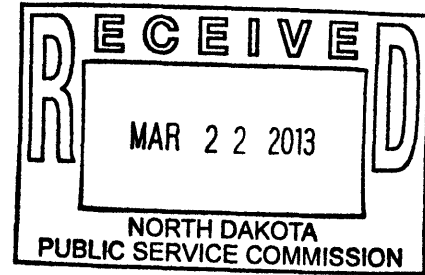




**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
P.O. Box 281213  
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213

March 21, 2013

Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Re: Wilton IV Wind Energy Center — Notice of availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Hearing

Dear Darrell,

Western Area Power Administration has issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, (NextEra)'s proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center in Burleigh County, North Dakota near the towns of Wilton, Regan, and Baldwin.

Western Area Power Administration will host a public meeting and hearing to provide the public and interested parties an opportunity to learn about the proposed Project and Western Area Power Administration's National Environmental Policy Act process, to ask questions, and to provide written and/or verbal comments on the Draft EIS. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Wilton Memorial Hall, located at 105 Dover Avenue, Wilton, ND 58579.

An informal open house/information meeting will be held from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. there will be a formal public hearing where a court reporter will transcribe verbal comments for the record. Written comments will also be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses below.

Enclosed for your review is a CD containing the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is also available for review at <http://www.wapa.gov/ugp/Environment/EnvWiltonIV-EIS.htm>. If you need additional information about the Draft EIS or the meeting and hearing, please contact Mr. Matt Marsh at (800) 358-3415 or [MMarsh@wapa.gov](mailto:MMarsh@wapa.gov).

A pre-addressed comment form is enclosed for your convenience, as is a map of the Project area. The comment period ends on **May 6th, 2013**. Your written comments must be received no later than May 6th 2013 in order to guarantee consideration. Comments can be provided in person at the public hearing or by mail or email, using the contact information below.

### **Project Background**

NextEra has applied for permission to interconnect its proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center to an existing 230-kilovolt transmission line near Wilton, North Dakota, in Burleigh County. The transmission line is owned and operated by the Western Area Power Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. Under Western Area Power Administration's Open Access Transmission Service Tariff, NextEra must file a request to interconnect to the transmission system.

NextEra's proposed Project would consist of up to 62 wind turbine generators with a combined total generating capacity of up to 99 megawatts, located within a 15,752-acre site in central North Dakota, near the towns of Wilton, Regan, and Baldwin. In addition to the turbines, other proposed Project facilities would include all-weather access roads, underground power collection lines linking turbines to the Project substation, operation and maintenance facilities, supervisory control and data acquisition equipment and metering equipment, and up to two permanent meteorological towers. The collector substation would be connected to a Central Power Electric Cooperative Line via approximately 240 feet of 230-kV overhead tie line.

NextEra has also requested that the existing interconnection contracts for the Wilton Wind I Energy Center (formerly known as Burleigh County Wind), Wilton Wind II Energy Center, and the Baldwin Wind Energy Center (together called the Existing Projects) be modified to lift their administrative 50 average annual MW production caps.

NextEra's interconnection request triggered the need for the Western Area Power Administration to prepare an EIS for the proposed interconnection in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, U.S. Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (10 Code of Federal Regulations 1021), and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508). Western Area Power Administration is issuing the draft EIS for NextEra's proposed Project.

#### **Project Information**

Email: [MMarsh@wapa.gov](mailto:MMarsh@wapa.gov)  
Phone: (800) 358-3415  
Mail: Mr. Matt Marsh  
Upper Great Plains Regional Office  
Western Area Power Administration  
P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800

Sincerely,



Matthew Blevins  
Environment Team Lead

Enclosures (2):  
Comment Form  
Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Project Map



**Wilton IV Wind Public Hearing  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

**April 10, 2013 6-8 PM Wilton Memorial Hall**

Thank you for your interest in the proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the EIS mailing list and/or to provide comments. Written and oral comments can be submitted at the Public Hearing, faxed to (406) 255-2900, mailed to Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Office, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800 or sent by e-mail to [mmarsh@wapa.gov](mailto:mmarsh@wapa.gov). To be included in our public comment process, please ensure your comments are received by **May 6, 2013**. Anonymous comments will not be considered in the final EIS.

