Brady Transmission Line
Brady Wind, LLC
Stark County, North Dakota

Consolidated Application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for a Waiver or Reduction of Procedures and Time Schedules and Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Transmission Facility Route Permit

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Brady Wind, LLC (Brady Wind or the Applicant), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER), is submitting this Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Transmission Facility Route Permit to construct the Brady Transmission Line (Project). The Project consists of approximately 19 miles of a new 230-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line on private property in Stark County, North Dakota, as shown in **Figure 1**. The Project also includes a new 30-acre switchyard at the western terminus of the transmission line.

The Project would connect the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV transmission line in the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 20 of Township 139 North, Range 98 West. The Brady Wind Energy Center is a proposed wind farm consisting of up to 87 wind turbine generators to be located in Stark County, North Dakota. The wind energy facility must be permitted separately, and Brady Wind submitted a separate Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) in December 2015.

NEER develops renewable energy projects and associated transmission lines throughout the United States and Canada. NEER is the largest generator of wind-powered electricity in North America, with nearly 11,300 megawatts (MW) of capacity in 19 states and Canada as of December 2014. In North Dakota specifically, NEER, through its affiliates, owns and operates 851 MW of wind generation and operates an additional 139 MW of wind generation. NEER designs, constructs, and operates its facilities in an environmentally sound and responsible manner. Attached as Appendix A, please find the sections from NextEra Energy, Inc.'s 2015 Corporate Responsibility Report that describe NextEra's environmental accountability, management, and stewardship policies that are intended to:

- Design, construct, operate and maintain our facilities in an environmentally sound and responsible manner;
- Prevent pollution, minimize waste, and conserve natural resources;
- Avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to habitat and wildlife; and
- Engage stakeholders to build trust and partner toward common goals for environmental stewardship and protection.

1.1 Compliance with the Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act (Siting Act) requires applications for a Corridor Certificate and Route Permit to meet the criteria set forth in North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Chapter 49-22 and North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Article 69-06. Consistent with these requirements, the Applicant has located and designed the Project to minimize potential environmental impacts and utilize existing corridors, section lines, and gaps between crop fields to the extent practicable.

The Application presents information required by the Siting Act, including the consideration of the exclusion areas, avoidance areas, selection criteria, and policy criteria set forth in NDAC § 69-06-

08-02. In addition, transmission line design and technical information have been provided to allow a thorough evaluation of the proposed Project.

1.1.1 Application Format

This application generally follows the format set forth in the Commission Application Guidelines for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (Guidelines), promulgated pursuant to the Siting Act. Section 1 provides an overview of the Application. Section 2 requests waivers of certain procedures and time schedules. Sections 3 through 8 of the Application present the analyses of the Project and demonstrate how the Project is consistent with the Commission's statutes and regulations.

Table 1 outlines the information required to fulfill the requirements for an Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Application for a Route Permit based on the Siting Act (NDCC Chapter 49-22) and NDAC Chapter 69-06, and identifies where these requirements are addressed in this Application.

Table 1. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Checklist

Code and Subsection	Description	Application Section
	Section A. Description of the Facility	
NDCC § 49-22-08(a) NDCC § 49-22-08.1(a) NDAC §§ 69-06-05-01(2)(a)(1)-(3)	Type of facility proposed, purpose of the facility, and technology to be deployed	1.0, 3.2
NDAC §§ 69-06-05-01(2)(a)(4)-(6)	Type, source, and final destination of the product to be transmitted by the proposed facility.	3.1, 3.2
NDCC § 49-22-08(a) NDCC § 49-22-08.1(a) NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(a)(7)	The proposed size and design and any alternate size or design that was considered, including: (a) The width of right of way; (b) The approximate length of facility; (c) The estimated span length for electric facilities; (d) The anticipated type of structure for electric facilities; (e) The voltage for electric facilities; and (f) The requirement for and general location of any new associated facilities.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(b)	The anticipated time schedule for accomplishing major events, including: (1) Obtaining the certification of corridor compatibility; (2) Obtaining the route permit; (3) Completing right-of-way acquisition; (4) Starting construction; (5) Completing construction; (6) Testing operations; and (7) Commencing operations.	3.5, Table 3
NDCC § 49-22-08(b) NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(c)	Section B. Studies - A copy of each evaluative study or assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed facility submitted to the agencies listed in section 69-06-01-05 and each response received.	Appendix B

