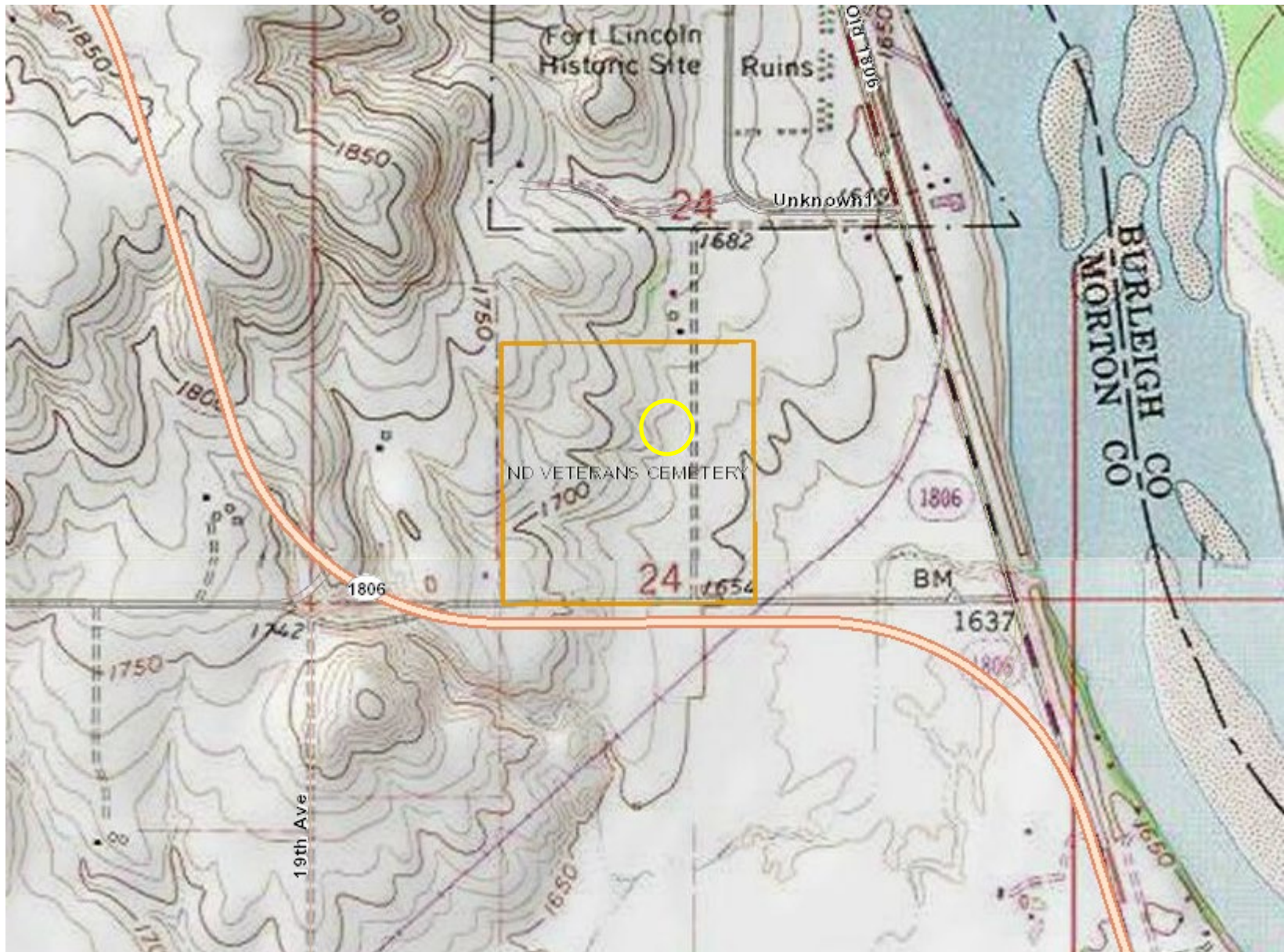
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Ben Rhodd
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
PO Box 809
Rosebud, SD 57570

Dear Mr. Rhodd:

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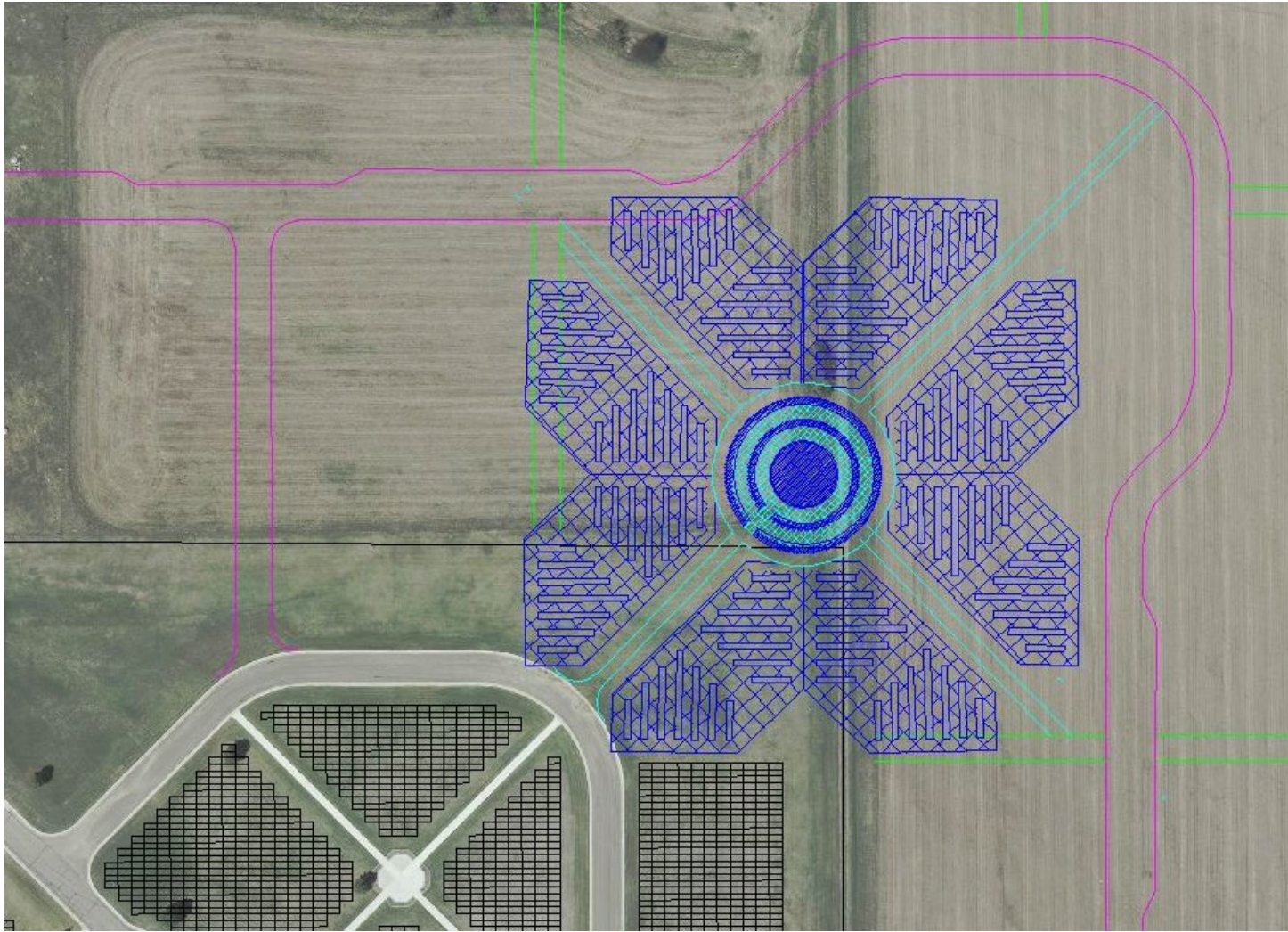
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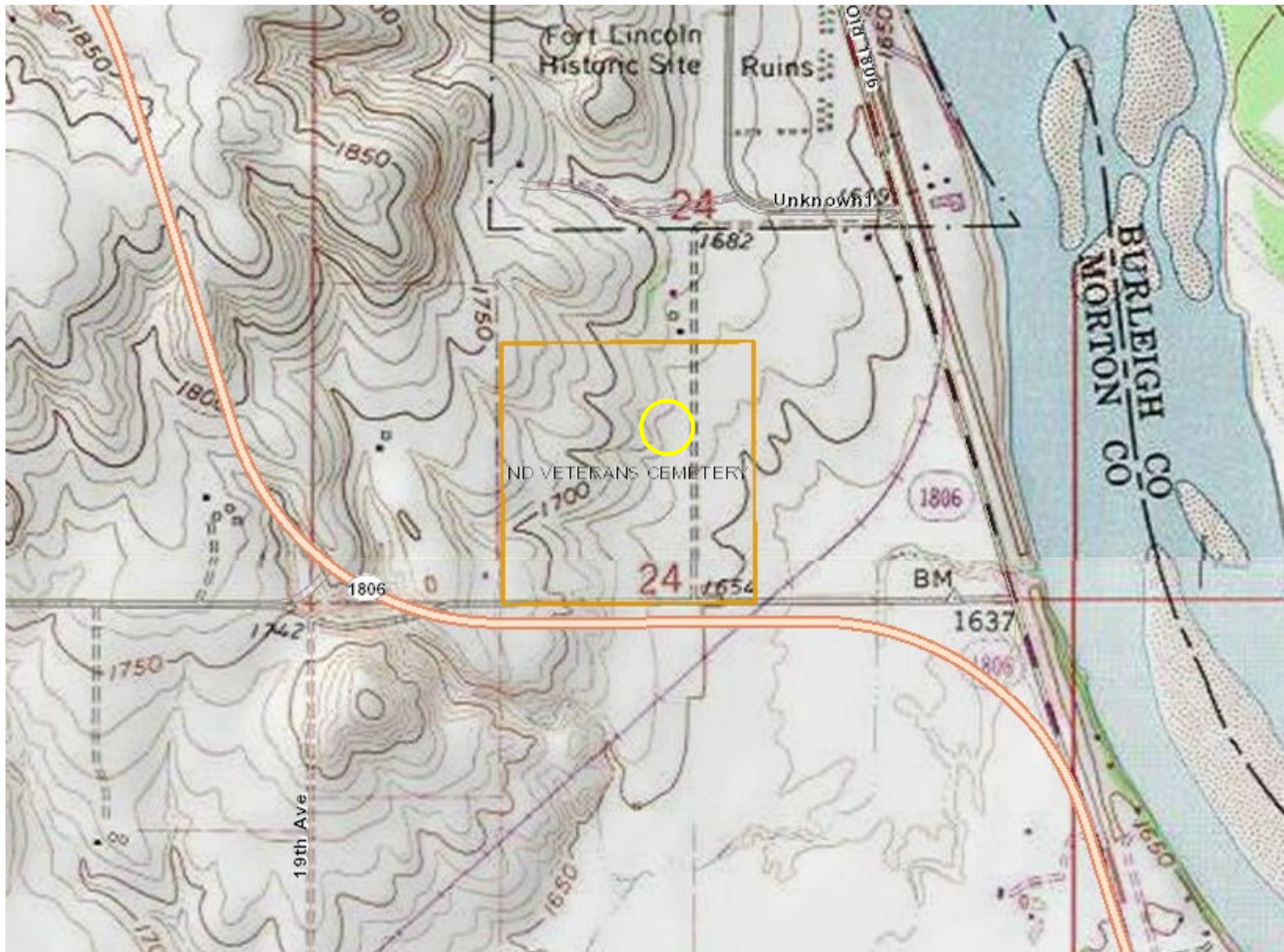
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Erich Longie
Cultural Advisor
Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
PO Box 198
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Dear Mr. Longie:

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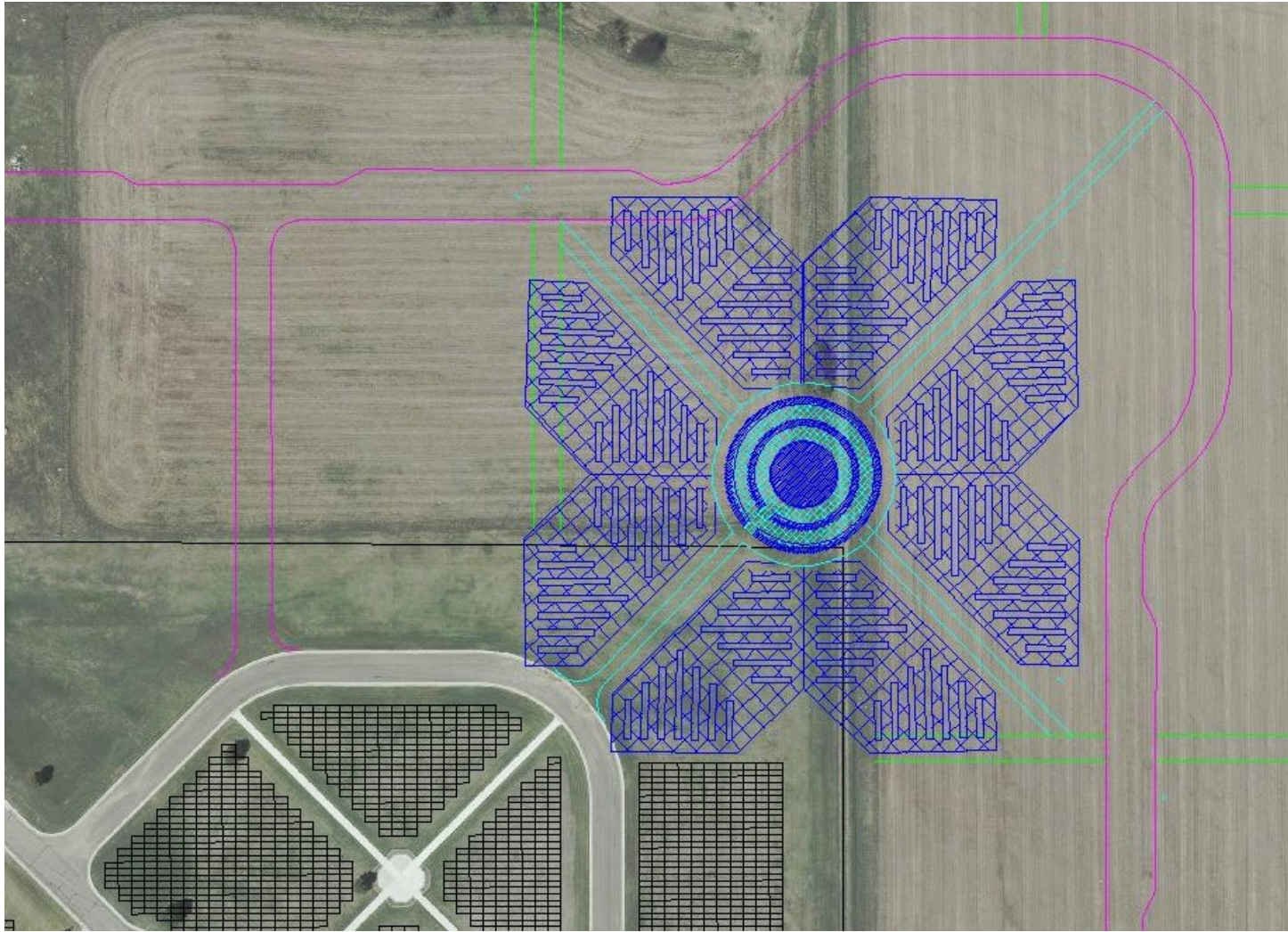
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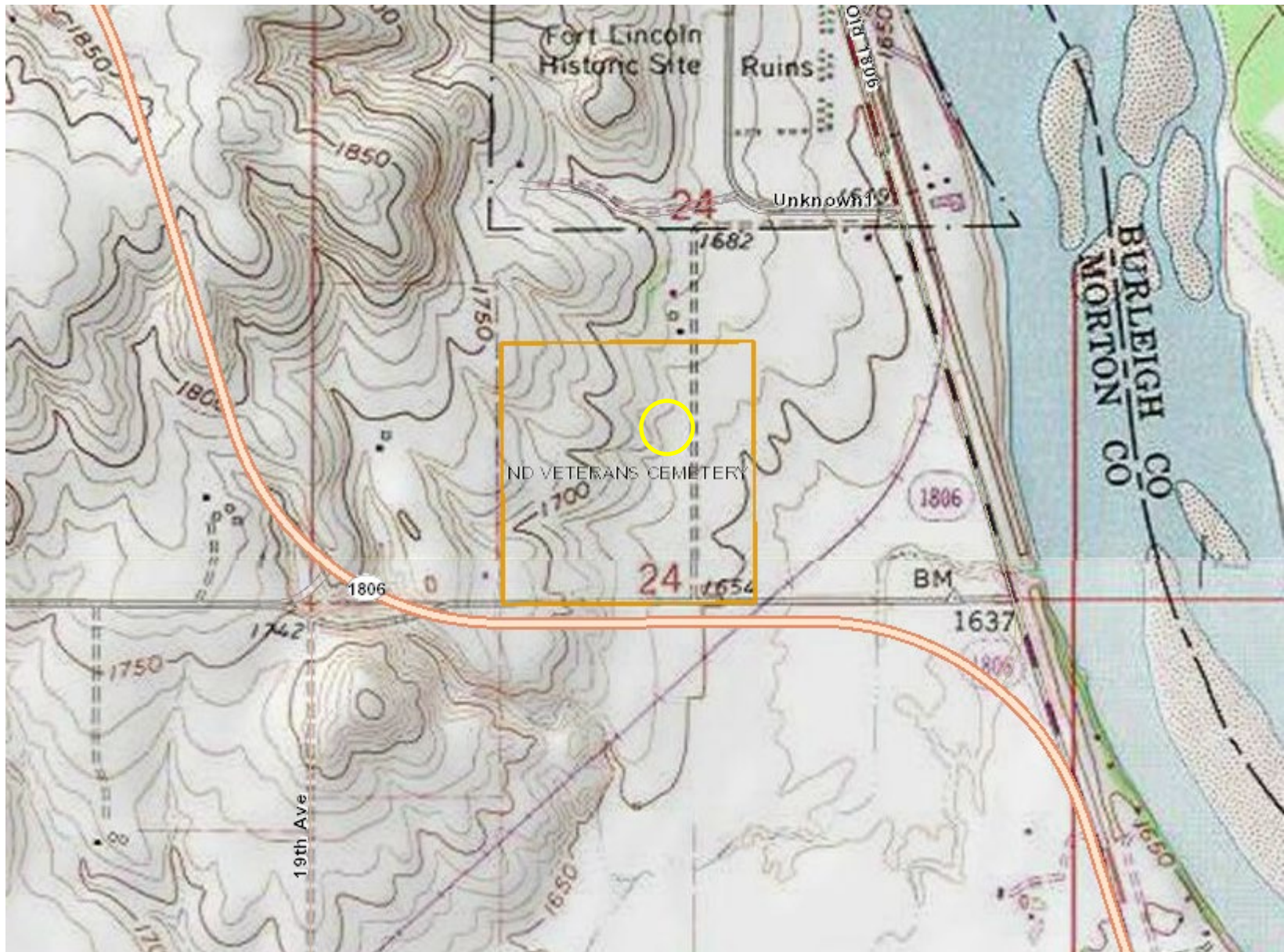
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Jon Eagle
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
PO Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Dear Mr. Eagle:

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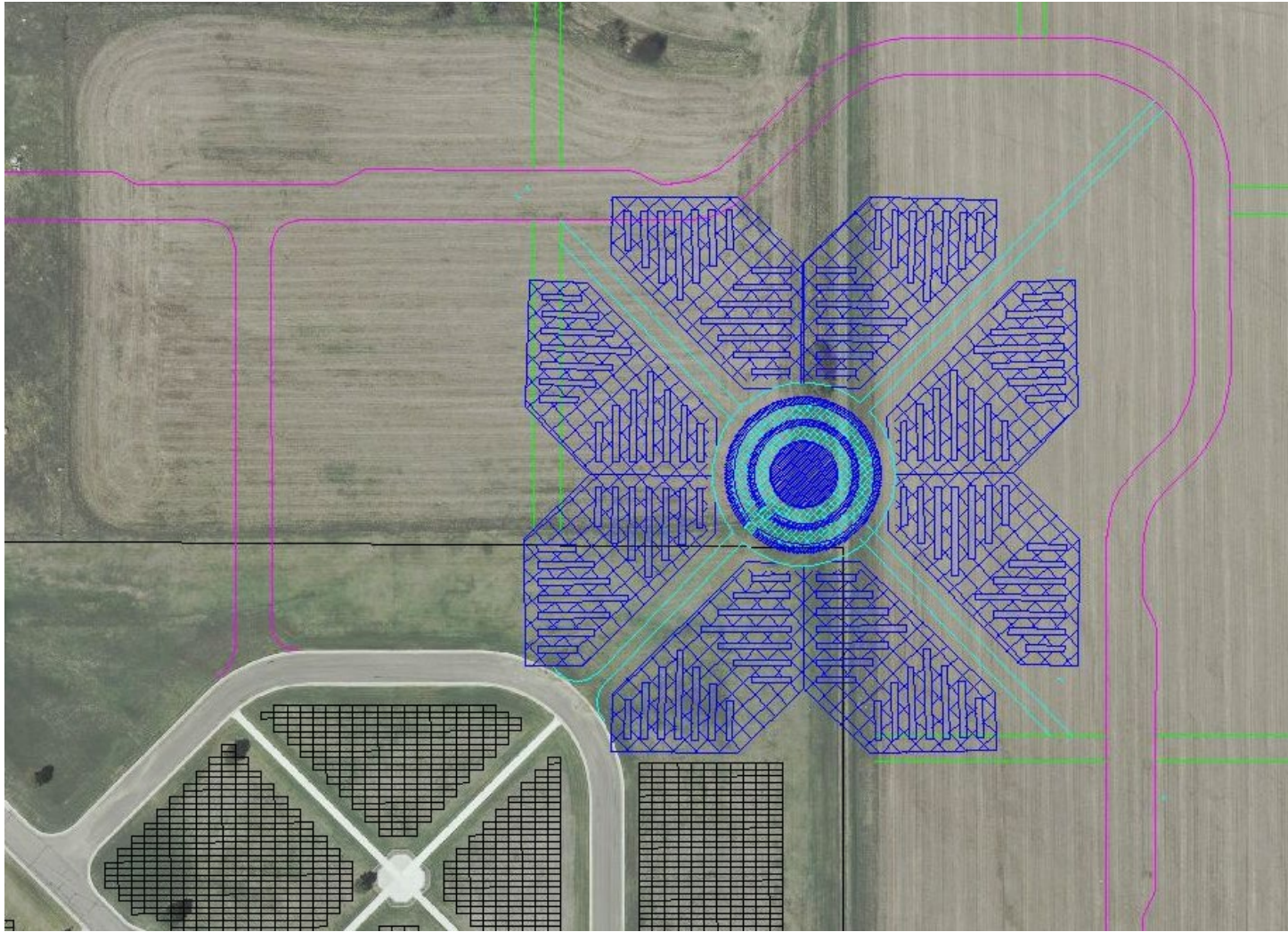
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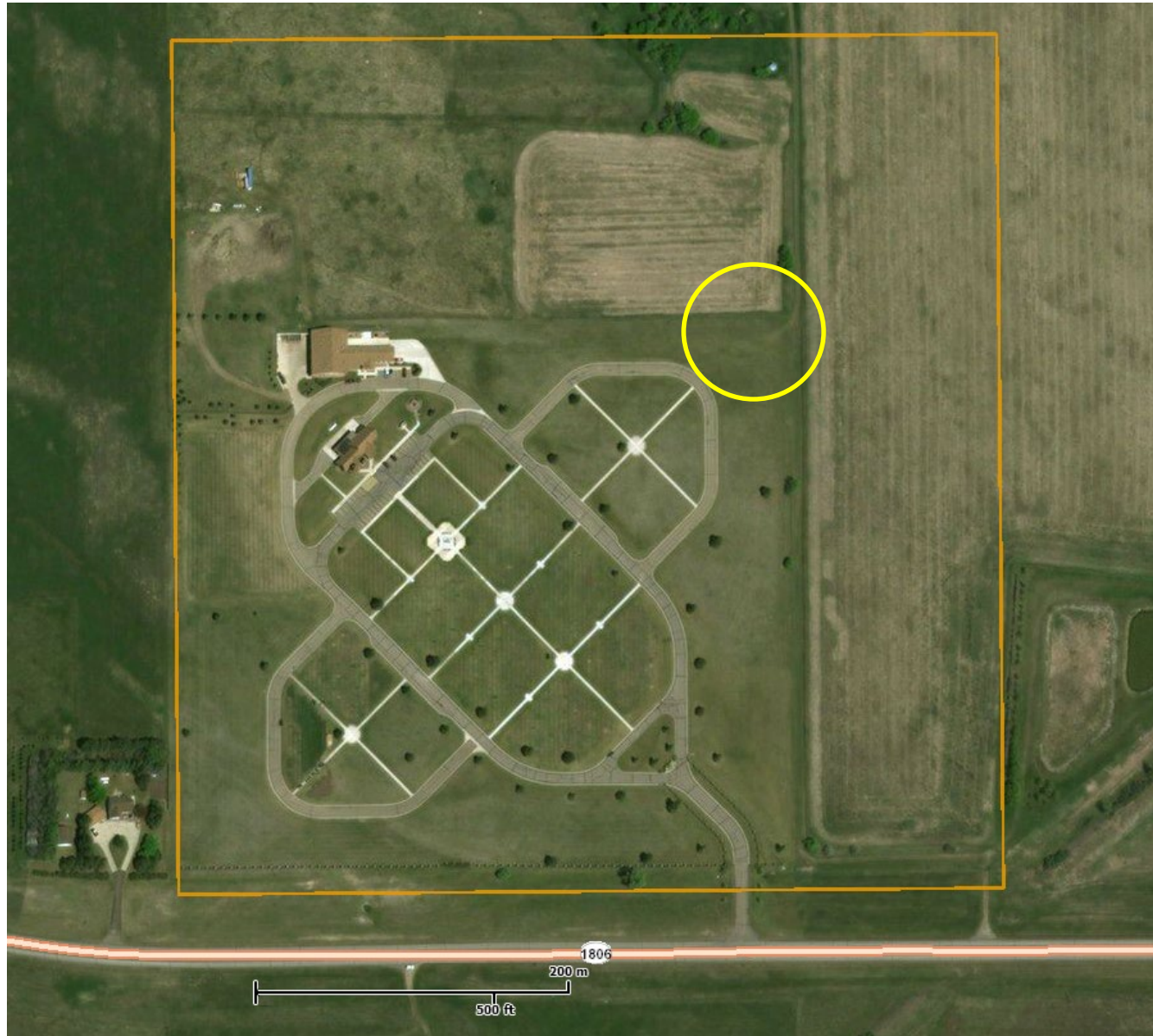
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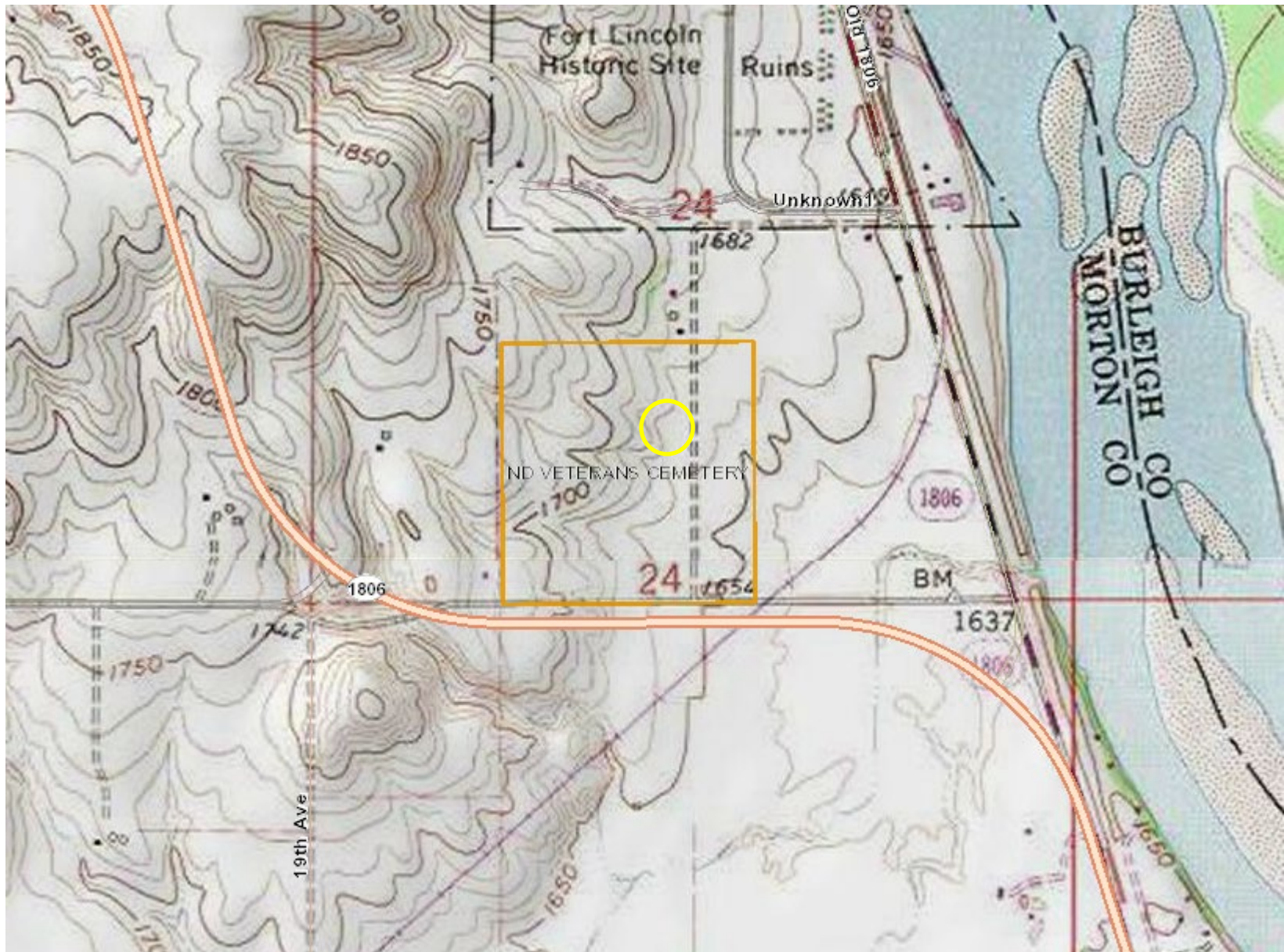
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Garland Erbele
State Engineer
North Dakota State Water Commission
900 East Boulevard, Dept. 770
Bismarck, ND 58505-0850

Dear Mr. Erbele:

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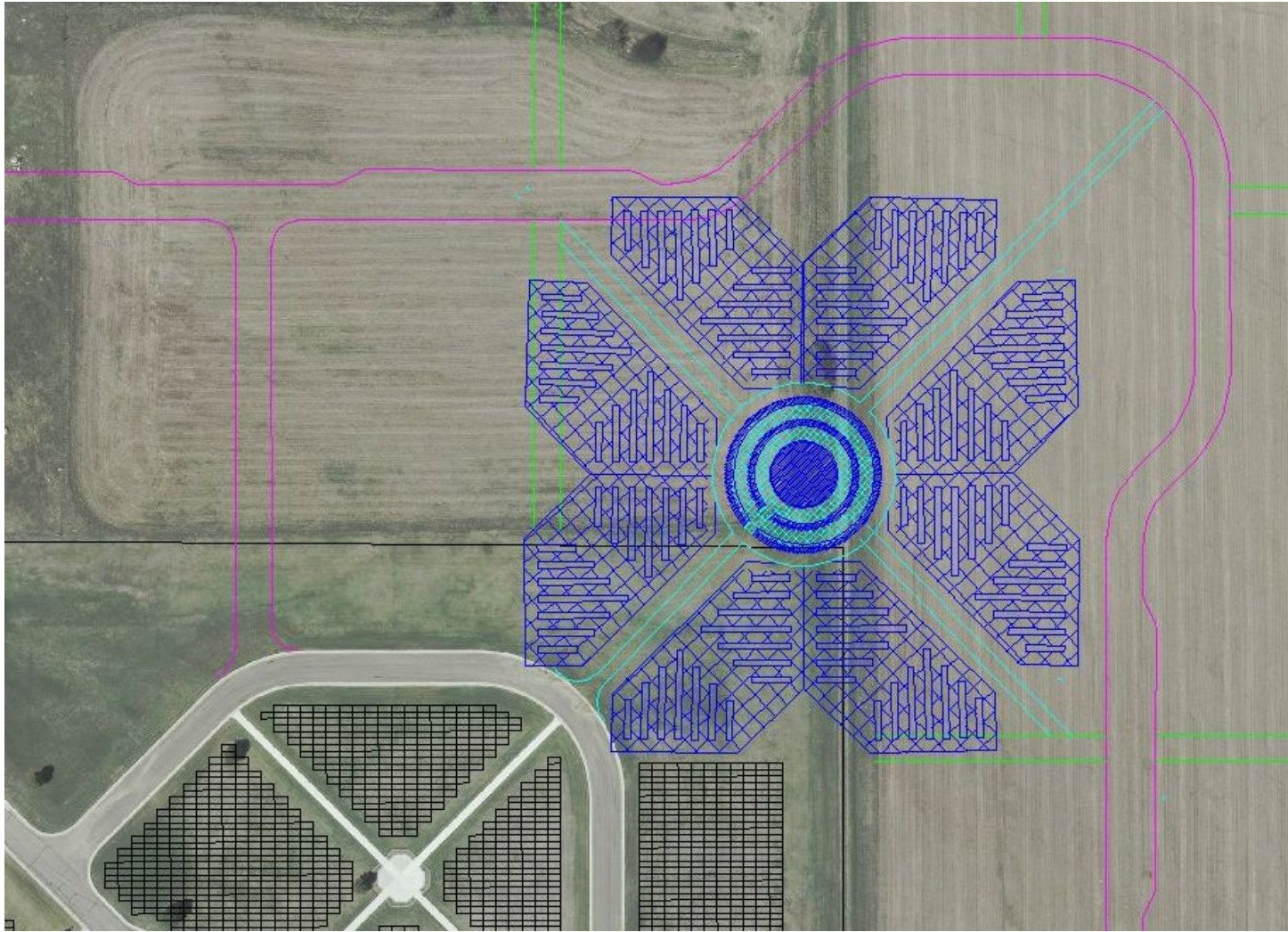
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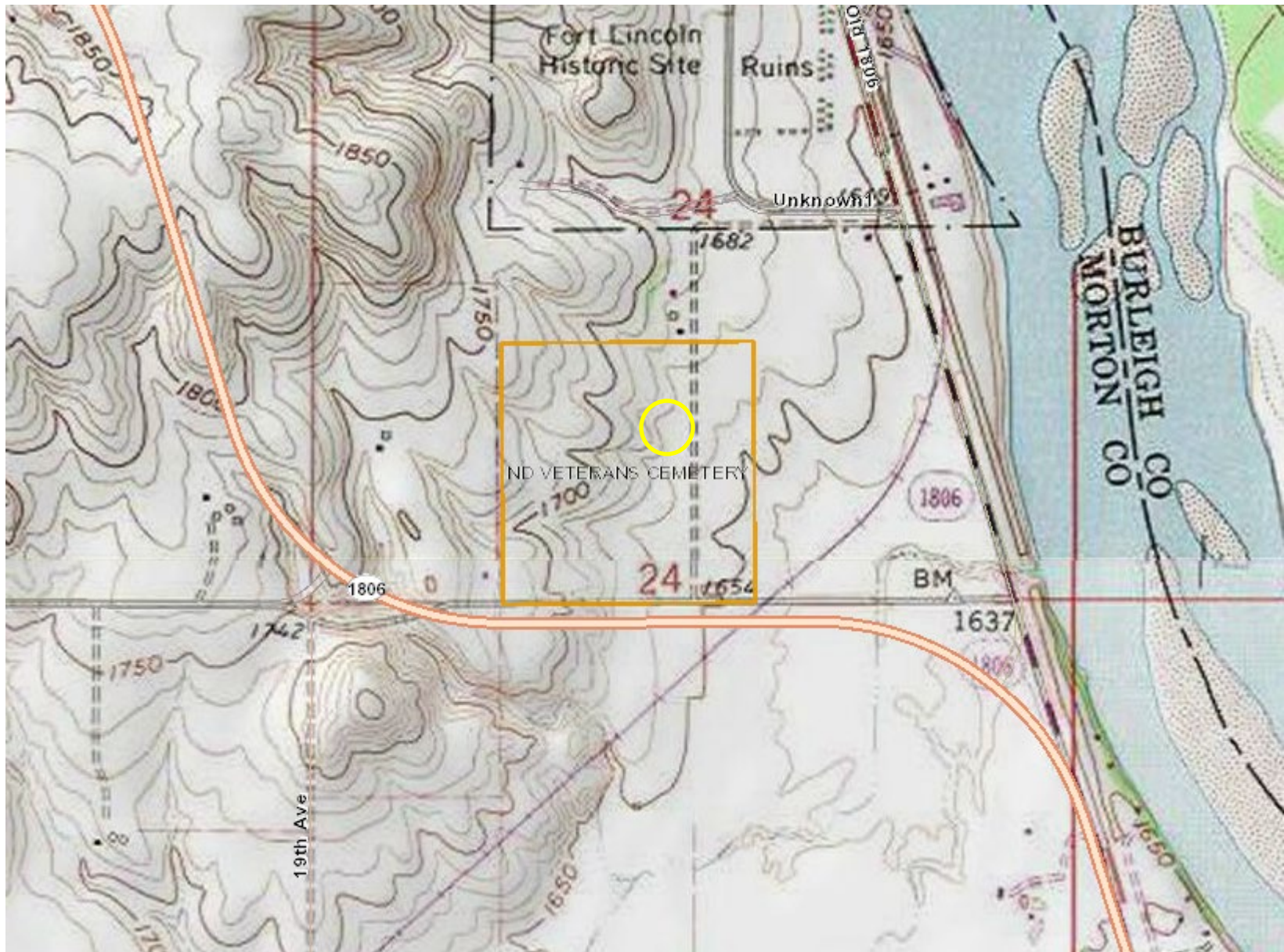
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Dianne Desrosiers
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
PO Box 907
Sisseton, SD 57262

Dear Ms. Desrosiers:

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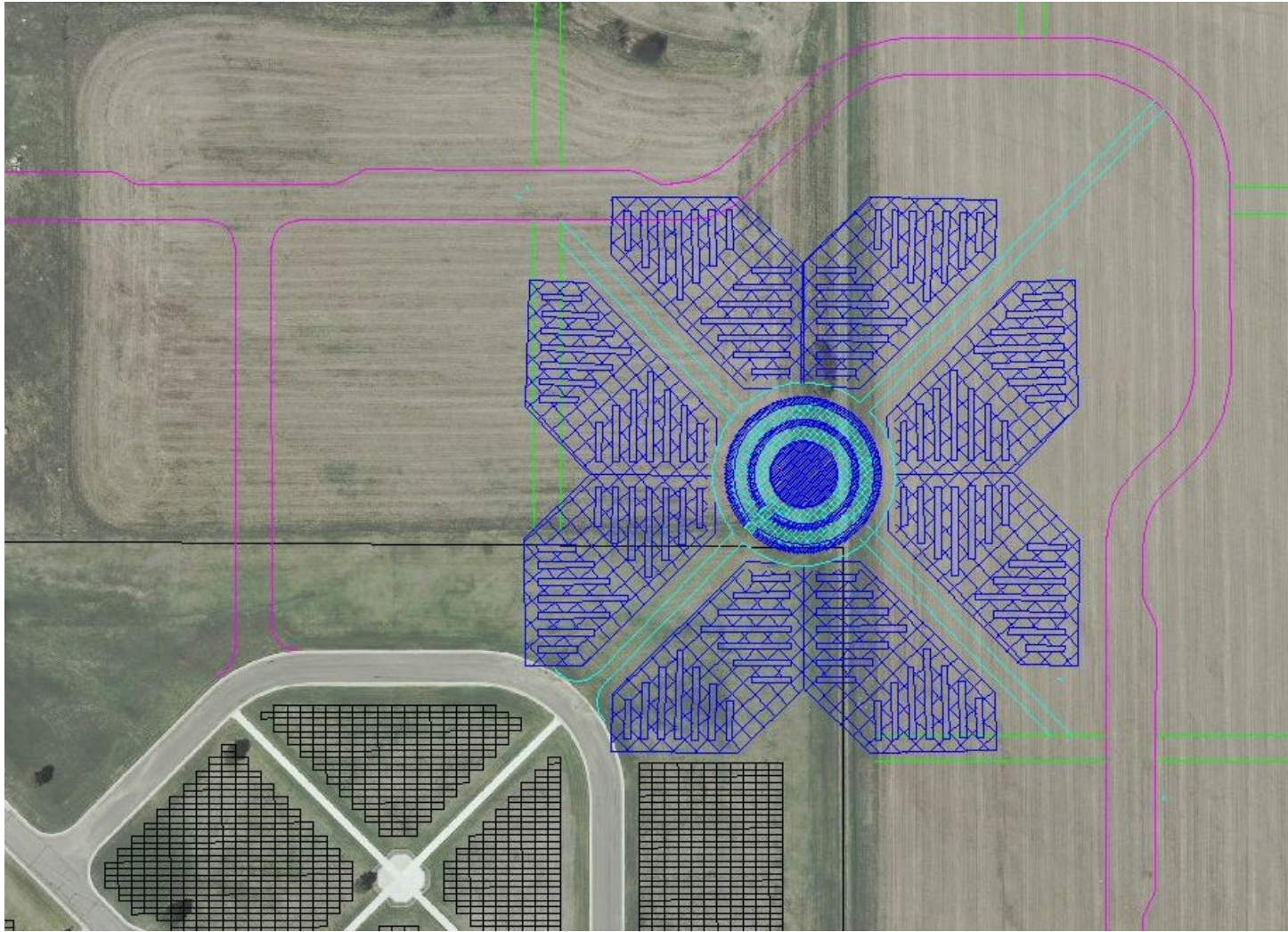
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North Dakota National Guard

Encls.

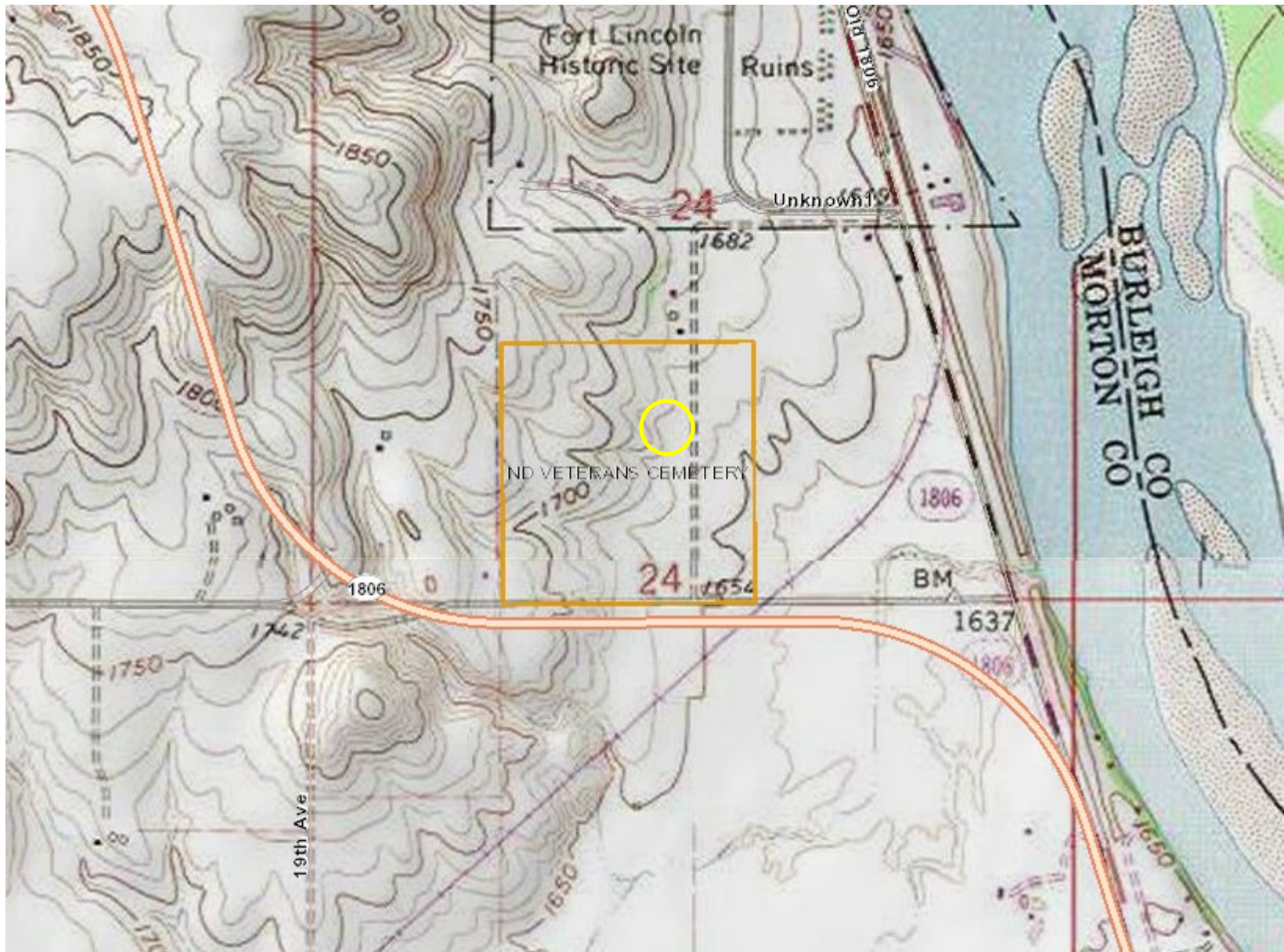
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Enclosure 2. Aerial photograph of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.



Enclosure 3. Topographic map of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The yellow circle it the approximate proposed project site.

**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
PO BOX 5511, BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Jeffery Desjarlais Jr.
Acting Natural Resource Director
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
PO Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

Dear Mr. Desjarlais:

On behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery (NDVC), the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) is soliciting comments on a proposed project to construct and operate a columbarium at the NDVC located south of the city of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The proposed project will take place in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, Township 138N, Range 81W, and comprises an area of approximately 35 acres, more or less, of land area where soil disturbing activities will occur. Enclosed are a draft site plan, aerial photograph and topographic map showing the proposed project area.

The NDVC is in the process of creating a master plan to guide development of the cemetery. The initial design and construction of the NDVC has reached its goals, and the addition of 35 adjacent acres requires future planning consideration. Part of the master plan and to address veteran requests, the NDVC is proposing to design and construct a columbarium. The NDVC has applied for a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and part of that grant proposal is to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

The proposed action requires several phases to arrive at the final design appearance. In order to complete this proposed action, the following phases are necessary:

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Prior assessments done to date include several cultural resources surveys on the 35 acres to determine the presence of sites, and a survey to determine eligibility of newly identified sites. Work to be done during the initial land clearing phase has already been evaluated under the NEPA process, and no adverse effects were determined from that assessment.

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We request that any information and comments be forwarded to our office on or before September 30, 2019. We request your comments by that date to ensure we have adequate time to review them and to incorporate them into the necessary environmental documentation.

