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February 20, 2009

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PUBLIC HEARING COMMISSION

Mr. Mark S. Plank, Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff
USDA-RD
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20520-0700

**NDSHPO REF. : 08-0516 USDA-RD RUS/ND-PSC Basin Electric
Prairie Winds-ND1 Wind Energy Project, Ward County, ND, Class III CRI
Report**

Dear Mr. Plank:

We have received and reviewed correspondence and reporting for: 08-0516
"PrairieWinds - ND 1Project: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of a
Proposed Wind Energy Farm in Ward County, North Dakota," by Blain
Fandrich (Ethnoscience, July, 2008) and attached are comments regarding it.

We look forward to reviewing the revised report. Clarification on those matters
to be addressed, as indicated in the agency comments, will assist in Section 106
review and in reaching a determination of effect.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project. Also, we look forward to
further consultation and to teleconference or other communications on it. If
you have questions please contact either Paul Picha at (701) 328-3574 or Susan
Quinnell at squinnell@nd.gov or (701) 328-3576.

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
and
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota
c: Patrick Fahn, ND PSC, with enc.

8 PU-08-75 Filed: 2/20/2009 Pages: 3
Letter & Comments re. Class III Cultural Resource
Inventory

State Historical Society of North Dakota

February 20, 2009

Paul R. Picha

NDSHPO Ref.: 08-0516 USDA-RD RUS/ ND-PSC Basin Electric PrairieWinds Wind Farm

“PrairieWinds - ND 1Project: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of a Proposed Wind Energy Farm in Ward County, North Dakota”

General Comments:

The report overall would be strengthened by the information requested in three areas: Introduction (Section 1), Methods (Section 5), and Conclusion (Section 8) and in accord with the USDA-RD review comments. Also, we agree with the scope and nature of the federal agency review comments.

Introduction

The addition of a project area base map, as indicated by USDA-RD, is needed. In addition, please add a representative photograph(s) of the project area. The implication is that the project is self-contained. As a Wind Farm where and how is the generated power to be distributed? A fuller description of the project and its individual components would be helpful.

Methods and Reporting

For project accordance with 2006 NDSHPO Guidelines Manual covering methods and reporting (pp. 25-32), please see at:

<http://history.nd.gov/hp/hpforms.html>

Conclusion

Please clarify and outline what are the next step(s) in the Section 106 process that will be pursued, as the identification phase is largely what is being reported on in the present document.

Specific Comments:

Page	Para/Line	Comment
1.1		Suggest reword to: inventory was conducted to be in accord with and in compliance with applicable federal and state regulations.
Fig. 1.1		Add a base map (Fig. 1.1) showing the project area
Fig. 1.1		Change to Fig. 1.2.
Fig. 1.3		Add project area photograph(s) (Fig. 1.3) showing representative local conditions and topography.
2.1		Please update the reference to SHSND (2008) for the <i>North Dakota Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation: Archaeological Component</i> , Souris River Study Unit (Chapter 11) that is available online at:

<http://history.nd.gov/hp/hpforms.html>

- 3.1 Please see comment above.
- 6.1 Please address per USDA-RD comment regarding “Site A” and “Site B” Alternatives.
- 8.2 Table 8.1 Please change to: Undetermined
- 9.3 Please update to SHSND (2008) as noted above.