

Hamre, John G.

From: Lein, Jerry R.
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 3:49 PM
To: David Moeller (ALLETE) (dmoeller@allete.com); Daniel McCourtney (ALLETE) (dmccourtney@allete.com)
Cc: Hamre, John G.
Subject: FW: Thunder Spirit - PU-11-601
Attachments: Thunder Spirit (PU-11-601) Access Road Shifts.pdf

Dear Mr. Moeller:

Please consider this email to be staff approval of ALLETE Clean Energy's attached request for access road shifts. Thank you.

Jerry Lein
701 328-1035

From: Susan Romans (ALLETE) [<mailto:sromans@allete.com>] **On Behalf Of** David Moeller (ALLETE)
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 2:00 PM
To: -Info-Public Service Commission
Cc: Lein, Jerry R.; Daniel McCourtney (ALLETE)
Subject: Thunder Spirit - PU-11-601

Re: ALLETE Clean Energy through Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC
Thunder Spirit Wind Project
Case No. PU-11-601

Dear Mr. Lein:

Please find attached for filing in the above-referenced case, ALLETE Clean Energy's request for access road shifts. Please note the original and 10 copies of the attached will be placed in the U.S. Mail on today's date.

David R. Moeller
Senior Attorney
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
PH: 218-723-3963
EM: dmoeller@allete.com



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104 PU-11-601 Filed: 5/15/2015 Pages: 4
E-mail staff approval of request for access road shift



Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC | 30 West Superior St. | Duluth, MN | 55802

May 4, 2015

North Dakota Public Service Commission
Attn: Mr. Jerry Lein
Public Utilities Division
600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Subject: Thunder Spirit Wind Project
Wind Turbine Access Road Shifts
Case No. PU-11-601

Mr. Lein,

On October 9, 2013 the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a Certificate of Site Compatibility (Certificate) for the Thunder Spirit Wind Project (Project). The Certificate was subsequently amended on August 14, 2014. On November 20, 2015 ALLETE Clean Energy purchased Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC, the company that owns the the Project and will be continuing construction throughout 2015.

During Project engineering, some access road shifts were needed in order to accommodate landowner requests and improve the Project's constructability. As a result, ALLETE Clean Energy is requesting PSC approval for access road shifts associated with the project:

- Access road changes leading to turbines 7, 20, 28, 29, 30 and 32 are needed to minimize landowner impacts and place access roads along existing two track section line roads or adjacent to property boundaries and field lines.
- Access road changes leading to turbines 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 are due to optimizing constructability and minimizing the Project's environmental impact.
- Access road changes leading to turbines 21 & 22 are due to wetland avoidance and minimizing the amount of wetland fill required for the Project.

These access road shifts can be found on the attached Figure 1. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office concurrence of "No Effect" can be found in Attachment A of this letter.

If any additional information is required by the PSC for approval please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel McCourtney", written in a cursive style.

Daniel McCourtney
ALLETE Clean Energy

DM:sr
cc. Wells McGiffert
Frank Fredrickson
David Moeller (electronically)

