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August 23, 2006

Public Service Commission  
 State Capitol  
 Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: FPL Energy Oliver County Wind, LLC (Oliver Wind) Proposal to Interconnect Oliver Wind's Proposed Wind Energy Generating Project to Square Butte Electric Cooperative's Existing Center Substation

Dear Sir or Madam:

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the above referenced proposal from Oliver Wind to construct approximately 532 feet of 230 kV transmission line and associated substation facilities located in Section 33, T142N, R83W, Oliver County.

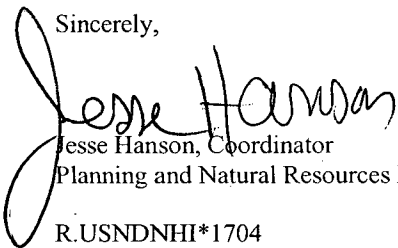
Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare plants and ecological communities). The project as defined does not affect state park lands that we manage or Land and Water Conservation Fund recreation projects that we coordinate.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory has limited rare species information from the project area. For your information, we do have records for the occurrence of *Potamogeton vaginatus* (sheathed pondweed) and in a section adjacent to the project area indicating that the habitat in the project area may be suited for this specie or other rare, threatened, sensitive or endangered species.

Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal and ecological community conservation; management and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact Kathy Duttonhefner (701-328-5370 or [kgduttonhefner@nd.gov](mailto:kgduttonhefner@nd.gov)) of our staff. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

  
 Jesse Hanson, Coordinator  
 Planning and Natural Resources Division

R.USNDNHI\*1704

.....  
*Play in our backyard!*

North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory  
Species of Concern and Significant Ecological Communities

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Township & Range	Section	TRS Notes	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Last Observation
POTAMOGETON VAGINATUS	SHEATHED PONDWEED	141N083W	4		S3	G5		1978-07-31

**North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory Biological and Conservation Data Disclaimer**

The quantity and quality of data collected by the North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in North Dakota have never been thoroughly surveyed, and new species are still being discovered. For these reasons, the Natural Heritage Inventory cannot provide a definite statement on the presence, absence, or condition of biological elements in any part of North Dakota. Natural Heritage data summarize the existing information known at the time of the request. Our data are continually upgraded and information is continually being added to the database. This data should never be regarded as final statements on the elements or areas that are being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys.