



August 27, 2009

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AUG 31 2009

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Merlan E. Paaverud
Director and SHPO, State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: NDSHPO REF.: 09-0662 PSC Minnesota Bison I Wind Farm, Transmission Line(s), and Ancillary Facilities (T140-141N R85-86W, Morton and Oliver Counties)

Dear Mr. Paaverud:

We are writing to inform your office of a proposed 22.3-mile transmission line associated with the Bison I Wind Project (Project), a 76 megawatt (MW) facility spread over approximately 15-square-miles in Morton and Oliver counties, North Dakota (Figure 1). As with permitting efforts for the Project itself, the transmission line is subject to a similar North Dakota Public Services Commission (NDPSC) review. The information provided below is for your information and comment as appropriate. Project proponent Minnesota Power (MP) will submit an application to the NDPSC for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (Corridor Certificate) and a Route Permit to construct the Bison I Wind Project transmission line. The Route will consist of a 230-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line from the Project substation in Morton County to the interconnection point (Square Butte Substation) near Center, North Dakota (Figure 1).

Between April and July 2009 HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR), on behalf of MP, completed archival and field review of components of the Bison I facility and reported on that work to you in the form of a Summary Cultural Resources Inventory Report (July 2009). We are supplementing that review with additional fieldwork in August and September and, as appropriate, additional archival research surrounding the Project facility and the transmission line. Reports will be sent to you as they are completed. The additional work specific to the transmission line will focus on the following sections,

Township	Range	Sections
140N	86W	1- 5, 9
141N	86W	25 -27, 34-36
140N	85W	1-6
141N	85W	1, 12, 13, 21-36
141N	84W	1-10, 16-20, 29-32
142N	84W	25-28, 31-36
141N	83W	3-6
142N	83W	19-21, 27-34

No federal agency has regulatory authority over any aspect of this project and therefore no consultation is applicable under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). However MP understands that the PSC, per North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 49-22-09, requires that MP understand any effects on historic facilities, and paleontological and archaeological sites.

As previously discussed, HDR and MP believe that an archaeological inventory of the construction footprint is essential to understand any project effects to these resources. In addition, the survey would note historic facilities within the construction footprint. The data would be compiled in a Class III Archaeological Resource Inventory report. HDR will review the archival information for the Route and vicinity to understand previously identified resources; field review will be limited to an approximately 200-foot wide Route to encompass the proposed transmission line alignment and adjacent construction areas. As project development and refinement occurs MP anticipates additional coordination with your office and reporting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments on this letter or the cultural resources work for the Project or the transmission line. I am available at 763.278.5992 or Stephen.sabatke@hdrinc.com.

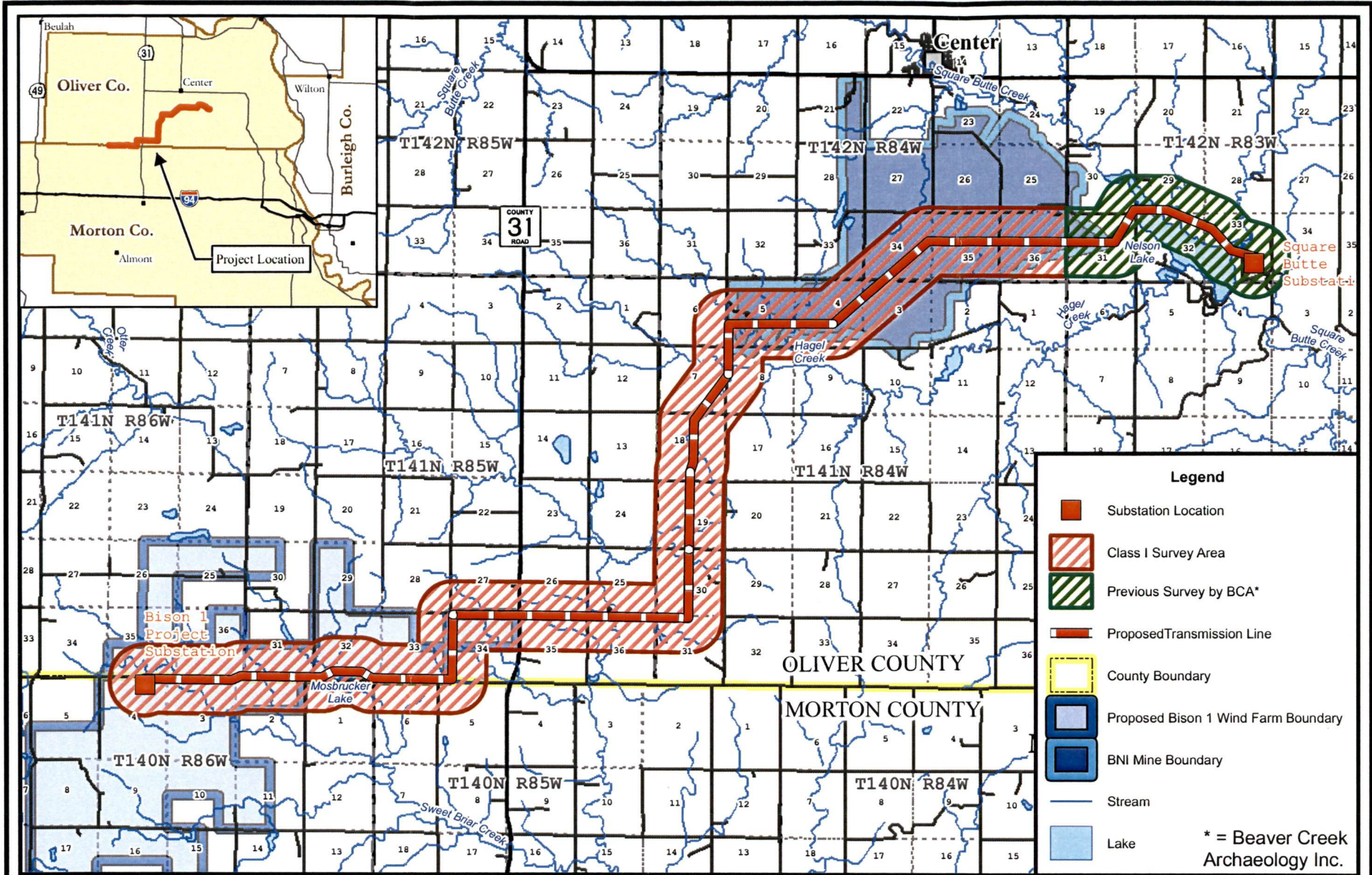
Sincerely,
HDR ENGINEERING, INC.



Stephen Sabatke
Principal Investigator

Enclosures: Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map, Proposed Transmission Route, Bison I and BNI Wind Project

Cc: Jim Atkinson, Minnesota Power
Patrick Fahn, North Dakota Public Services Commission
Todd Mattson, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Paul Picha, State Historical Society of North Dakota



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Project Vicinity Map
Proposed 230 kV Transmission Route
Minnesota Power
Morton & Oliver Counties, ND

* = Beaver Creek Archaeology Inc.