If you need further information regarding the proposed project, you may contact me at stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil or 701.333.2070, or Ms. Pam Helbling-Schafer at 701.667.1418 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

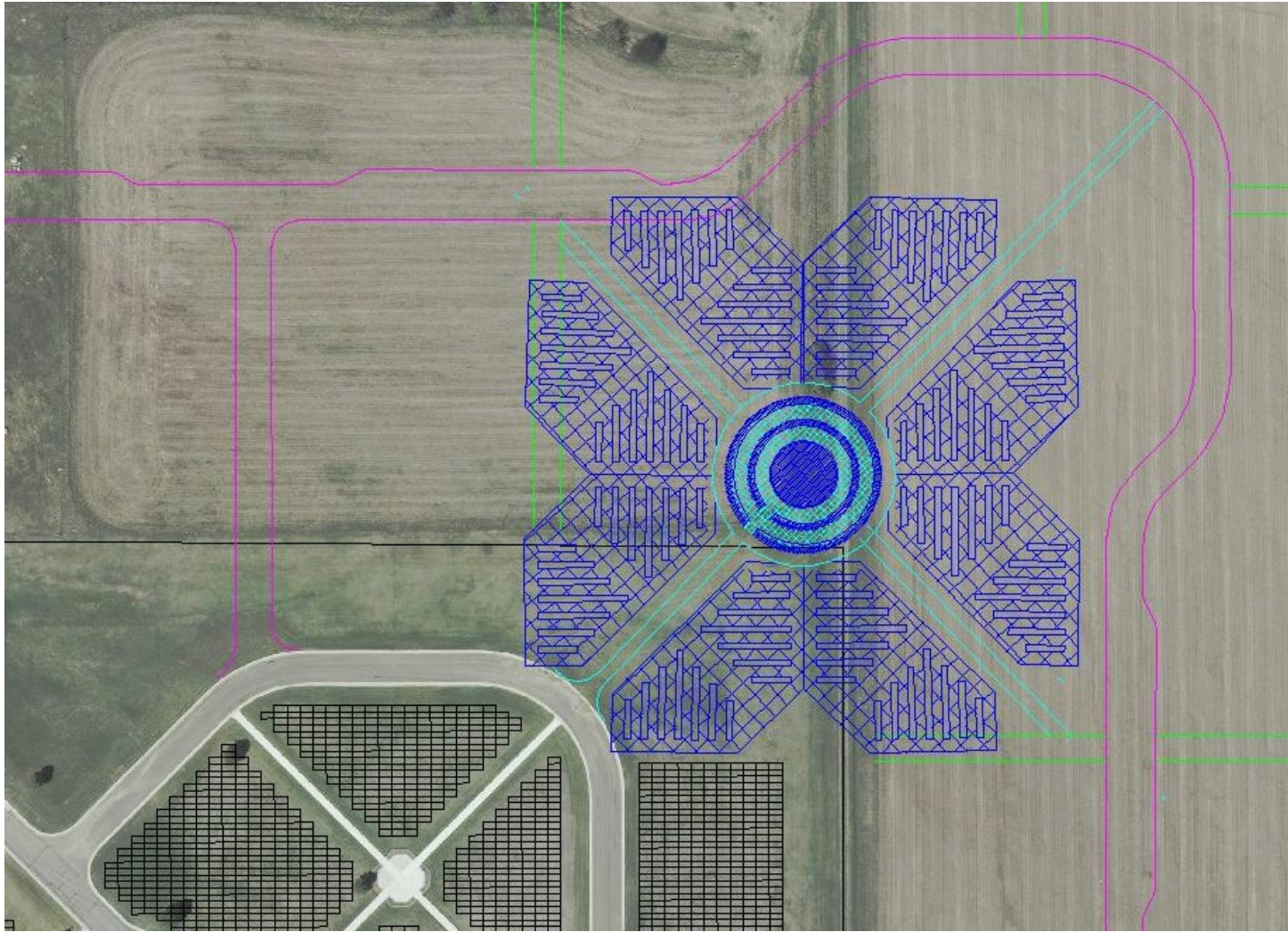
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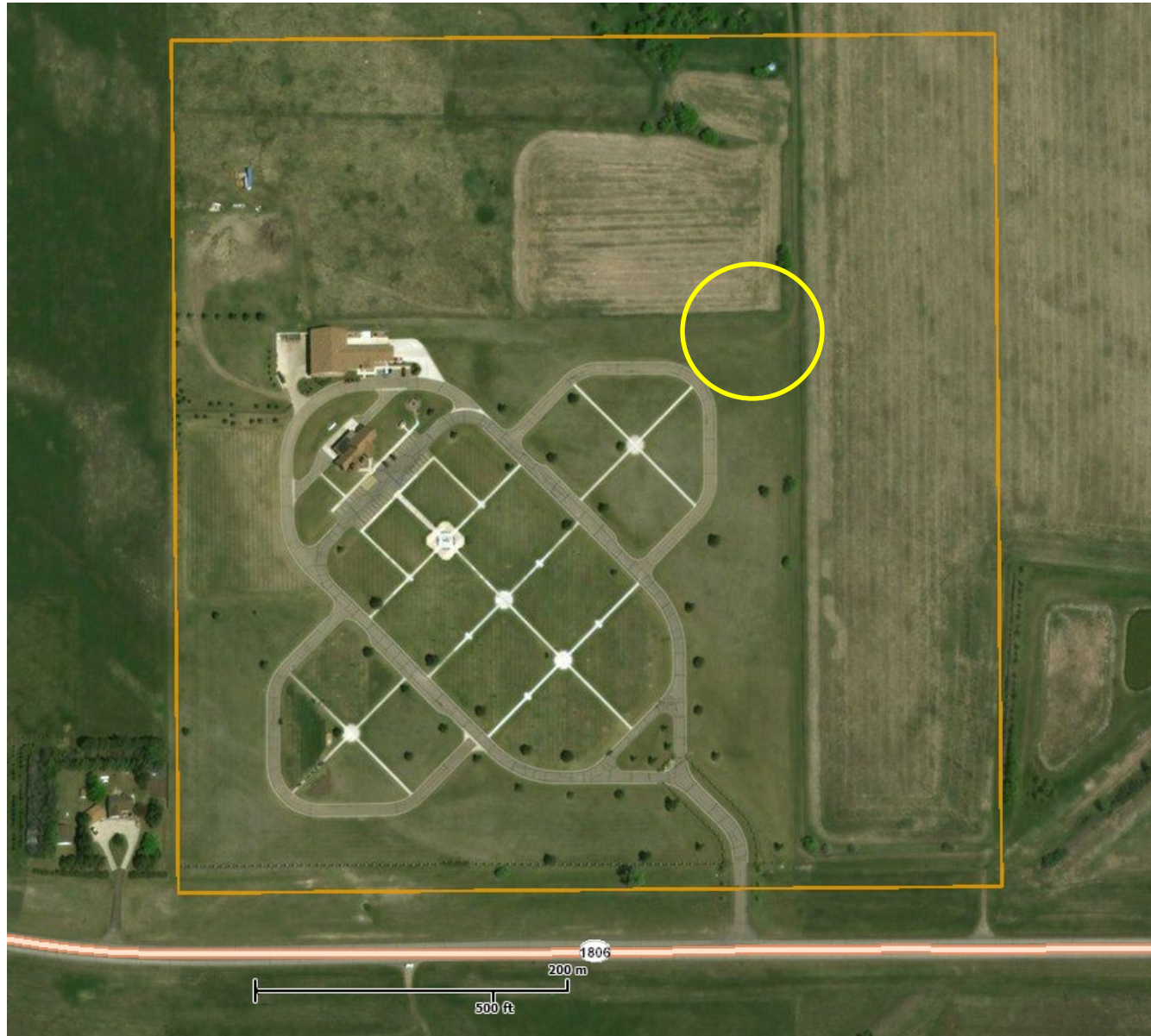
Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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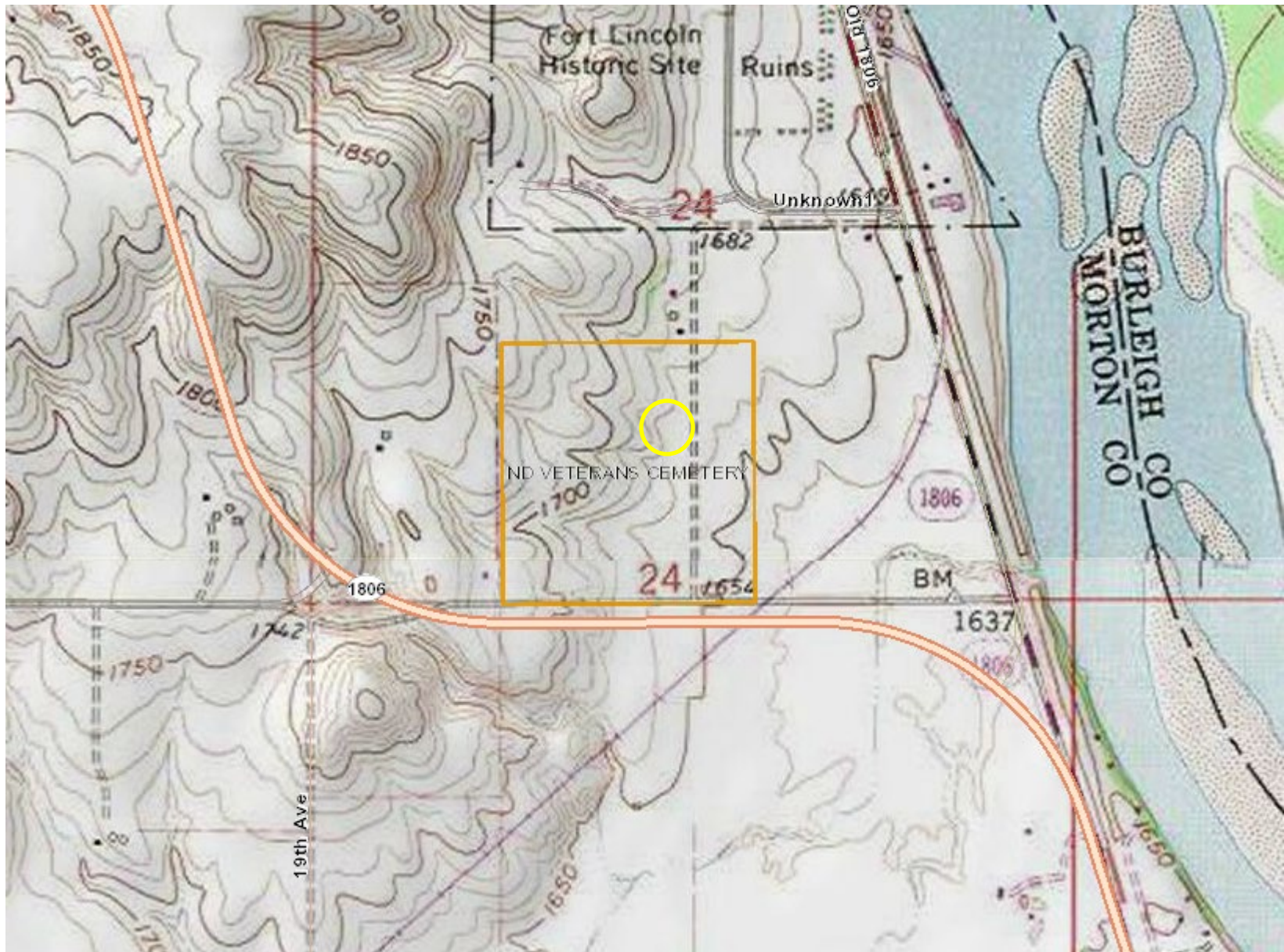
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Patty McQueary
US Army Corps of Engineers
1513 S 12th St
Bismarck, ND 58504

Dear Ms. McQueary:

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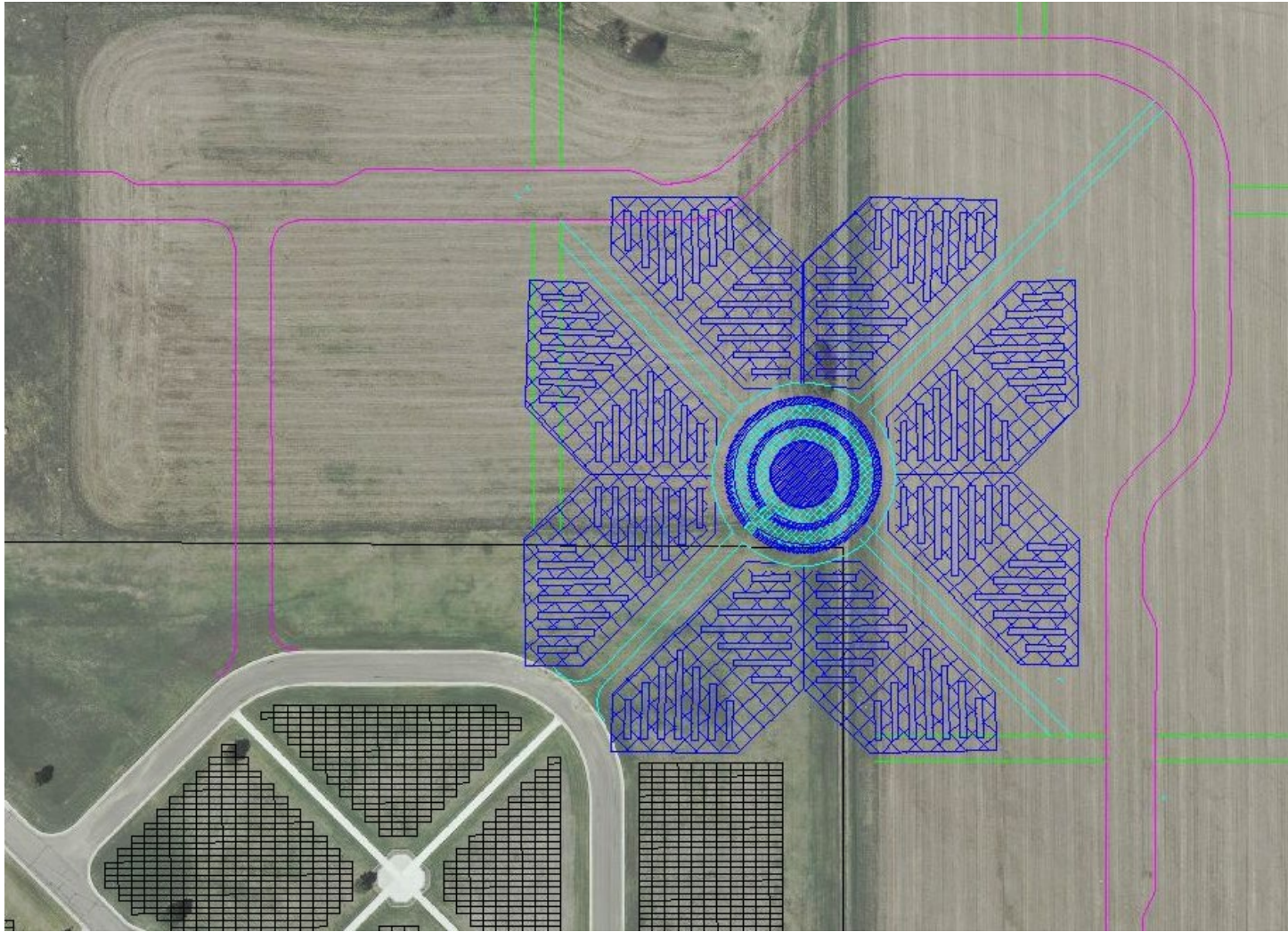
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Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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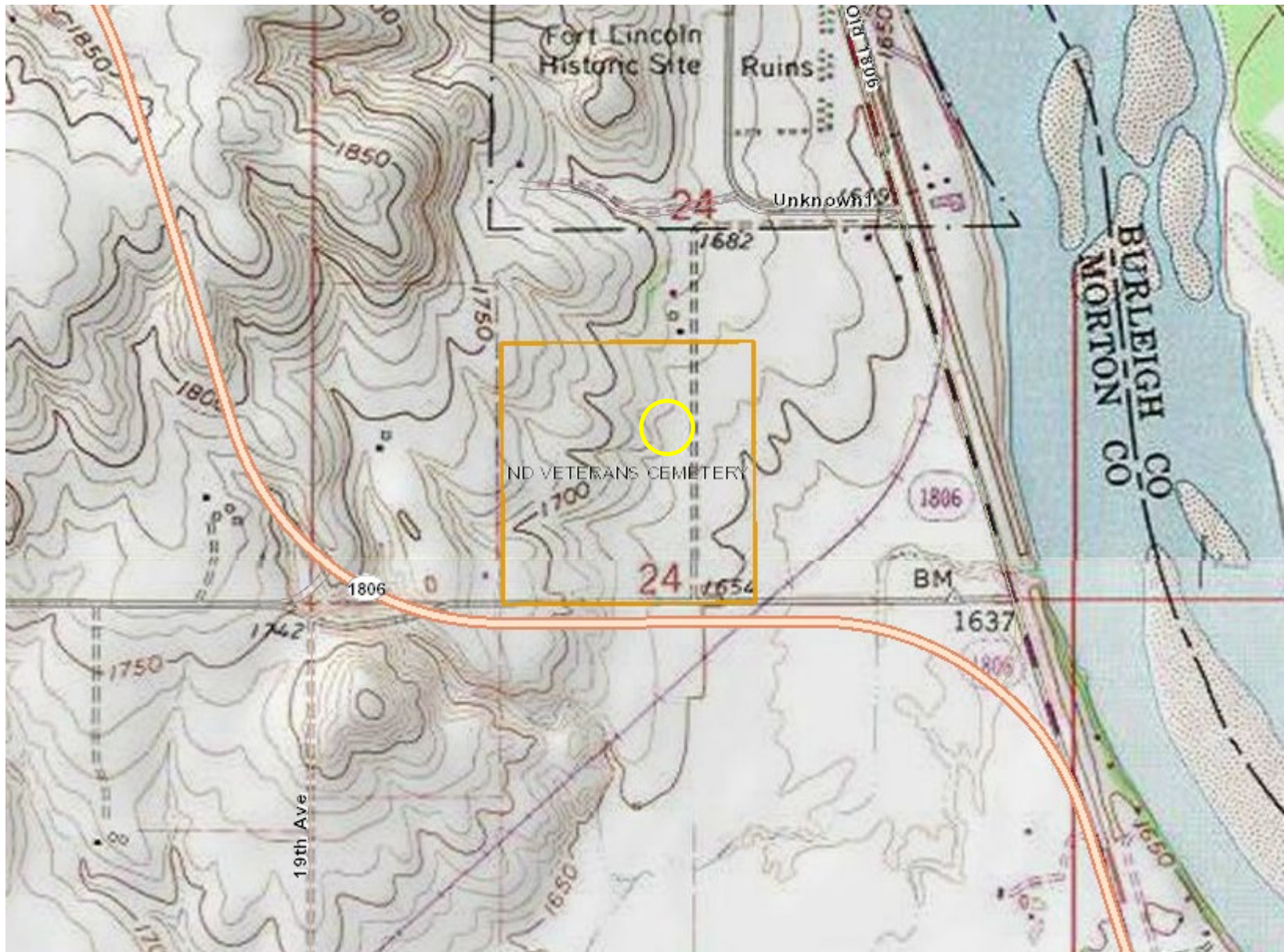
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Mary Podoll
State Conservationist
USDA, NRCS
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

