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September 26, 2011

Ms. Ann-Marie Griger AICP
Tetra Tech EC, Inc.
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd, Suite 253 East
Austin TX 78757

ND SHPO REF: 11-1281 PSC/NextEra Energy Resources, LLC Oliver III Wind Energy Center in Morton County, North Dakota

Dear Ms. Griger,

We reviewed your preliminary information regarding ND SHPO REF: 11-1281 PSC/NextEra Energy Resources, LLC Oliver III Wind Energy Center in Morton County, 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 a Class I Cultural Resource Inventory (file and records search with project maps) be submitted to this office. A Class II (reconnaissance) survey is warranted for standing structures in the visual Area of Potential Effect (APE). **ND SHPO requests a map of the actual placement areas of wind turbines to determine the visual Area of Potential Effect, as we don't use a set distance for visual effects.** Class III (pedestrian) surveys will be warranted for all areas directly impacted by the project, including crane paths, access roads, transmissions lines and turbine pads. 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

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SEP 27 2011

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