Table 1. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Checklist

Code and Subsection	Description	Application Section
NDCC § 49-22-08(c)	Section C. Need For Facility	4.0
NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(d)	An analysis of the need for the proposed facility based on present and projected demand for the product transmitted by the facility, including the most recent system studies supporting the analysis of the need.	4.1
NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(e)	A description of any feasible alternative methods of serving the need.	4.3
NDCC § 49-22-08(e) NDCC § 49-22-08.1(b)	Section D. Location	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, Table 2
NDAC §§ 69-06-05-01(2)(f), (g)	Select a study area, which includes the proposed corridor, of sufficient width to enable the Commission to evaluate the factors addressed in Section 49-22-09, NDCC. The width of a corridor must be at least ten percent of its length, but not less than one mile [1.61 kilometers] or greater than six miles [9.66 kilometers] unless another appropriate width is determined by the Commission.	3.3, Figures 1-3
NDCC § 49-22-08(h) NDCC § 49-22-08.1(c)	An evaluation of the proposed corridor/route with regard to the applicable criteria established pursuant to section 49-22-05.1: Except for transmission lines in existence before July 1, 1983, areas within five hundred feet [152.4 meters] of an inhabited rural residence must be designated avoidance areas. The five hundred foot [152.4 meter] avoidance area criteria for an inhabited rural residence may be waived by the owner of the inhabited rural residence in writing. The criteria may also include an identification of impacts and policies or practices which may be considered in the evaluation and designation process.	5.0, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, Tables 4 – 7

Table 1. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Checklist

Code and Subsection	Description	Application Section
NDCC § 49-22-08(h) NDCC § 49-22-08.1(c) NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(h)	A discussion of the factors in North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-09 to aid the commission's evaluation of the proposed route: 1. Available research and investigations relating to the effects of the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facility on public health and welfare, natural resources, and the environment. 2. The effects of new energy conversion and transmission technologies and systems designed to minimize adverse environmental effects. 3. The potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from a proposed energy conversion facility. 4. Adverse direct and indirect environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposed site or route be designated. 5. Alternatives to the proposed site, corridor, or route which are developed during the hearing process and which minimize adverse effects. 6. Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of natural resources should the proposed site, corridor, or route be designated. 7. The direct and indirect economic impacts of the proposed facility. 8. Existing plans of the state, local government, and private entities for other developments at or in the vicinity of the proposed site, corridor, or route. 9. The effect of the proposed site or route on existing scenic areas, historic sites and structures, and paleontological or archaeological sites. 10. The effect of the proposed site or route on areas which are unique because of biological wealth or because they are habitats for rare and endangered species. 11. Problems raised by federal agencies, other state agencies, and local entities.	8.0
NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(i)	A discussion of the applicant's policies and commitments to limit the environmental impact of its facilities, including copies of board resolutions and management directives.	1.0, Appendix A
NDCC § 49-22-08(f) NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(j)	Identify and map the criteria that led to the proposed corridor location within the study area.	5.0, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 6.0, Tables 4–7, Figure 6
NDAC § 69-06-08-02	The following criteria must guide and govern the preparation of the inventory of exclusion and avoidance areas, and the corridor and route suitability evaluation process: 1. Exclusion areas; 2. Avoidance areas; 3. Selection criteria; 4. Policy criteria.	5.0, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, Tables 4–7
NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(k)	A discussion of the relative value of each criteria and how the applicant selected the proposed corridor location, giving consideration to all criteria and how the location, construction, and operation of the facility will affect each criteria.	5.0, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6