*Please Print Contact Info Below*

Name:

Organization:

E-mail address:

Daytime Phone No. (optional):

Street Address:

City / State / Zip Code:

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the proposed project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

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**Thank you for your time and interest.**

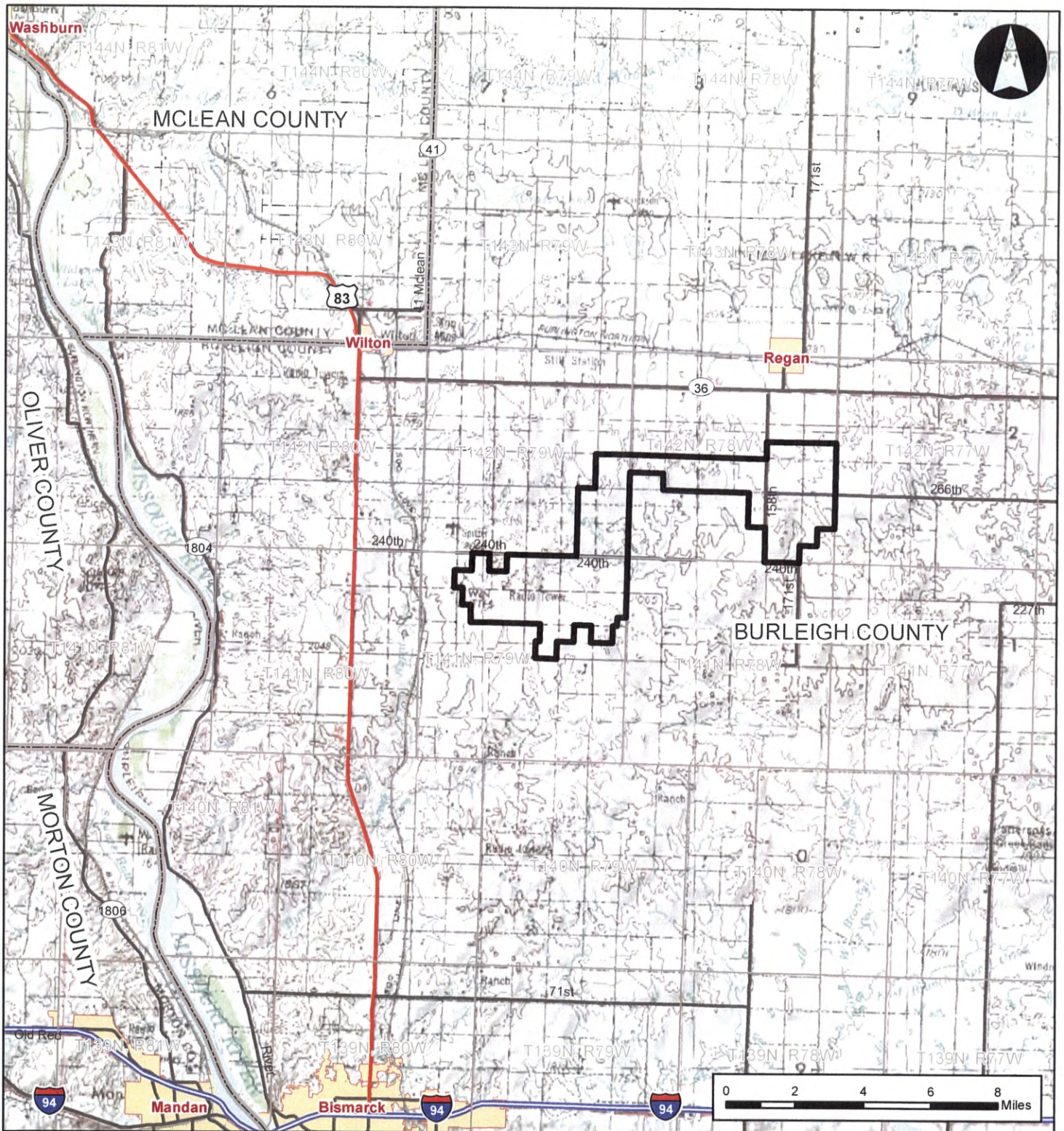
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**Please fold in thirds and tape**

Place  
postage  
here

Mr. Matt Marsh  
Western Area Power Administration  
Upper Great Plains Region  
P.O. Box 35800  
Billings, MT 59107-5800

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










**Wilton IV Wind Energy Center**

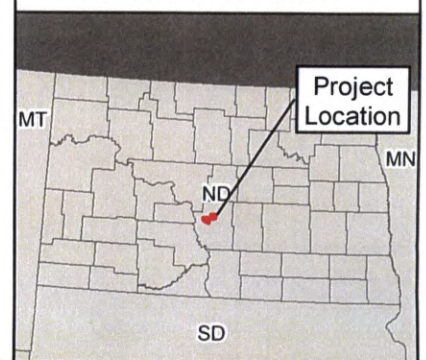
BURLEIGH COUNTY, ND

**Figure 1. Project Location**

FEBRUARY 2013

-  Project Area (9/28/11)
-  Waterbody
-  Limited Access Highway
-  Highway
-  Major Road
-  Railroad
-  Populated Place
-  County Boundary
-  Township Boundary

**OVERVIEW MAP**



Source: ESRI Topo 2007, ESRI Roads 2006