Dear Ms. Podoll:

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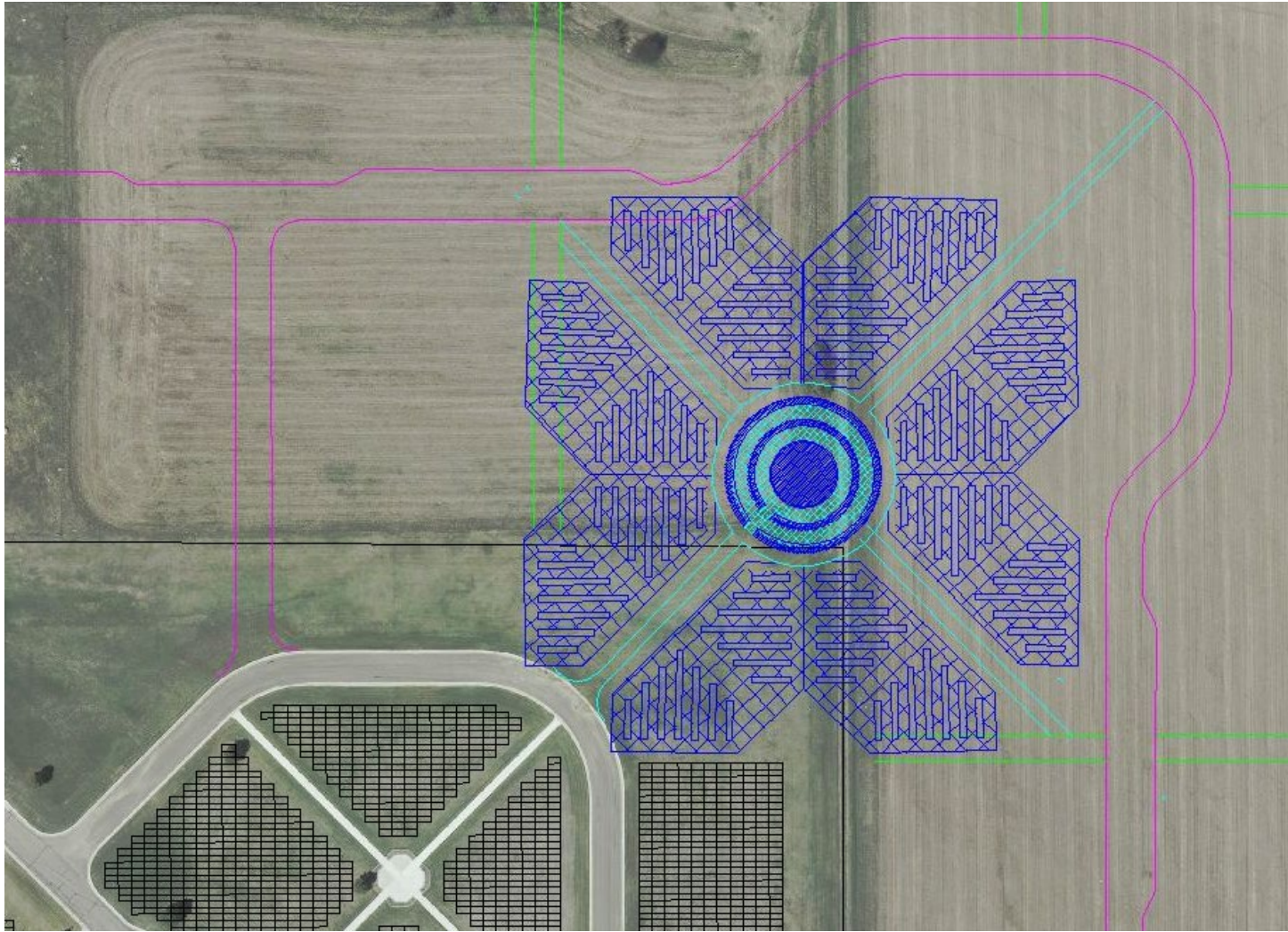
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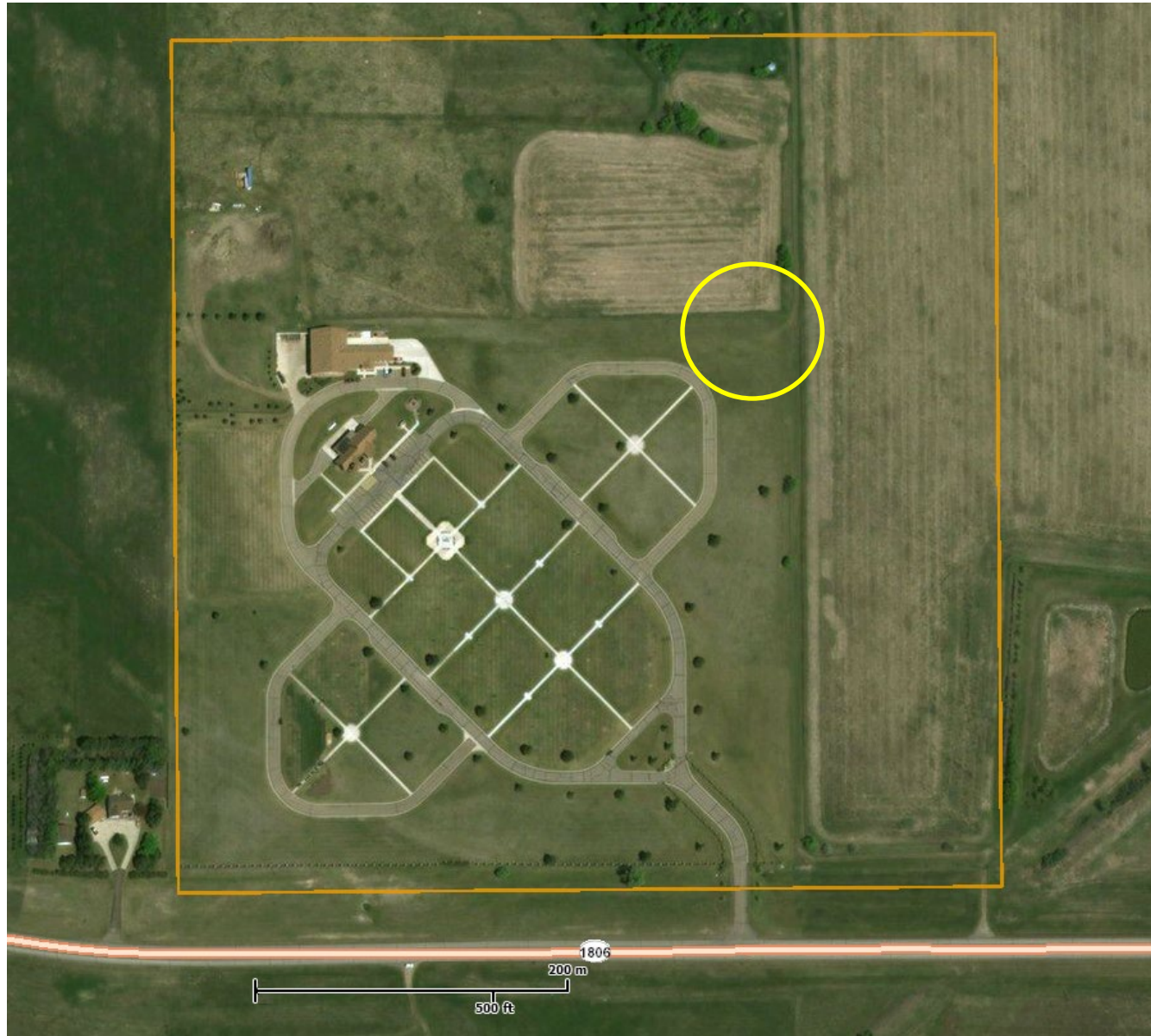
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Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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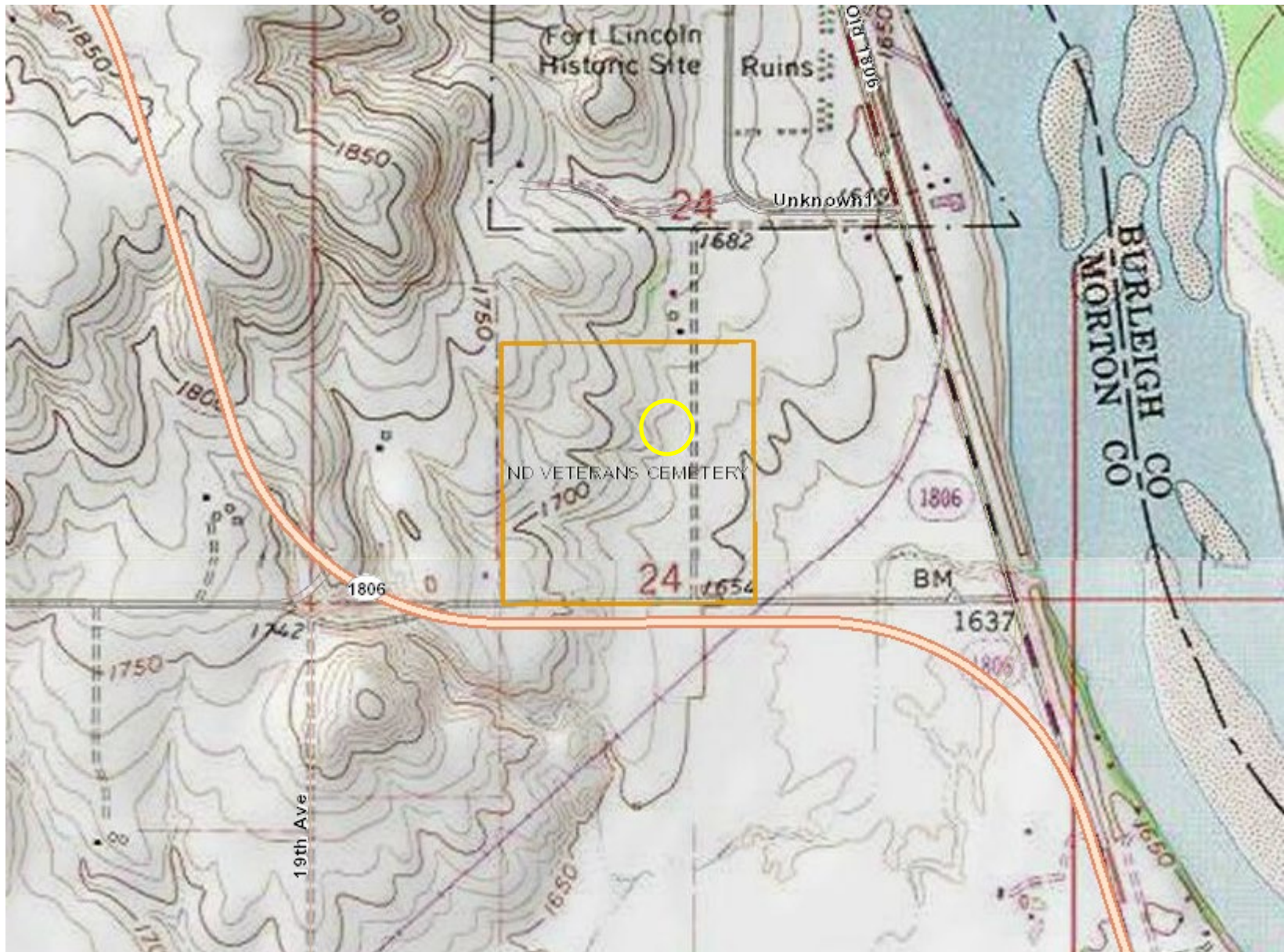
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Kevin Shelley
ND Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Dear Mr. Shelley:

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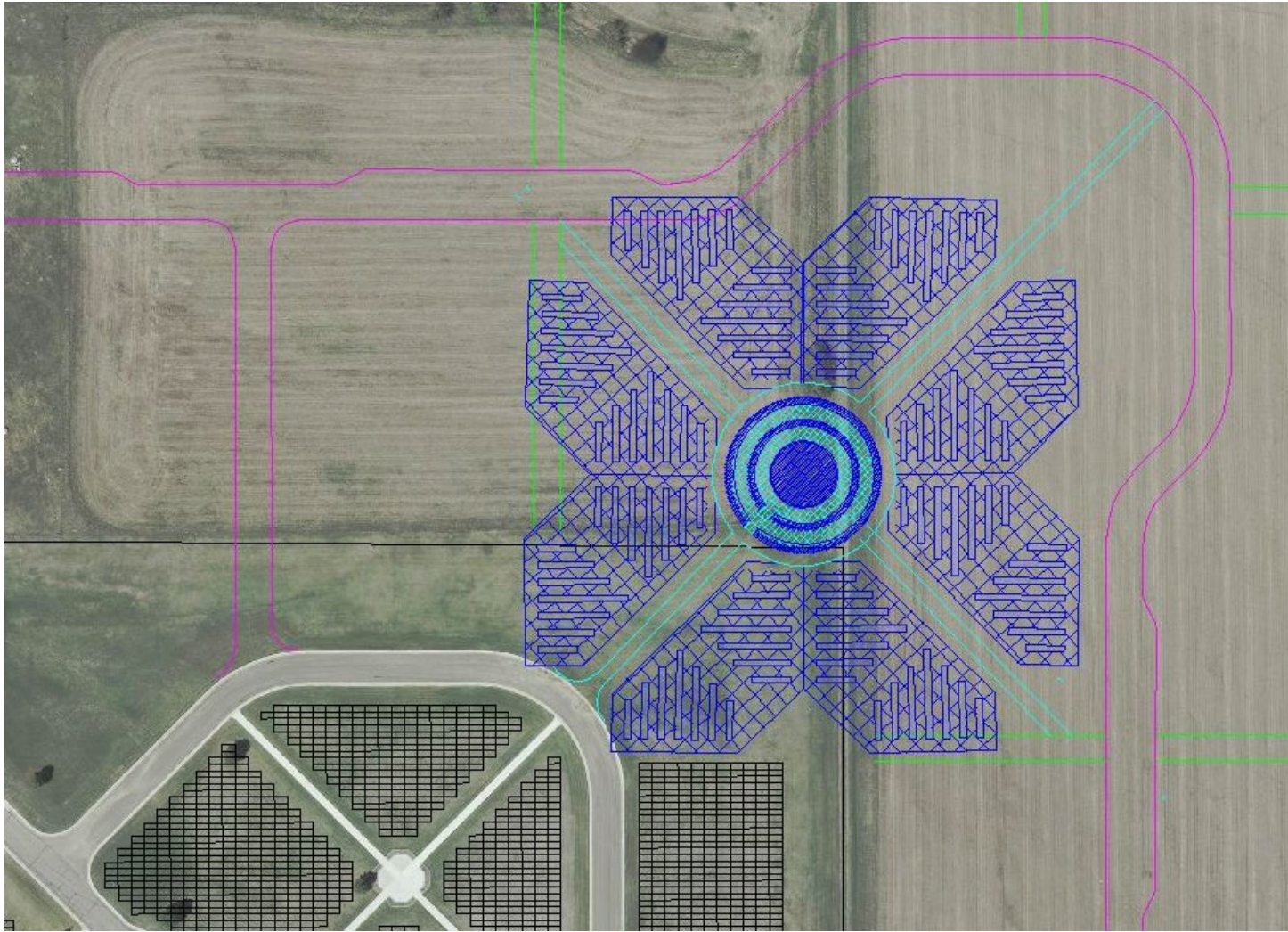
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Environmental Program Manager
North Dakota National Guard