Table 1. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Checklist

Code and Subsection	Description	Application Section
NDCC § 49-22-08(g) NDCC § 49-22-08.1(d) NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(l)	Discuss the general mitigative measures that will be taken to minimize adverse impacts which result from the location, construction, and operation of the facility.	6.1, 6.2, 6.3
NDCC § 49-22-08.1(e)	A description of the right-of-way preparation and construction and reclamation procedures.	3.7
NDCC § 49-22-08.1(f)	A statement setting forth the manner in which: (1) The utility will inform affected landowners of easement acquisition, and necessary easement conditions and restrictions. (2) The utility will compensate landowners for easements, without reference to the actual consideration to be paid.	3.6
NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(m)	List the qualifications of the people in the various disciplines that contributed to the corridor location study.	9.0
NDAC §§ 69-06-05-01(2)(n), (o), (q)	Maps n. A map identifying the criteria that led to the proposed route location within the designated corridor and the location of any new associated facilities. Several different criteria may be shown on each map depending on the map scale and the density and nature of the criteria. o. An eight and one-half-inch by eleven-inch black and white map suitable for newspaper publication depicting the site area. q. Map and GIS requirements. The applicant shall provide information that is complete, current, presented clearly and concisely, and supported by appropriate references to technical and other written material available to the commission. Data must be submitted in the ESRI shape file or geodatabase format.	Figures 2, 3, and 6 A map for newspaper publication will be provided under separate cover. Shapefiles provided on CD.

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2.0 WAIVER OF PROCEDURES AND TIME SCHEDULES

The Applicant requests that the Commission waive certain procedures and reduce certain time schedules required by the Siting Act and in the Commission's regulations, to accomplish the actions requested herein. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Allow combination of the certificate of corridor compatibility application and route permit application processes into one application;

2. Waive, pursuant to NDCC §§ 49-22-07.2 and 49-22-13, and NDAC § 69-06-01-02 and Chapter 69-06-06, provisions of NDCC §§ 49-22-08(5), 49-22-08.1(5), 49-22-13, and NDAC § 69-06-01-02 that require separate filings of such applications, separate notices of such applications, separate hearings on such applications, separate orders on such applications; and certain procedures and time schedules as set forth in said statutes and rules;

3. Approve a corridor of 250 feet in width;

4. Hold one consolidated public hearing on this Application;

5. Find that the proposed facilities are of such design, length, location, and purpose that they will produce minimal adverse effects; and

6. Designate and approve the requested facilities as identified in this Application and issue the appropriate corridor certificate and route permit.

Chapter 69-06-06 of the NDAC requires that a request for waiver of procedures set forth a factual basis demonstrating that the proposed facility is of such length, design, location, or purpose that it will produce minimal adverse effects. As demonstrated herein, the environmental and cultural resource studies and reports commissioned by the Applicant demonstrate that there will be minimal adverse effects by construction and operation of this transmission line project. As a result, there is substantial justification for the requested waivers and/or reduction of time schedules and procedures.

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Commission grant the requested waivers and/or reduction of procedures and time schedules, and render an expeditious decision approving the requested certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit.

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3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Project Location

The Project will connect the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center's collection substation in the southeast corner of 52nd Street SW and 109th Avenue SW (in the northwest quarter of Section 25 in Township 137 North, Range 96 West) with the existing Belfield to Rhame 230-kV transmission line owned and operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) in the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 20, Township 139 North, Range 98 West (**Figure 2** and **Figure 3**). The Project is needed to inject energy generated by the Brady Wind Energy Center into the electric grid.

3.2 Project Design and Product Delivery

The approximately 19-mile, single-circuit, alternating current 230-kV transmission line will be constructed using steel monopole structures. The average height of the single-pole structures will range from 70 to 130 feet, depending on final engineering design (**Figure 4**). The span between structures will average 800 feet and will vary depending on geological or engineering constraints identified during final design. The typical easement that will be used during construction and maintained during the life of the Project, or right-of-way (ROW), is 150 feet wide. The total cost of constructing this transmission line and associated facilities is estimated at $12 million.

Guyed structures will be required at approximately 12 turns. Depending on the angle, up to 16 guy wires may be required per turn, each up to 135 feet from the pole structure (**Figure 5**). Specialty structures and foundations may be required in certain circumstances.

The Project will allow the Brady Wind Energy Center to contribute approximately 150 MW of renewable energy to the power grid. The electric power (the "product" for purposes of this Application) will be delivered to Basin's energy grid pursuant to a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between Basin and Brady Wind.

