

**CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
OLIVER III WIND ENERGY CENTER**

MORTON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA



Prepared for:



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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the 48 megawatt (MW) Oliver III Wind Energy Center (the Project) located 18 miles (mi) northwest of Bismarck, in Morton County, North Dakota. Work was performed by Tetra Tech under contract to NextEra Energy Resources LLC (NextEra). The Project includes the construction of 30 1.6-MW General Electric (GE) turbines (plus 4 alternates), associated access and service roads, electrical collection system, and substation. The Oliver III Wind Energy Center will connect to the Square Butte facilities east of Nelson Lake in the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 142 North, Range 83 West via the proposed 9.2 mi Oliver III Transmission Line.

The Project requires a Certificate of Site Compatibility from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC); therefore, the Project is subject to review by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) under the North Dakota Century Code 55-02-07. The purpose of this investigation is to provide the necessary information for the SHSND review by confirming the presence or absence of archaeological sites and architectural history properties within the area of potential effect (APE). The APE is based on the turbine layout dated September 2, 2011 and the subsequent road and collection layout dated November 20, 2011 (the Layout), and includes all areas (*and associated archaeological and architectural resources within those areas*) that may be permanently impacted during construction of the Project.

Tetra Tech's literature review identified no previously documented archaeological sites, site leads, or architectural properties within the APE. During the Class III Cultural Resources Inventory, Tetra Tech documented six archaeological sites within the APE including one Native American stone feature site (32MO1088), one Native American isolated find (979.013); two Euro-American linear stone alignments (32MO1085 and 32MO1087), one Euro-American foundation (32MO1084); and one stone pile of indeterminate cultural affiliation (979.201). In addition, four Euro-American stone pile sites were recorded (Sites 979.028, 979.029, 979.202, and 979.203). Upon the request of the SHPO, the Euro-American stone pile sites were not recorded with the state and were not given official site numbers.

Tetra Tech recommended avoidance of five archaeological sites and one of the Euro-American stone piles (979.028). Avoidance was not recommended for the isolated find (979.013) or the remaining Euro-American stone piles. Tetra Tech also recommended the creation of avoidance buffers for Native American stone cairns (100 ft), Native American tipi rings and Euro-American foundation (50 ft) and, Euro-American stone alignments and stone piles, and stone piles of indeterminate cultural affiliation (16 ft).

If these sites and their associated avoidance buffers can be redesigned around and avoided during construction, then Tetra Tech recommends a determination of *No Historic Properties Affected*. The Euro-American stone piles (excluding Site 979.028) and the Native American isolated find

(979.013) are not considered eligible for inclusion to the National Register and therefore avoidance is not recommended.

Recommendations for site avoidance also include associated activities such as surveying and staking the proposed layout prior to construction. Tetra Tech recommends delineating the site avoidance buffers prior to construction with snow fence. This will reduce the potential that these sites will be inadvertently disturbed. If areas beyond the currently surveyed APE are to be utilized during construction, then Tetra Tech recommends that a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory be conducted to determine the presence of cultural resources within these areas. Tetra Tech recommends on-site monitoring by an archaeologist during the initial grading of roads and turbines, and the installation of the collection line within pasture/prairie areas to document any lithic/artifact scatters that be unexcavated. Tetra Tech does not feel that on-site monitoring is necessary in areas previously disturbed by cultivation. An unanticipated discoveries plan should also be developed to accommodate any archaeological materials that may be unexcavated during the construction of the proposed facilities.

Tetra Tech recommends that the results of this investigation be shared with regional Native American tribes. Tribal representatives should be given an opportunity to review the archaeological sites documented during this survey and determine if any of these sites may contain cultural or religious significance.