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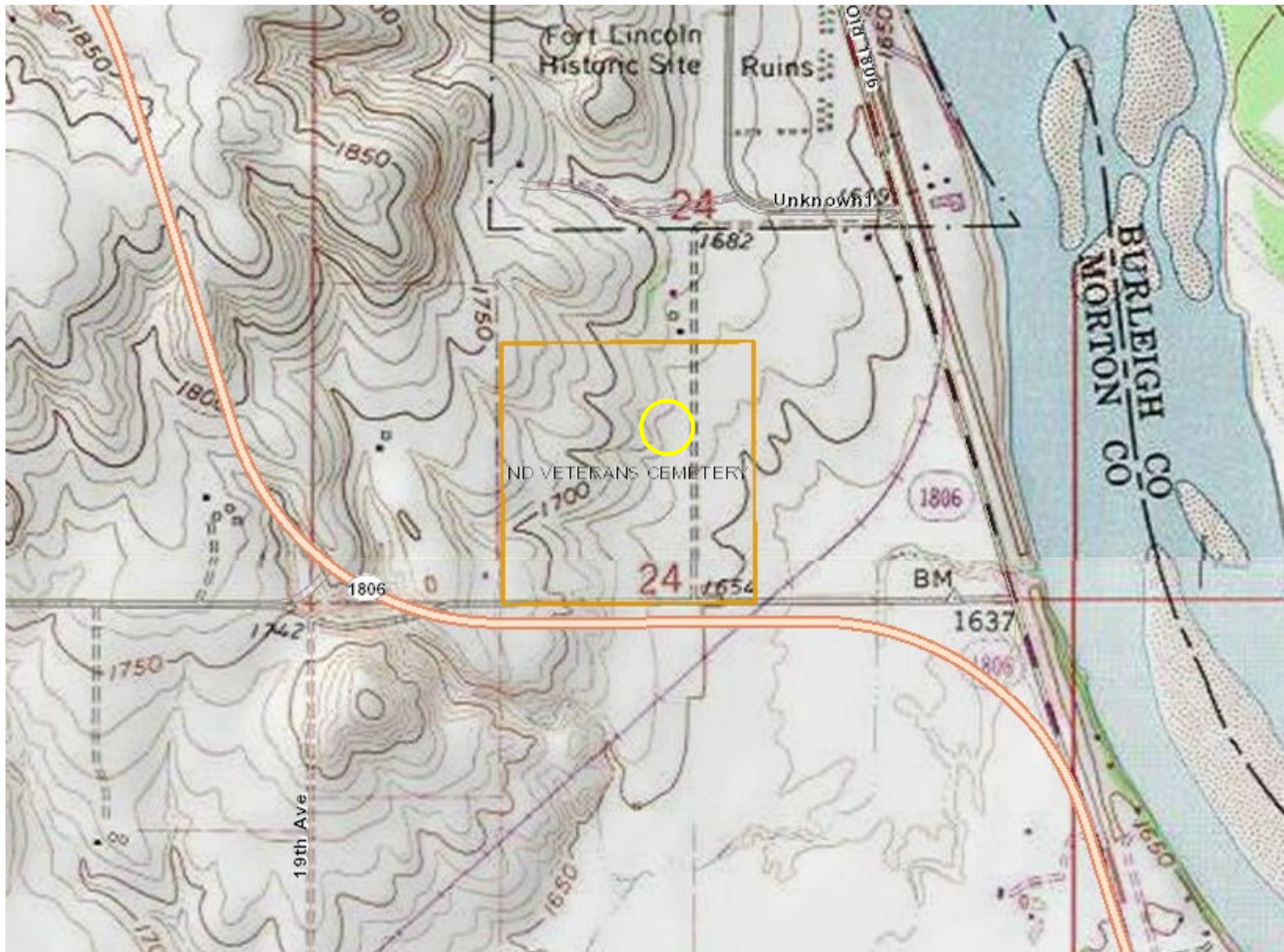
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Joel Galloway
Supervisory Hydrologist
U.S. Geological Survey
821 East Interstate Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Mr. Galloway:

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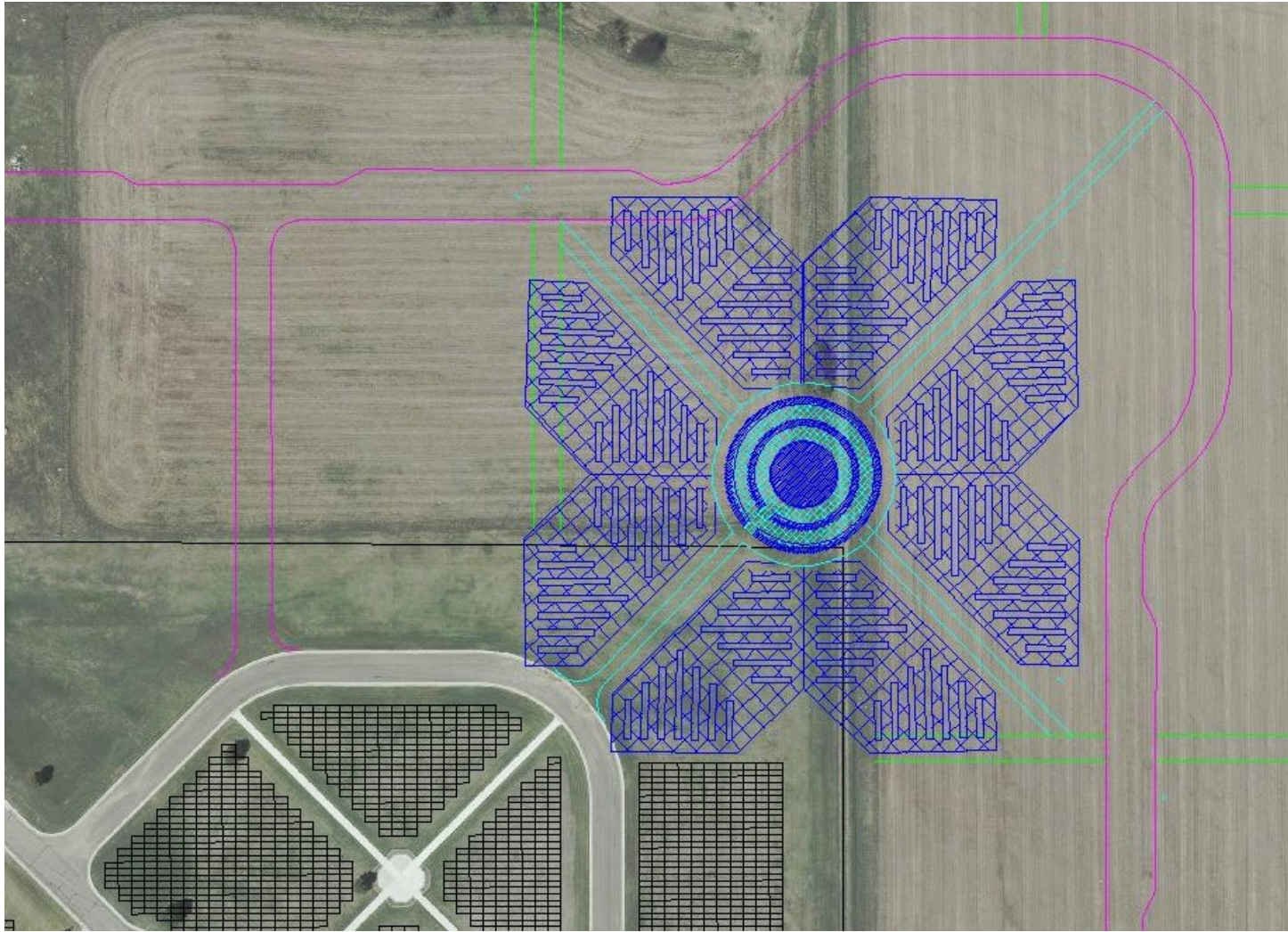
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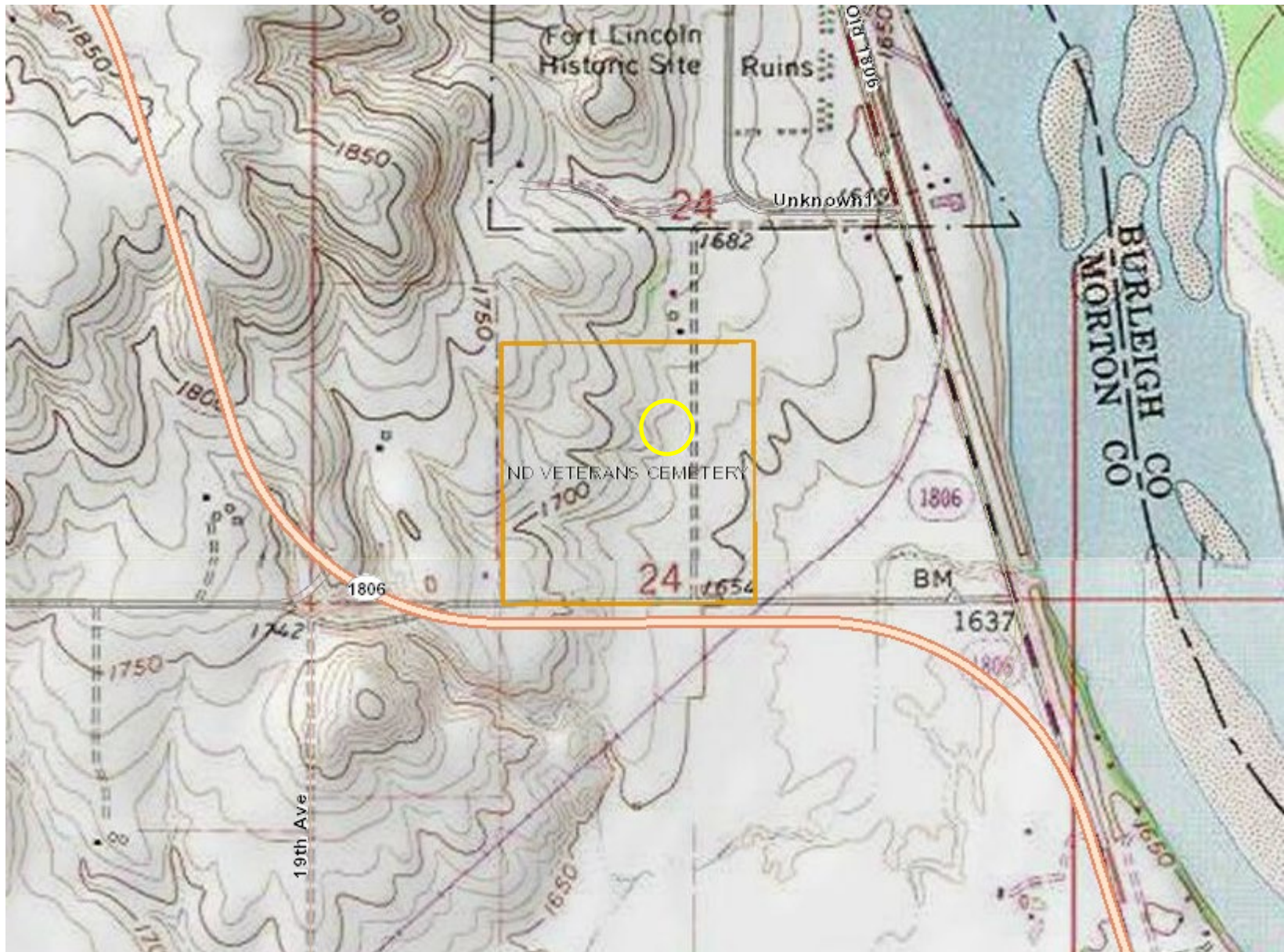
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NGND-ENV (200-1.7a)

August 30, 2019

Dennis Gill
Spokesperson
Wahpekute Band of Dakota
3322 Gill Rd
Waubay, SD 57273

Dear Mr. Gill:

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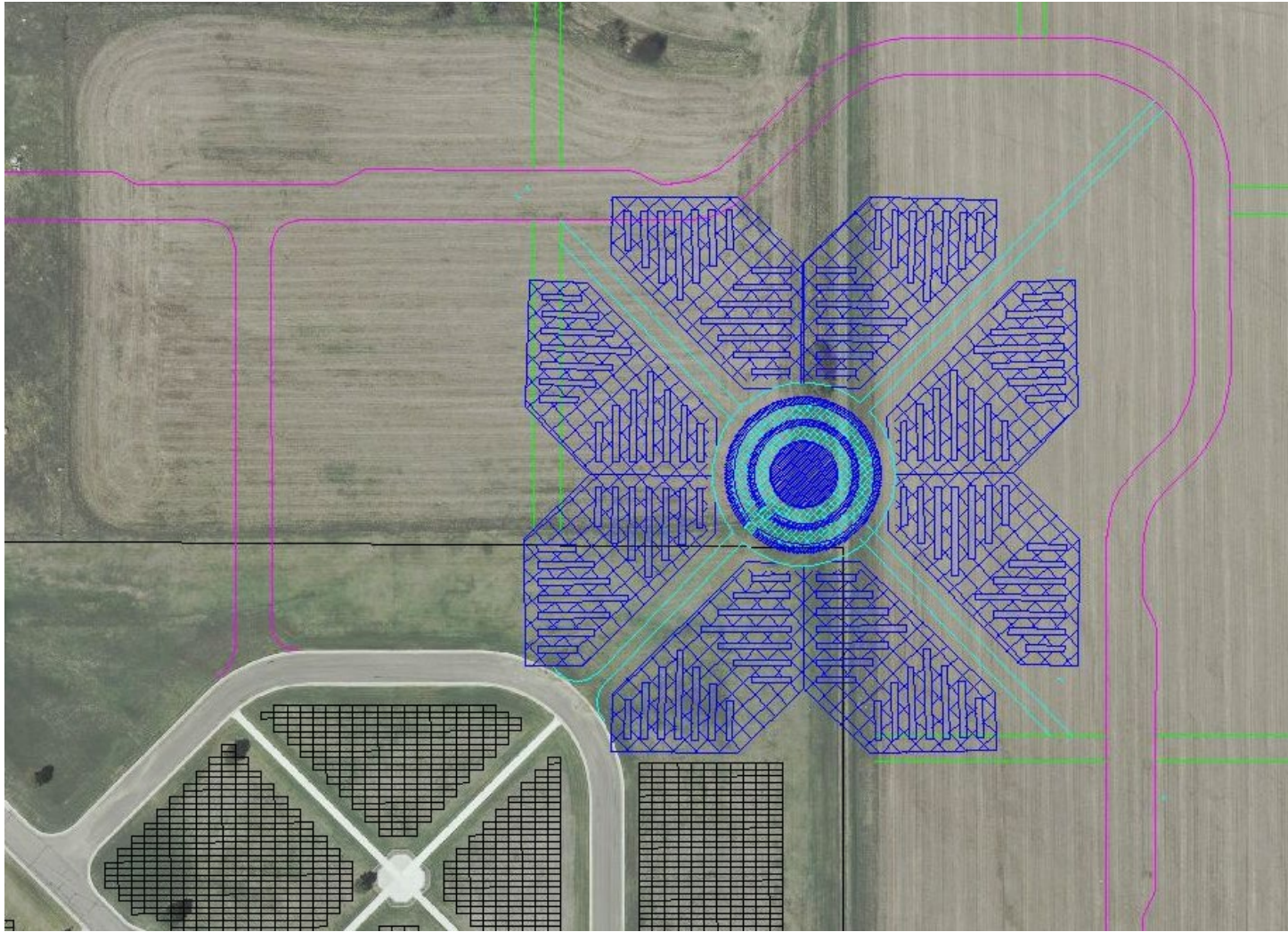
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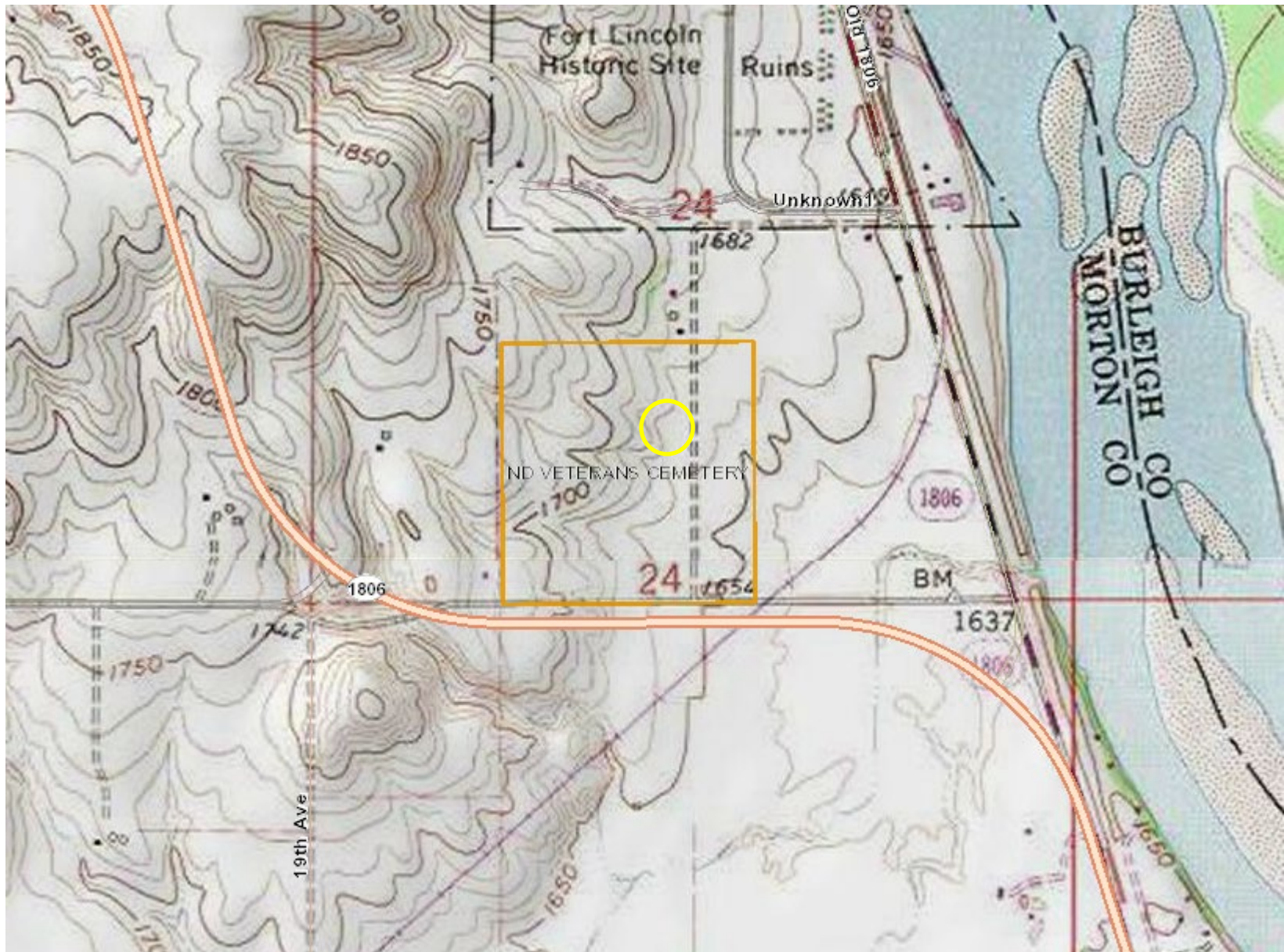
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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: [Pete Coffey](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:04:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(MHA\).pdf](#)

Sir:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me on or before September 30, 2019.

Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
Bismarck ND 58506-5511
701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it. Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931-2005

From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: [Erich Longie](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:05:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(SLST\).pdf](#)

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701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it. Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931-2005

From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: j.eagle@standingrock.org
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:06:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(SRST\).pdf](#)

Sir:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me on or before September 30, 2019.

Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
Bismarck ND 58506-5511
701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: Desjarlaisjr.jeffrey@yahoo.com
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:27:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(TMBC\).pdf](#)

Sir:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

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Stephen P. Herda
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["lowsiouxthpo@lowsioux.com"](mailto:lowsiouxthpo@lowsioux.com)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:28:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(LSIC\).pdf](#)

Sir or Madam:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me on or before September 30, 2019.

Stephen P. Herda
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["william.bigday@crow-nsn.gov"](mailto:william.bigday@crow-nsn.gov)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:29:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(CN\).pdf](#)

Sir:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me on or before September 30, 2019.

Stephen P. Herda
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NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it. Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931-2005

From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: [Dyan Youpee](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:30:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(FPAS\).pdf](#)

Madam:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

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Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["Teanna Limpy"](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:30:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(NCT\).pdf](#)

Madam:

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Stephen P. Herda
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: [Steve Vance](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:33:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(CRST\).pdf](#)

Sir:

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Stephen P. Herda
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NGND-ENV
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: [Trina Lone Hill](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:33:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(OST\).pdf](#)

Madam:

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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["TrinaLH@ogla.org"](mailto:TrinaLH@ogla.org)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:39:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(OST\).pdf](#)

Madam:

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Stephen P. Herda
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NGND-ENV
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: "rst.thpo@rst-nsn.gov"; "brjpd1@yahoo.com"
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:35:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(RST\).pdf](#)

Sir:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

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Stephen P. Herda
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PO Box 5511
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["dianned@swo-nsn.gov"; "dyandancer@yahoo.com"](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:36:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(SWST\).pdf](#)

Madam:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

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Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
Bismarck ND 58506-5511
701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["zihe2000@hotmail.com"](mailto:zihe2000@hotmail.com)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:37:00 AM
Attachments: [NDVC_EA_scoping\(WBD\).pdf](#)

Sir:

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NGND-ENV
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701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
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From: [Jason Helgeson](#)
To: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: Attached Image
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 7:42:19 AM
Attachments: [1334_001.pdf](#)

You will see the green line that runs north and south is a 7.2 kv single phase overhead power line.

The green line that runs east and west from the overhead line to the building is a 7.2 kv underground line.

That is what Mor Gran Sou has in the area that you may have to contend with.

Please let me know you received this.

Thanks

From: Mandan Copier
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 7:40 AM
To: Jason Helgeson
Subject: Attached Image

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The information in this message is intended for the named recipients only. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not print it or disseminate it or its contents. In such event, please notify the sender by return e-mail and delete the e-mail file immediately thereafter. Thank you.

43-24 43

3 NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY

3001M

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL 100

3004M

3A33
5
ND PARKS & RECREATION

3A30

From: [RST THPO](#)
To: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:28:11 AM

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Please correct Mr. Ben Rhodd email address to brhodd1@yahoo.com < Caution-<mailto:brhodd1@yahoo.com> >
Thank you
Kathy Arcoren, Admin Assist
RST THPO

On Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 10:35 AM Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil < Caution-<mailto:stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil> > > wrote:

Sir:

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Environmental Program Manager
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From: [Ben Rhodd](#)
To: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 11:39:13 PM

Mr. Herda,

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) has cultural interest in this area in conjunction with other Oceti Sakowin Tribes. We are unaware of any archaeological work having been performed at this site to date. Has there been any Class III inventory been conducted to date? If not, we would want to be a part of any investigation that may be planned. The area near Fort Abraham Lincoln was used prior to the establishment of the Fort by Lakota visiting relatives at the Arikara village to the north and to the south near Huff. Contrary to ethnographic reporting and historical text, the Lakota and the river Tribes were not adversarial as perceived by Euro-Americans. They traded extensively and intermarried; hence visiting of relatives, camping, and hunting along the river bottom.

Secondly, the RST would be interested in monitoring during any construction which would involve any sub-surface disturbance.

If there is a time that could be set aside for face to face consultation, we would appreciate sufficient time to schedule.

Thank you.

Ben Rhodd
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Email: rst.thpo@rst-nsn.gov

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 10:27:06 AM MDT, Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil> wrote:

Sir:

Due to a wrong email address, I am sending this revised email.

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed Friday, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me on or before September 30, 2019.

Stephen P. Herda

Environmental Program Manager

NGND-ENV

PO Box 5511

Bismarck ND 58506-5511

701 333 2070

701 333 2067 (fax)

373 2070 DSN

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From: [Erich Longie](#)
To: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 2:23:16 PM
Attachments: [NDVC EA scoping\(SLST\).pdf](#)
[Untitled attachment.00071.html](#)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Stephen,

Thank you for the notice. Spirit Lake will be glad to start the Section 106 Consultation process as soon as possible.

Erich Longie, EdD
THPO
Spirit Lake Nation
701.230.7029

"There were no temples or shrines among us save those of nature." Charles Alexander Eastman

On Aug 30, 2019, at 10:05 AM, Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil> <<mailto:stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil>> wrote:

Sir:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["Jon Eagle"](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 7:49:00 AM

Good morning Mr. Eagle,

To my knowledge, there was no tribal participation during these surveys.

Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
Bismarck ND 58506-5511
701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

It is usually futile to talk facts and analysis to people who are enjoying a sense of moral superiority in their ignorance. Thomas Sowell

-----Original Message-----

From: Jon Eagle [<mailto:j.eagle@standingrock.org>]
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil>
Cc: Belland, Kent A NFG (USA) <kent.a.belland.nfg@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion

Good afternoon,

Was there tribal participation in the surveys conducted?

Jon Eagle Sr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
PO Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538
(701) 854-8645; FAX (701) 854-2138

"Le makoce ki teunkilapi sni ki hehan un lakotapi kte sni."

-----Original Message-----

From: Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) [<mailto:stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil>]
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Jon Eagle
Cc: Belland, Kent A NFG (USA)
Subject: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion

Sir:

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed today, August 30, 2019, and you should

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701 333 2067 (fax)
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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](mailto:Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US))
To: "Jason Helgeson"
Subject: RE: Attached Image
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 7:53:00 AM

Good morning Mr. Helgeson,

Thank you for the information. We are already aware of this transmission line and its potential to effect the aesthetics of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

We greatly appreciate your input on this proposed project. We will keep you informed of the process as it proceeds.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me.

Thank you.

Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
Bismarck ND 58506-5511
701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

It is usually futile to talk facts and analysis to people who are enjoying a sense of moral superiority in their ignorance. Thomas Sowell

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Helgeson [<mailto:jhelgeso@morgransou.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 7:41 AM
To: Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: Attached Image

You will see the green line that runs north and south is a 7.2 kv single phase overhead power line.

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Thanks

From: Mandan Copier
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 7:40 AM
To: Jason Helgeson
Subject: Attached Image

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["Ben Rhodd"](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Bcc: [Helbling-Schafer, Pamela S NFG NG NDARNG \(USA\)](#); [Gaugler, Holly A NFG NG NDARNG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 7:41:00 AM
Attachments: [BCA16-1058 ND Veterans Cemetery Land Expansion FINAL.pdf](#)

Good morning Mr. Rhodd,

Please find attached a copy of the Class III survey conducted on the expansion lands. This report documents the discovery of three sites, of which two sites were deemed of importance for further evaluation. I will be sending you that report shortly. Please note that the attached reports do contain the location information and therefore should not be released to the public as the information is for official use only.

I greatly appreciate the information you shared regarding the interaction of tribes along the Missouri River. Such perspectives give me a little more insight into the relationship between Native peoples and their environment.

At this time, we have two tribes who are interested in consultation. Since the North Dakota National Guard is acting as a cooperating agency and partnering with the Department of Veterans Affairs on this proposal, we will need to discuss with them on how they want to conduct consultation. We will make every attempt to provide as much time as possible to schedule, plan and conduct the necessary consultation.

If at any time you would like to visit the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, we would welcome you to come. The site is open to the public at all times. We have staff there Monday through Friday, and they may be able assist you by providing information on the sites and could show you approximately where they are located.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please let either me or Mr. Kent Belland know. We would be happy to assist you in getting the information you need as quickly as possible.

Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
Bismarck ND 58506-5511
701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Rhodd [<mailto:brhodd1@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 11:39 PM
To: Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion

Mr. Herda,

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) has cultural interest in this area in conjunction with other Oceti Sakowin Tribes. We are unaware of any archaeological work having been performed at this site to date. Has there been any Class III inventory been conducted to date? If not, we would want to be a part of any investigation that may be planned. The area near Fort Abraham Lincoln was used prior to the establishment of the Fort by Lakota visiting relatives at the Arikara village to the north and to the south near Huff. Contrary to ethnographic reporting and historical text, the

Lakota and the river Tribes were not adversarial as perceived by Euro-Americans. They traded extensively and intermarried; hence visiting of relatives, camping, and hunting along the river bottom.

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Thank you.

Ben Rhodd
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Email: rst.thpo@rst-nsn.gov

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 10:27:06 AM MDT, Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil> wrote:

Sir:

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Environmental Program Manager

NGND-ENV

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701 333 2067 (fax)

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From: [Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG \(US\)](#)
To: ["Ben Rhodd"](#)
Cc: [Belland, Kent A NFG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 7:49:00 AM
Attachments: [Veteran's Cemetery Site Testing Rpt 3-29-2019.pdf](#)
[BCA16-1058 NDNG NDSHPO Letter.pdf](#)

Good morning Mr. Rhodd,

Attached is the detailed testing report, which is the second investigation of two sites located at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. This investigation was completed in order to make an eligibility determination for these sites. Both sites were investigated and determined to not be eligible.

Again, if I or Mr. Belland could be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Stephen P. Herda
Environmental Program Manager
NGND-ENV
PO Box 5511
Bismarck ND 58506-5511
701 333 2070
701 333 2067 (fax)
373 2070 DSN

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Rhodd [<mailto:brhodd1@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 11:39 PM
To: Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Expansion

Mr. Herda,

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) has cultural interest in this area in conjunction with other Oceti Sakowin Tribes. We are unaware of any archaeological work having been performed at this site to date. Has there been any Class III inventory been conducted to date? If not, we would want to be a part of any investigation that may be planned. The area near Fort Abraham Lincoln was used prior to the establishment of the Fort by Lakota visiting relatives at the Arikara village to the north and to the south near Huff. Contrary to ethnographic reporting and historical text, the Lakota and the river Tribes were not adversarial as perceived by Euro-Americans. They traded extensively and intermarried; hence visiting of relatives, camping, and hunting along the river bottom.

Secondly, the RST would be interested in monitoring during any construction which would involve any sub-surface disturbance.

If there is a time that could be set aside for face to face consultation, we would appreciate sufficient time to schedule.

Thank you.

Ben Rhodd
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Email: rst.thpo@rst-nsn.gov

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 10:27:06 AM MDT, Herda, Stephen P NFG NG NDARNG (US) <stephen.p.herda.nfg@mail.mil> wrote:

Sir:

Due to a wrong email address, I am sending this revised email.

Please find attached a letter regarding the expansion of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota. The attached letter was mailed Friday, August 30, 2019, and you should receive it next week.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me on or before September 30, 2019.

Stephen P. Herda

Environmental Program Manager

NGND-ENV

PO Box 5511

Bismarck ND 58506-5511

701 333 2070

701 333 2067 (fax)

373 2070 DSN

What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it. Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931-2005

Appendix B: Supporting Documents

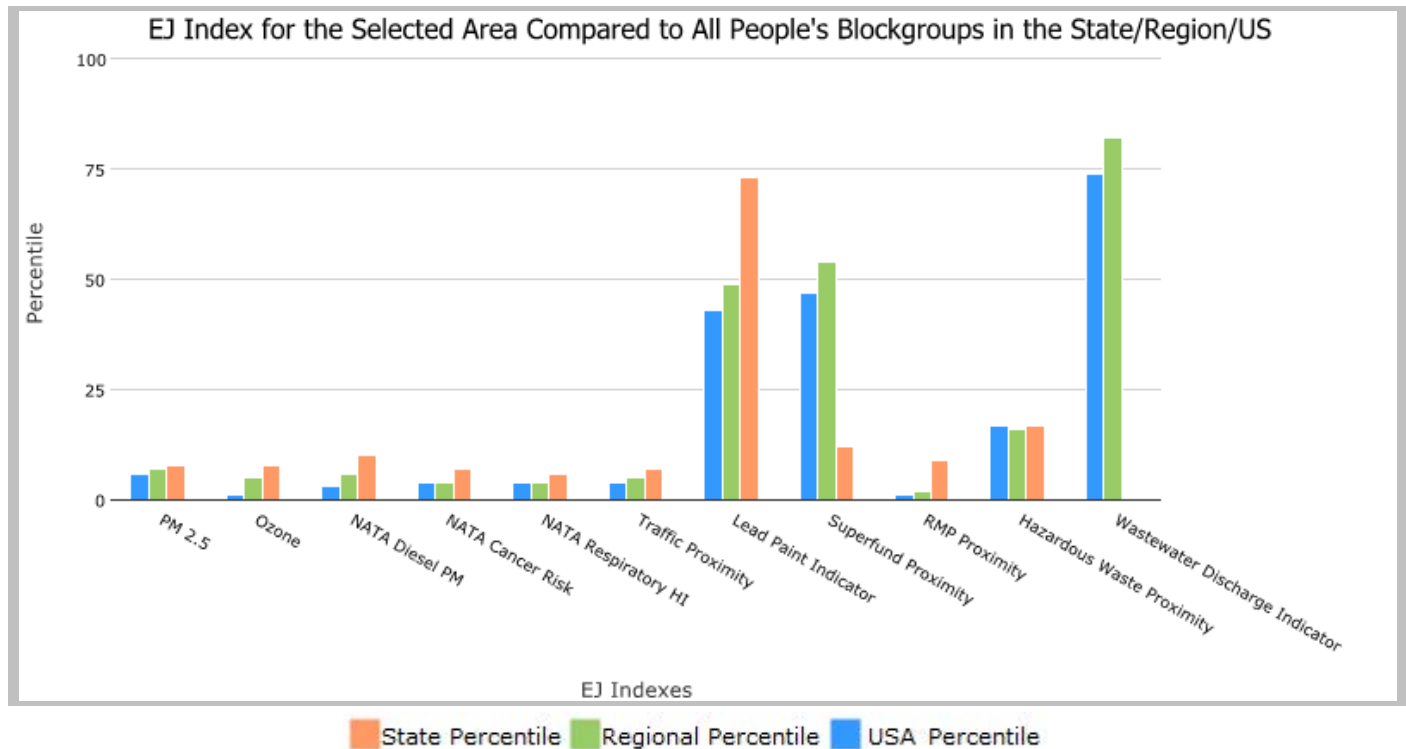
1 miles Ring Centered at 46.750843,-100.849470, NORTH DAKOTA, EPA Region 8

Approximate Population: 56

Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14

NDVC

| Selected Variables | State Percentile | EPA Region Percentile | USA Percentile |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| EJ Indexes | | | |
| EJ Index for PM2.5 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| EJ Index for Ozone | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| EJ Index for NATA* Diesel PM | 10 | 6 | 3 |
| EJ Index for NATA* Air Toxics Cancer Risk | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| EJ Index for NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| EJ Index for Traffic Proximity and Volume | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| EJ Index for Lead Paint Indicator | 73 | 49 | 43 |
| EJ Index for Superfund Proximity | 12 | 54 | 47 |
| EJ Index for RMP Proximity | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity | 17 | 16 | 17 |
| EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge Indicator | N/A | 82 | 74 |



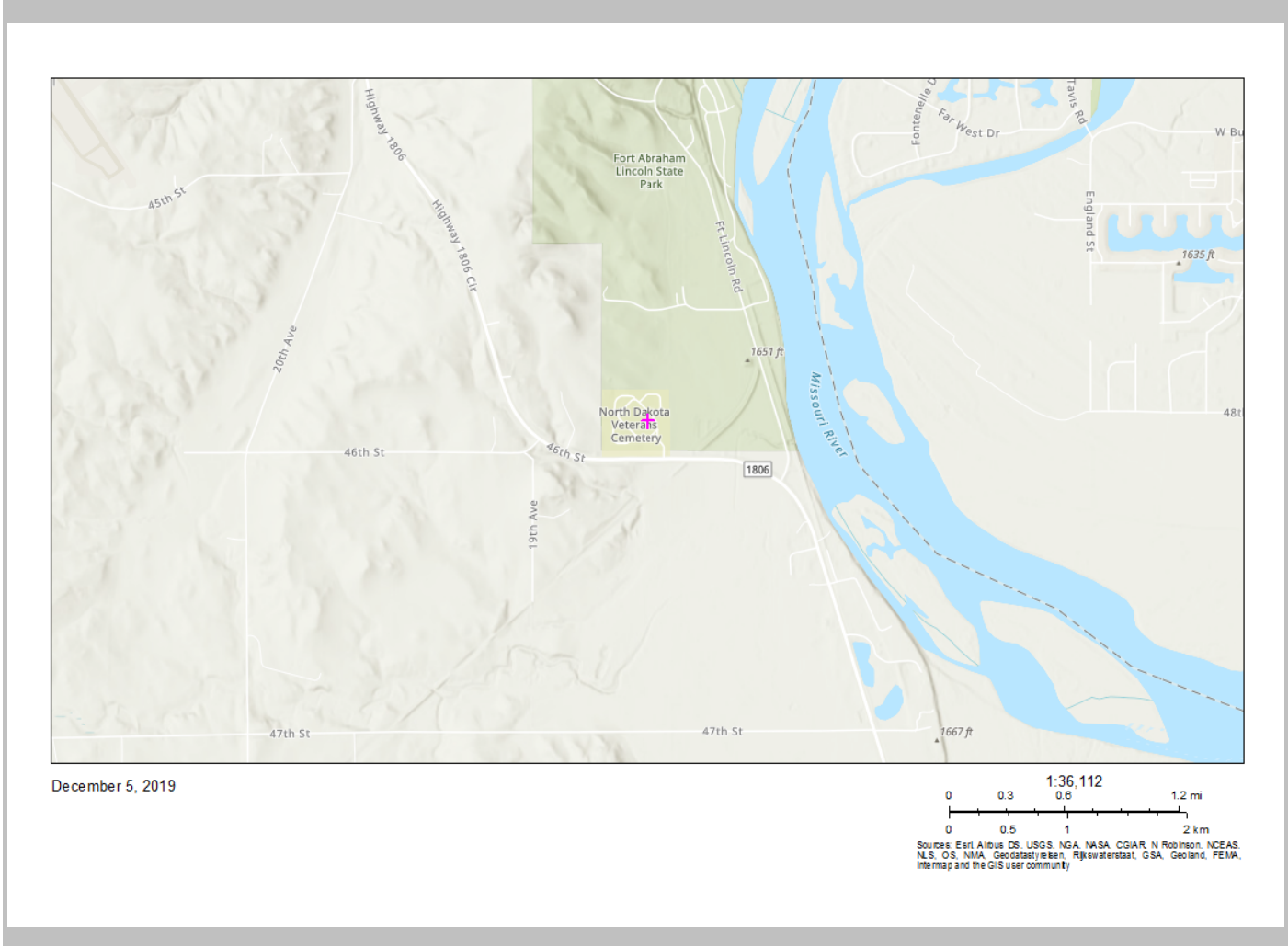
This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.

1 miles Ring Centered at 46.750843,-100.849470, NORTH DAKOTA, EPA Region 8

Approximate Population: 56

Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14

NDVC



| Sites reporting to EPA | |
|--|---|
| Superfund NPL | 0 |
| Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) | 0 |

EJSCREEN Report (Version 2019)



1 miles Ring Centered at 46.750843,-100.849470, NORTH DAKOTA, EPA Region 8

Approximate Population: 56

Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14

NDVC

| Selected Variables | Value | State Avg. | %ile in State | EPA Region Avg. | %ile in EPA Region | USA Avg. | %ile in USA |
|---|--------|------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| Environmental Indicators | | | | | | | |
| Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) | 4.46 | 4.91 | 32 | 6.4 | 10 | 8.3 | 0 |
| Ozone (ppb) | 38 | 36.7 | 79 | 49.2 | 8 | 43 | 21 |
| NATA* Diesel PM ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) | 0.307 | 0.35 | 61 | 0.423 | <50th | 0.479 | <50th |
| NATA* Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million) | 19 | 18 | 58 | 23 | <50th | 32 | <50th |
| NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index | 0.26 | 0.23 | 64 | 0.31 | <50th | 0.44 | <50th |
| Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road) | 260 | 220 | 71 | 460 | 56 | 750 | 54 |
| Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing) | 0.0069 | 0.27 | 9 | 0.22 | 17 | 0.28 | 11 |
| Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance) | 0.0029 | 0.005 | 40 | 0.11 | 2 | 0.13 | 0 |
| RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance) | 0.72 | 1 | 52 | 0.62 | 73 | 0.74 | 68 |
| Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance) | 0.17 | 0.32 | 50 | 0.63 | 40 | 4 | 30 |
| Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance) | 0 | 8.7 | N/A | 80 | 35 | 14 | 37 |
| Demographic Indicators | | | | | | | |
| Demographic Index | 8% | 20% | 11 | 26% | 5 | 36% | 3 |
| Minority Population | 4% | 14% | 20 | 24% | 7 | 39% | 8 |
| Low Income Population | 11% | 26% | 15 | 29% | 17 | 33% | 15 |
| Linguistically Isolated Population | 1% | 1% | 71 | 2% | 60 | 4% | 47 |
| Population With Less Than High School Education | 6% | 8% | 44 | 8% | 50 | 13% | 32 |
| Population Under 5 years of age | 4% | 7% | 20 | 7% | 23 | 6% | 29 |
| Population over 64 years of age | 17% | 14% | 66 | 13% | 73 | 15% | 67 |

* The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. EPA developed the NATA to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that NATA provides broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the NATA analysis can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment>.

For additional information, see: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

EJSCREEN is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJSCREEN outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

Location: User-specified point center at 46.750843, -100.849470
 Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius
 Description: NDVC

| Summary of ACS Estimates | | 2013 - 2017 |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Population | | 56 |
| Population Density (per sq. mile) | | 18 |
| Minority Population | | 2 |
| % Minority | | 4% |
| Households | | 24 |
| Housing Units | | 27 |
| Housing Units Built Before 1950 | | 0 |
| Per Capita Income | | 64,227 |
| Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1) | | 3.06 |
| % Land Area | | 93% |
| Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1) | | 0.25 |
| % Water Area | | 7% |

| | 2013 - 2017 ACS Estimates | Percent | MOE (±) |
|--|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Population by Race | | | |
| Total | 56 | 100% | 555 |
| Population Reporting One Race | 55 | 99% | 686 |
| White | 54 | 96% | 531 |
| Black | 1 | 1% | 79 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1% | 49 |
| Asian | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Pacific Islander | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Some Other Race | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Population Reporting Two or More Races | 1 | 1% | 58 |
| Total Hispanic Population | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Total Non-Hispanic Population | 56 | | |
| White Alone | 54 | 96% | 531 |
| Black Alone | 1 | 1% | 79 |
| American Indian Alone | 1 | 1% | 49 |
| Non-Hispanic Asian Alone | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Pacific Islander Alone | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Other Race Alone | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Two or More Races Alone | 1 | 1% | 58 |
| Population by Sex | | | |
| Male | 27 | 48% | 311 |
| Female | 29 | 52% | 322 |
| Population by Age | | | |
| Age 0-4 | 2 | 4% | 103 |
| Age 0-17 | 12 | 21% | 191 |
| Age 18+ | 44 | 79% | 417 |
| Age 65+ | 10 | 17% | 201 |

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2013 - 2017

Location: User-specified point center at 46.750843, -100.849470
 Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius
 Description: NDVC

| | 2013 - 2017 ACS Estimates | Percent | MOE (±) |
|--|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Population 25+ by Educational Attainment | | | |
| Total | 38 | 100% | 379 |
| Less than 9th Grade | 1 | 4% | 91 |
| 9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma | 1 | 2% | 55 |
| High School Graduate | 9 | 25% | 209 |
| Some College, No Degree | 12 | 31% | 222 |
| Associate Degree | 4 | 11% | 114 |
| Bachelor's Degree or more | 15 | 39% | 234 |
| Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English | | | |
| Total | 54 | 100% | 521 |
| Speak only English | 53 | 97% | 447 |
| Non-English at Home ¹⁺²⁺³⁺⁴ | 1 | 3% | 91 |
| ¹ Speak English "very well" | 1 | 2% | 87 |
| ² Speak English "well" | 0 | 0% | 10 |
| ³ Speak English "not well" | 0 | 0% | 29 |
| ⁴ Speak English "not at all" | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| ³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than well" | 0 | 0% | 29 |
| ²⁺³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than very well" | 0 | 0% | 29 |
| Linguistically Isolated Households* | | | |
| Total | 0 | 100% | 29 |
| Speak Spanish | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Speak Other Indo-European Languages | 0 | 100% | 28 |
| Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Speak Other Languages | 0 | 0% | 9 |
| Households by Household Income | | | |
| Household Income Base | 24 | 100% | 246 |
| < \$15,000 | 2 | 9% | 95 |
| \$15,000 - \$25,000 | 1 | 3% | 53 |
| \$25,000 - \$50,000 | 4 | 18% | 186 |
| \$50,000 - \$75,000 | 4 | 17% | 130 |
| \$75,000 + | 13 | 54% | 253 |
| Occupied Housing Units by Tenure | | | |
| Total | 24 | 100% | 246 |
| Owner Occupied | 15 | 63% | 173 |
| Renter Occupied | 9 | 37% | 186 |
| Employed Population Age 16+ Years | | | |
| Total | 46 | 100% | 421 |
| In Labor Force | 34 | 75% | 366 |
| Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force | 0 | 1% | 35 |
| Not In Labor Force | 11 | 25% | 266 |

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of anyrace.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.

Location: User-specified point center at 46.750843, -100.849470

Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius

Description: NDVC

| | 2013 - 2017 ACS Estimates | Percent | MOE (±) |
|---|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Population by Language Spoken at Home* | | | |
| Total (persons age 5 and above) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| English | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Spanish | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| French | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| French Creole | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Italian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Portuguese | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| German | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Yiddish | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other West Germanic | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Scandinavian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Greek | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Russian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Polish | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Serbo-Croatian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Slavic | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Armenian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Persian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Gujarathi | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hindi | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Urdu | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Indic | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Indo-European | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Chinese | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Japanese | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Korean | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Mon-Khmer, Cambodian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hmong | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Thai | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Laotian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Vietnamese | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Asian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Tagalog | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Pacific Island | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Navajo | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Native American | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hungarian | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Arabic | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hebrew | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| African | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other and non-specified | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Total Non-English | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2013 - 2017.

*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.

Location: User-specified point center at 46.750843, -100.849470

Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius

Description: NDVC

| Summary | | Census 2010 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Population | | 43 |
| Population Density (per sq. mile) | | 14 |
| Minority Population | | 3 |
| % Minority | | 6% |
| Households | | 16 |
| Housing Units | | 17 |
| Land Area (sq. miles) | | 3.10 |
| % Land Area | | 94% |
| Water Area (sq. miles) | | 0.21 |
| % Water Area | | 6% |

| Population by Race | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Total | 43 | ----- |
| Population Reporting One Race | 42 | 99% |
| White | 41 | 94% |
| Black | 0 | 1% |
| American Indian | 1 | 3% |
| Asian | 0 | 0% |
| Pacific Islander | 0 | 0% |
| Some Other Race | 0 | 0% |
| Population Reporting Two or More Races | 1 | 1% |
| Total Hispanic Population | 1 | 1% |
| Total Non-Hispanic Population | 42 | 99% |
| White Alone | 40 | 94% |
| Black Alone | 0 | 1% |
| American Indian Alone | 1 | 3% |
| Non-Hispanic Asian Alone | 0 | 0% |
| Pacific Islander Alone | 0 | 0% |
| Other Race Alone | 0 | 0% |
| Two or More Races Alone | 1 | 1% |

| Population by Sex | Number | Percent |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Male | 22 | 51% |
| Female | 21 | 49% |

| Population by Age | Number | Percent |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Age 0-4 | 3 | 7% |
| Age 0-17 | 10 | 24% |
| Age 18+ | 33 | 76% |
| Age 65+ | 5 | 12% |

| Households by Tenure | Number | Percent |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| Total | 16 | |
| Owner Occupied | 12 | 74% |
| Renter Occupied | 4 | 26% |

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON DC 20420

NOV. 1 2019

MG Alan S. Dohrmann
The Adjutant General
Office of the Adjutant General
PO Box 5511
Bismarck, ND 58506

Subject: Delegation of Authority for National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation

Applicability: Applies Nationwide to State or Tribal Veterans Cemetery Undertakings Funded by the National Cemetery Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides grants to states, tribes and territories to establish expand or improve State or Tribal Veterans cemeteries.

Information about the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program can be found at: www.cem.va.gov/grants/.

As part of its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR § 800), NCA is authorizing its grant applicants to initiate consultation on its behalf, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4). NCA applicants and their authorized representatives may consult with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) to initiate the process established under 36 CFR § 800 and to carry out some of its steps. Specifically, NCA applicants are authorized to indenture consulting parties, identify historic properties and work with consulting parties to assess any adverse effects to historic properties.¹

Grant applicants are advised that they must involve NCA in consultation whenever:

- Any consulting party, including the grant applicant, SHPO, THPO or Indian tribe, proposes that the undertaking may have an adverse effect on historic properties, as defined pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(a);
- There is disagreement between a grant applicant and the SHPO, THPO or Indian tribe about the scope of the area of potential effect, identification and evaluation of historic properties, and/or the assessment of adverse effects;
- There is objection from a consulting party or the public regarding its involvement in the consultation process, recommended findings and determinations, or implementation of agreed upon terms; or
- There is potential for foreclosure or intentional adverse effects (such as anticipatory demolition), as defined pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.9(b) and (c).

NCA expects Veterans Cemetery Grants Program applicants to involve consulting parties in developing recommendations about Section 106 findings and determinations, and to carry out the exchange of documentation and information in a respectful, constructive and predictable manner, within the timeframes provided within 36 CFR § 800.

For questions about this blanket authorization, please contact Dr. Joseph Imamura, Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, at (202) 461-4088 or joseph.imamura@va.gov.

Sincerely,

George D. Eisenbach, Jr.
Director, Veterans Cemetery Grants Program

¹ See the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Section 106 Applicant Toolkit: www.achp.gov/apptoolkit.

Appendix C: Public Comments