The Project switchyard will be located on approximately 30 acres of land at the western terminus of the Project in the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 20, Township 139 North, Range 98 West. All structures within the switchyard, including the control building, will be constructed in steel. The switchyard will be fenced.

The construction of the Project will occur within the Project Corridor identified in Section 3.3. The proposed Project route (centerline of proposed transmission line pole locations, or Project Route) was selected after addressing the factors identified in NDCC § 49-22-09 and pursuant to the criteria in NDAC § 69-06-08-02 and is depicted on **Figure 1**.

3.3 Project Corridor

The Project Corridor is the area surveyed for cultural resources, which is generally 250 feet in width, although the proposed Project ROW that will be acquired throughout the 19-mile length of the proposed Project Corridor will typically be only 150 feet in width.

The Applicant developed the Project Corridor based on identifying interested landowners between the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center collection substation and the existing Belfield to Rhame

230-kV transmission line. The Applicant also considered the exclusion and avoidance areas set forth in NDAC § 69-06-08-02 in selecting the Corridor. For example, the Applicant sought to avoid residential areas and recreation and cultural resources to the extent practicable (**Figure 6**). Documented archeological sites are discussed in Section 6.1.

The Project Corridor is rural and primarily composed of a mixture of cropland and grassland. It is located on privately owned land along existing roadways and section lines to the extent feasible. All land within the Project Corridor will be obtained by easement, with the exception of the 30-acre switchyard parcel, which will be purchased. The legal land descriptions for parcels within the Project Corridor are provided in **Table 2** and represented on **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**.

Table 2. Project Corridor Land Description

Township	Range	Sections
137N	98W	27-29, 34-36
137N	97W	25, 31-36
137N	96W	25-30, 32, 33

3.4 Project Route

The Applicant identified the Project Route for the Project within the Project Corridor after considering the exclusion and avoidance criteria outlined in NDAC § 69-06-08-02 (Section 5.0 of this Application) and after considering public and agency input as described in Section 7.0 of this Application.

The Project Route was selected based on several additional considerations, including:

- Minimizing total length and construction costs;
- Minimizing impacts on residents, including (but not limited to) displacement, noise, aesthetics, recreation, agricultural production, and public services;
- Consideration of effects on public health and safety;
- Offsetting existing ROW (roadway or other utility ROW) or section lines to minimize impacts on current land use and to comply with Stark County requirements;
- Minimizing effects on archaeological and historic resources;
- Minimizing effects on wetlands and surface waters; and
- Minimizing effects on wildlife, rare or endangered species, and unique natural resources.

Figure 6 identifies the proposed Project Route relative to the Project Corridor and exclusion and avoidance criteria. The legal descriptions of the Project Route location are the same as those for the Corridor provided in **Table 2** above.

3.5 Project Schedule

The preliminary Project schedule provided below in **Table 3** is based on information known as of the date of this filing. The operation date is dependent upon permitting, equipment deliveries, and

other development activities. The Applicant is targeting construction for May 2016, provided all pre-construction permits and approvals have been obtained.

Table 3. Estimated Project Schedule

Milestone	Date
Completion of Construction Easement Acquisition	November 2015
Final Transmission Line Design	February 2016
Material Procurement	February 2016
Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit	April 2016
Construction Start	May 2016
Testing Operations	September 2016
In-Service Operations (Commissioning)	October 2016

3.6 Easement Acquisition

The Applicant has secured voluntary easements with landowners along the Project Route. The Applicant will compensate landowners for easements based on the land within the construction easement and for facilities (structures and guy wires) placed in the Project Route. The easement agreement describes easement conditions and restrictions. Land for the 30-acre switchyard will be purchased.

3.7 Project Construction

The Project Route passes primarily through agricultural and pasture land along existing road ROW and section lines, or along the edges of crop fields, to the extent feasible. Because there are very few obstructions within the Project Route, minimal ROW preparations will be necessary. In those few areas where there is tree and shrub growth, ROW clearing will include cutting and removal. Where practicable, trees and low-growing vegetation will not be removed if future growth will not interfere with the operation or maintenance of the line. There may be limited use of herbicides to remove or control the growth of vegetation in some areas. Herbaceous and smaller woody plants will not be disturbed, except for those that will be crushed unavoidably during structure installation.

