

**CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
WILTON IV WIND ENERGY CENTER**

BURLEIGH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA



Prepared for:



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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Wilton IV Wind, LLC (Wilton IV), a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is proposing to construct and operate the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center (the Project), an approximately 99 megawatt (MW) wind energy project located approximately 7 miles (mi) southeast of Wilton in Burleigh County, North Dakota. The Project includes the construction of 62 General Electric (GE) 1.6 megawatt (MW) xle turbines in Crofte and Ghylin Townships and associated access and service roads, electrical collection system, and substation located in Crofte, Ecklund, and Ghylin Townships. The Project substation will be located in the northeast quarter of Section 20 in Ecklund Township adjacent to existing substations that collect power from nearby operating wind energy projects. The substation will connect to the existing Central Electric Power Cooperative transmission line via a 230 kV overhead tie line that spans approximately 240 feet over 279th Avenue NE to the Central Electric Power Cooperative transmission line. Existing operations and maintenance facilities will be used to support the Project.

The portion of the Project in Crofte Township was previously evaluated as part of the Baldwin Wind Energy Center. The Baldwin Wind Energy Center included 37 alternate turbines in Crofte Township. These turbines were not constructed as part of the Baldwin Wind Energy Center and are currently proposed to be constructed as part of this Project. The Project layout includes 35 turbines and one alternative turbine site located in Crofte Township. Of these, 29 turbines coincide with the turbine locations previously evaluated as Baldwin alternates. The remaining 27 turbines are proposed to be constructed in Ghylin Township.

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) will act as the lead Federal Agency and the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) will review this Project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Project also requires a Certificate of Site Compatibility from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC); therefore, the Project is subject to review by the SHSND under the North Dakota Century Code 55-02-07. The purpose of this investigation is to provide the necessary information for the Western and SHSND review by confirming the presence or absence of archaeological sites and architectural properties within the Area of Potential Effects for direct effects (APE).

Tetra Tech's literature review was conducted in August 2011 and identified four previous archaeological investigations, one architectural investigation, one archaeological site, two archaeological site leads, and two architectural properties within the APE. The Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the Baldwin Wind Energy Center occurred in 2009 and 2010 and is the largest of the surveys that intersects the APE and includes 458 acres or 44 percent of the total APE. A "No Historic Properties Affected" recommendation was made provided that documented Native American stone feature sites were avoided. The Class II Architectural Reconnaissance

Survey for the Baldwin Wind Energy Center was conducted in 2010 within 1-mi of the proposed Baldwin turbine layout in Crofte Township and evaluated historic structures over 45 years old or older. This survey did not include the Project area located within Ghylin Township. Tetra Tech recommended that none of the 77 properties documented during survey were potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and a finding of No Historic Properties Affected was proposed.

Previously-documented architectural properties 32BL654 (abandoned schoolhouse) and 32BL655 (abandoned farmstead), and archaeological site 32BL653 were documented during the Class III inventory of the Baldwin Wind Energy Center. The two architectural properties are not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The exact locations of Site Lead 32BLx099 (Crofts Post Office) and 32BLx161 (AML Mine) are unknown; however, no evidence of these site leads was documented within the APE.

During the survey of the APE, Tetra Tech newly documented 24 archaeological sites including 6 Native American stone feature sites (1913.001, 1913.005, 1913.006, 1913.011, 1913.031, and 1913.101), 4 Native American isolated finds (1913.026, 1913.148, 1913.149, and 1913.151); 12 Euro-American linear stone alignments (1913.003, 1913.103, 1913.007, 1913.111, 1913.012, 1913.108, 1913.010, 1913.027, 1913.115, 1913.118, 1913.126, and 1913.137), one Euro-American dump/stone pile (1913.113), and one Euro-American quarry/stone piles (1913.145). In addition, 22 Euro-American stone pile sites were recorded (Sites 1913.002, 1913.008, 1913.009, 1913.013 through 1913.015, 1913.017, 1913.019, 1913.024, 1913.028, 1913.029, 1913.102, 1913.104, 1913.112, 1913.114, 1913.116, 1913.117, 1913.119, 1913.142, 1913.144, 1913.150, 1913.152). Upon the request of the SHPO, these sites were not recorded with the state and were not given an official site number. Due to Project layout modifications, five newly documented sites are no longer within the APE. These sites included one Native American stone feature/lithic scatter site (1913.004) and four Euro-American stone pile sites (1913.022, 1913.023, 1913.018, and 1913.030).

Tetra Tech recommended avoidance for 13 sites including the 7 Native American stone feature sites with the APE (including previously documented site, 32BL653) and Site 1913.004, which is located just outside the APE. Tetra Tech also recommends avoidance of one Euro-American stone alignment (Site 1913.007), two Euro-American stone piles (Sites 1913.014 and 1913.152), the Euro-American dump/stone pile, and the Euro-American quarry/stone piles. Tetra Tech also recommended the creation of avoidance buffers for Native American stone cairns (100 ft), Native American tipi rings and alignment (50 ft) and, Euro-American stone alignments and stone piles (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 remaining sites including the Euro-American stone alignments (excluding Site 1913.007) and piles (excluding Sites 1913.014 and 1913.145) and the Native American isolated finds are not considered eligible for inclusion to the National Register nor do they appear to have

cultural significance to regional Native American tribe 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 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.

