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June 16, 2011

Mr. Daniel Flo
Barr Engineering Co.
4700 West 77th St, Suite 200
Minneapolis MN 55435

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JUN 17 2011

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ND SHPO REF: 11-1723 Bison 3 Wind Energy Project in Morton and Oliver Counties, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Flo,

We reviewed your preliminary information on ND SHPO REF: 11-1723 Bison 3 Wind Energy Project in Morton and Oliver Counties, North Dakota. There is potential for unrecorded and recorded cultural resource properties in a variety of physiographic settings in the overall project area. If the project requires permits issued by a federal and/or state agency (e.g., WAPA, RUS, COE, USFWS, BOR, PSC) then the respective agencies are to be consulted regarding their recommendations on the project. As a potential federal undertaking, we encourage agency consultation as part of the review process. Consultation should also include tribal nations, North Dakota Indian Affairs, ND DOT regarding any Scenic Byways, and managers or owners of properties maintained for recreational or scenic value.

We recommend that a Class I Cultural Resource Inventory (file and records search with project maps) be submitted. A Class II (reconnaissance) survey is warranted for standing structures in the visual Area of Potential Effect (APE). Class III (pedestrian) surveys will be warranted for all areas directly impacted by the project, including crane paths, access roads, transmissions lines, turbine pads, and any borrow areas. We encourage that tribal monitors be invited to survey the APE. As part of the Class III Inventory, NDCRS site updates should be submitted on all sites resurveyed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project to date. We look forward to further review of cultural resource surveys and site forms. If you have any questions please contact Paul Picha, Chief Archaeologist (701) 328-3574 or Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator at (701) 328-3576, e-mail squinnell@nd.gov

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) and
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

C: Patrick Fahn, PSC

5 **PU-11-162** Filed: 6/17/2011 Pages: 1
Letter recommending class I, II, and III CRI's

State Historical Society of North Dakota

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.