Some structure locations may require soil analysis. Soil borings will be taken for the purpose of determining the soil properties for engineering analysis. These borings will be taken by an experienced geotechnical testing laboratory. The geotechnical drill rig will need access to the test sites.

The structures will be designed for installation at existing grades. Therefore, structure sites will not be graded or leveled, unless it is necessary to provide a reasonably level area for construction crews and equipment, such as digger/derrick trucks to auger holes for the structures, a crane for structure setting, and crew vehicles and bucket trucks for wire stringing and clipping operations.

All trees and tall shrubs will be removed from the 150-foot ROW. Vegetation will be monitored regularly and trimmed so that it does not exceed safety provisions. Ground disturbance will occur during the setting of structures. These disturbances will occur during the boring of the hole used for setting the pole. Pole borings will extend into the subsurface approximately 20 feet and be

approximately 5 feet in diameter. Boring equipment will be used to facilitate the installation of the transmission foundation. Soil removed during boring activities will be spread around the base of the pole.

The largest disturbance during installation of the transmission structures will occur during the excavation of the self-supporting dead-end foundations, if any are used (to be determined during final design). Foundations will extend into the subsurface approximately 25 to 30 feet and be approximately 7 feet in diameter. Boring equipment will be used to facilitate the installation of transmission foundations. The foundations will be constructed of reinforced concrete with pre-fabricated anchor bolt cases placed in the boreholes. Soil removed during boring activities will be sloped around the structure after installation or in adjacent upland areas.

The most noticeable impact on the Project Route will be land disturbance in the area of transmission structure construction to allow adequate room for operation of equipment. Following the structure installation, the entire disturbed area will be groomed and seeded, including replacement of trees and herbaceous vegetation off the transmission line ROW. The anticipated area of disturbance at each structure site during construction will be approximately 0.5 acre at each tower location.

After structures have been erected, conductors will be installed by establishing stringing setup areas within the ROW. These stringing setup areas will be located approximately every 2 miles along the route. Conductors will be installed between setup areas using a “controlled tension method,” which ensures that the cable comes off the reel at a constant tension without backlashes. Conductor stringing operations will also require brief access to each structure to secure the conductor wires to the insulators or shield wire clamps once final line sag is established.

Stringing equipment generally consists of wire pullers, tensioners, conductor reels, shield wire reels, and stinging blocks. Stringing operations consist of pulling lightweight cables or ropes through the stringing sheaves located at every structure site. This cable or rope will be used to pull the conductors through the sheaves under sufficient tension to keep the conductor from coming into contact with the ground. Temporary guard or clearance poles will be installed over existing distribution or communication lines, streets, roads, highways, railways, or other obstructions after any necessary notifications are made and/or permits are obtained. This ensures that conductors will not obstruct traffic or come into contact with existing energized conductors or other cables, and protects the conductors from damage. Once a section of a line has been installed, temporary structures will be removed, holes backfilled, and the area of disturbance reseeded to produce the same cover that was removed.

Debris associated with the transmission line construction may include construction materials such as packaging material, insulator crates, conductor reels, and wrapping. This debris may also include excess excavated soil and removed vegetation. Materials with salvage value, including conductor reels, unused conductor and hardware, poles, and other materials, will be removed from the site for reuse. Excess soil and vegetation will be distributed along the transmission ROW, but will not be placed in wetlands or other aquatic resources. Solid waste will be temporarily stored within the ROW or within the temporary construction easements, and then transported to

appropriate disposal facilities. Debris will be disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Temporary staging areas will be located within the ROW, and will be limited to the structure site areas for structure laydown and framing prior to structure installation. Disturbed areas will be restored to their original condition to the maximum extent practicable.