Thunder Spirit Wind Project Layout

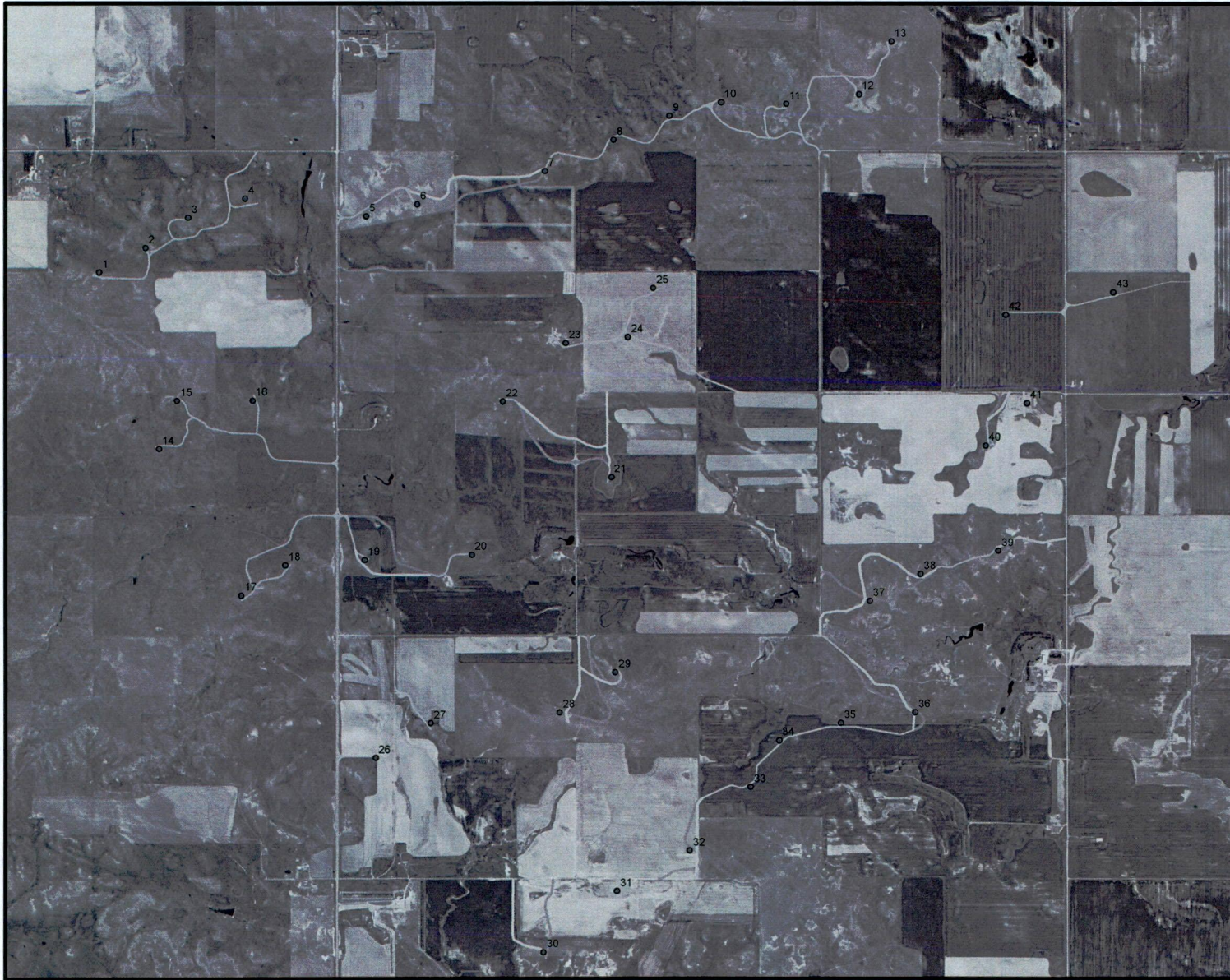
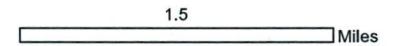
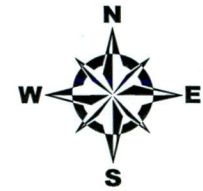


Figure 1

5/4/15

Legend

- Proposed Thunder Spirit access road changes
- Originally permitted access road that will not be built
- Originally permitted Thunder Spirit access roads to be built
- Thunder Spirit Turbine Locations





**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

COPY

Attachment A

Jack Dalrymple
Governor of North Dakota

North Dakota
State Historical Board

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New Town - President

A. Ruric Todd III
Jamestown - Vice President

Margaret Puets
Bismarck - Secretary

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks

Gerold Gernholz
Valley City

Diane K. Larson
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Chester E Nelson, Jr.
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Director
Parks and Recreation
Department

Grant Levi
Director
Department of Transportation

Claudia J. Berg
Director

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April 29, 2015

Ms. Brittany Brooks
Beaver Creek Archaeology, Inc.
1632 Capital Way
Bismarck, ND 58501

**NDSHPO REF: 11-1854E PSC Minnesota Power/ALLETE "Addendum to
Thunder Spirit Wind Farm: A Class III Intensive Cultural Resource Inventory
in Adams County, North Dakota"**

Dear Ms. Brooks:

We reviewed NDSHPO REF: 11-1854E PSC Minnesota Power/ALLETE
"Addendum to Thunder Spirit Wind Farm: A Class III Intensive Cultural
Resource Inventory in Adams County, North Dakota," and find the report
acceptable.

We provisionally concur with a *"No Significant Sites Affected,"* and if
consulted by a Federal Agency *"No Historic Properties Affected"*
determinations on the findings and recommendations in this report and in the
two previous reports, (MS #14326 and MS#15333), provided the proposed
project is of the nature stated and it takes place in the locations described. The
architectural documentation in *"Thunder Spirit Wind Energy Center: Class I and
Class II Architectural Reconnaissance Survey in Adams County, North Dakota,"*
from July 2013 was sufficient, and review is complete to date. If you have
questions please contact either Susan Quinnell at squinnell@nd.gov (701) 328-
3576 or Paul Picha at ppicha@nd.gov (701) 328-3574.

Sincerely,

Claudia J. Berg
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
and
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

11-1854