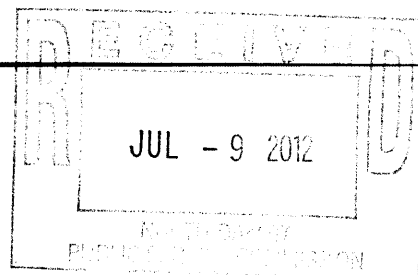




**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA**



Jack Dalrymple
Governor of North Dakota

July 9, 2012

North Dakota
State Historical Board

Mr. Wade Burns
Beaver Creek Archaeology
301 1st St NE, Suite 201
Mandan ND 58554

Gereld Gerntholz
Valley City - President

Calvin Grinnell
New Town - Vice President

NDSHPO REF.: 12-1216 PSC Case number PU 11-662 "ACE Wind Energy Center: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Mercer and Morton Counties, North Dakota"

A. Ruric Todd III
Jamestown - Secretary

Dear Mr. Burns:

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks

We reviewed NDSHPO REF.: 12-1216 PSC "ACE Wind Energy Center: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Mercer and Morton Counties, North Dakota," and find the report acceptable.

Diane K. Larson
Bismarck

We concur with "No Historic Properties Affected" and "No Significant Sites Affected" determinations provided that the recommendations provided on page 27 of the report are followed (enclosed). Also, the project is to be of the nature stated, and continue to take place in plotted locations in the report documentation, unless addendums are filed and approved by this office.

Chester E. Nelson, Jr.
Bismarck

Margaret Puetz
Bismarck

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have questions please contact either Paul Picha at ppicha@nd.gov or (701) 328-3574 or Susan Quinnell at squinnell@nd.gov or (701) 328-3576.

Sara Otte Coleman
Director
Tourism Division

Kelly Schmidt
State Treasurer

Sincerely,

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Mark Zimmerman
Director
Parks and Recreation
Department

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
and
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

Francis Ziegler
Director
Department of Transportation

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Director

CC: PSC

28 **PU-11-662** Filed: 7/9/2012 Pages: 2
Letter concurrence no historic properties affected and no significant sites affected

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State Historical Society of North Dakota
Merlan Paaverud

Conclusion and Recommendation

In November 2011 and March 2012, BCA conducted a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the proposed ACE Project.

During the field inventory, BCA archaeologists identified thirteen (13) previously unrecorded cultural resources. Resources included ten Native American Stone Cairns (32ME2421, 32MO1395, 32MO1396, 32MO1397, 32MO1398, 32MO1399, 32MO1400, 32MO1403, 32ME2422, 32ME2423), one Native American Stone Circle (32MO1401), one Native American Cultural Material (CM) Scatter (32MO1402). All sites have been recommended potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by BCA. One Native American Isolated Find (32MOx543) was also found. Isolated finds are not eligible to the NRHP.

A total of nine architectural locations were looked at during the Inventory. These were selected for potentially containing eligible structures. No buildings were deemed to be potentially eligible to the NRHP (See table 6). One previously recorded architectural site (32MO189) is potentially eligible to the NRHP.

BCA recommends that all potentially eligible sites be avoided and flagged/staked off prior to construction. It is recommended that potentially eligible sites located close to linear project features be buffered 50 feet, and sites located close to turbine locations be buffered 100 feet, and that stakes/flags be placed along these buffer zones (see maps in Appendix C).

The APE crosses into previously recorded site lead 32MOx253. During the fieldwork, this site lead was not observed. BCA recommends that the site lead or ineligible site do not need to be avoided during construction as long as the Project is limited to the inventoried corridors outlined on the maps in Appendix C.