Construction tasks will include the following:

- Pre-Construction: Includes activities such as environmental, geotechnical, cultural, avian, micro-siting, engineering, design, land procurement, various utility studies, and major procurement.
- Surveying: Initial line-survey work, consisting of aerial photography, survey control, route centerline location, profile surveys, and access surveys.
- Pole Structures: Vegetation will be removed from a limited area at structure locations. Once any vegetation is removed, holes will be drilled for structures using a truck-mounted auger.
- Delivery and Assembly: The pole structures will be transported to the erection sites on flatbed trucks and assembled. The footings of each would be backfilled with one and a half inch rock and tamped into place to prevent structure movement or settling. Final structure assembly and hardware placement will be completed using cranes and bucket trucks.
- Conductor Installation: Following erection of all structures, conductor and ground wires will be installed. Conductor will be pulled and tensioned from several locations (approximately every 2 miles) along the Project Route. Heavy, truck-mounted winches that also carry reels of conductor and cable will be used for pulling and tensioning work. Sections of the line within 0.5 mile of potentially suitable stopover habitat for whooping cranes will be outfitted with bird flight diverters.

Post-construction reclamation activities will generally include the following:

- Cleaning up all construction sites, including removing and properly disposing of debris;
- Removing all temporary facilities, including staging areas;
- Employing appropriate erosion control measures; and
- Reseeding and replacing trees and shrubs as necessary in disturbed areas (due to construction activities) with vegetation like that which was removed, and restoring the areas to their original condition to the extent practicable. The Applicant will incorporate a tree replacement policy based on the Commission’s Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.

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4.0 NEED FOR FACILITY

4.1 Need Analysis

The proposed location of the Brady Wind Energy Center's collection substation is approximately 15 miles from the Belfield to Rhame transmission line. The Brady Wind transmission line is required to transmit the energy to Basin's grid. As discussed in Brady Wind's Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility, in December 2014, Brady Wind signed a 30-year power purchase agreement with Basin for the Project. Pursuant to this agreement, Basin will purchase all of the electrical output generated by the Project for 30 years. The Project will help to increase the renewable portion of Basin's generating portfolio to more than 1,400 MW when combined with additional wind generation commitments made by Basin in 2013. The Project will help meet Basin member's energy needs while keeping member electricity rates low (Basin 2014).

Basin and the Applicant selected the point of interconnection based on Basin's needs for load injection. The proposed point of interconnection would allow the energy generated by the Brady Wind Energy Center to directly serve Basin's load in the area.

4.2 Description of Studies Developed

Final design of the Project is dependent upon several factors, including landowner input, on-site pre-construction surveys, and agency consultation. The Applicant identified the preliminary location of the Project Route and Project Corridor based on desktop analyses, site visits, and agency consultation. Results of environmental and cultural studies are discussed in Section 6.0.

4.3 No Action and Feasible Alternative Methods

As discussed in Section 4.1, the proposed location of the Brady Wind Energy Center's collection substation is approximately 15 miles from the Belfield to Rhame transmission line. Basin and the Applicant identified the proposed point of interconnection with the existing transmission line based on Basin's load injection needs. There is no existing infrastructure connecting the proposed location of the Brady Wind Energy Center to existing transmission. The location of the Brady Wind Energy Center was identified as an optimal site from wind resource, transmission, landowner participation, economic, and environmental perspectives. Therefore, there is no feasible alternative method to serving the facility need.

4.4 Ten-Year Plan

The Applicant will file a Ten-Year Plan with the Commission and the Stark County auditor by July 1, 2016.

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5.0 TRANSMISSION FACILITY CORRIDOR AND ROUTE CRITERIA

The Applicant evaluated a study area (1 mile on either side of the Project Route) to determine the best route for the Project. Within this study area, a 250-foot-wide Project Corridor was selected to meet the following exclusion, avoidance, and selection criteria, as described in NDAC § 69-06-08-02. The selection criteria were intended to minimize potential land use impacts and environmental impacts, as well as to minimize impacts to the public. Policy criteria relate to the applicant's policies regarding health, safety, labor relations, and coordination with other interests. In addition, design and construction limitations present in the Project Corridor were also factored into the Project Route.

The Applicant gathered data from several sources to identify the locations of exclusion and avoidance areas and to determine the potential impact of its proposed facility on selection criteria, including field surveys to identify occupied residences, wetlands and water features, and cultural resources. A computerized geographic information system (GIS) was utilized to compile and analyze most of the data. Specific sources included:

- North Dakota Natural Heritage Program dataset on sensitive species and habitats and state parks;
- North Dakota Game and Fish eagle nest data;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory maps obtained in GIS format;
- Documented cultural resources identified through a Class I cultural resources inventory;
- Residences and homesteads within the corridor provided by a farmstead report from on-site land surveyors and land agents;
- Structures and other constraints (including extractable resources, cemeteries, and communication towers) derived from data obtained from the North Dakota GIS Hub, as well as aerial photo interpretation, discussion with landowners, and field verification; and
- Woodlands derived from National Land Cover Database data.

5.1 Exclusion Areas

In accordance with NDAC § 69-06-08-02(1), the geographical areas listed in **Table 4** shall be excluded in the consideration of a route for a transmission facility. Exclusion areas are mapped for the Project Area on **Figure 6**. There are six archeological sites within the Project Corridor; of these six, three are crossed by or adjacent to the Project Route. These sites will be avoided or spanned.

Table 4. Exclusion Areas

Exclusion Area	Present within 1-mile Study Area	Present within Project Corridor	Adjacent to Project Route	Proposed Buffer
Designated or registered national parks memorial parks; historic sites and landmarks; natural landmarks; monuments; and wilderness areas	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Designated or registered state parks; historic sites; monuments; historical markers; archaeological sites; and nature preserves	Yes – 10 archaeological sites	Yes – 6 archaeological sites	Yes – 3 archaeological sites	All archeological sites will be avoided or spanned. National Register-eligible sites within the Project Corridor will be protected during construction to avoid impacts.
County parks and recreational areas; municipal parks; and parks owned or administered by other governmental subdivisions	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Areas critical to the life stage of threatened or endangered animal or plant species	No designated critical habitat	No designated critical habitat	No designated critical habitat	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Areas where animal or plant species that are unique or rare to this state would be irreversibly damaged	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Areas within 1,200 feet of the geographic center of the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch or launch control facility	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Areas within thirty feet on either side of a direct line between ICBM launch or launch control facilities to avoid microwave interference	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.

5.2 Avoidance Areas

In accordance with NDAC § 69-06-08-02(2), the Commission will not approve certain avoidance areas as a site for a transmission facility unless the applicant shows that under the circumstances there is no reasonable alternative. In determining whether an avoidance area should be designated for a transmission facility, the Commission may consider, among other things: the proposed management of adverse impacts; the orderly siting of facilities; system reliability and integrity; the efficient use of resources; and alternative sites. These avoidance areas are listed in **Table 5** and are also mapped for the Project Corridor on **Figure 6**.

One occupied residence is approximately 395 feet from the Project Corridor but 520 feet from the Project Route (**Table 5**, **Figure 6**). This residence belongs to a participating landowner with whom Brady Wind has a landowner agreement. Although this residence is more than 500 feet from the proposed Project Route, the landowner agreement includes a waiver of the 500-foot setback requirement in the event the transmission line is sited less than 500 feet from the residence.

Table 5. Avoidance Areas

Avoidance Area	Present within 1-mile Study Area	Present within Project Corridor	Adjacent to Project Route	Proposed Buffer
Designated or registered national historic districts; wildlife areas; wild, scenic or recreational rivers; wildlife refuges; and grasslands	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Designated or registered state wild, scenic, or recreational rivers; game refuges; game management areas; forests, forest management lands; and grasslands	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Historical resources which are not specifically designated as exclusion or avoidance areas	Yes – 1 historic farmstead	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Areas which are geologically unstable	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Within 500 feet of a residence, school, or place of business	N/A	Yes – 1 residence is within 395 feet of the Project Corridor but 520 feet from Project Route	No	The Applicant and landowner have entered into an agreement that includes a setback waiver.
Reservoirs and municipal water supplies	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Water sources for organized rural water districts	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.

Table 5. Avoidance Areas

Avoidance Area	Present within 1-mile Study Area	Present within Project Corridor	Adjacent to Project Route	Proposed Buffer
Irrigated land	No	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.
Areas of recreational significance which are not designated as exclusion areas	Yes – 1 parcel enrolled in Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS)	No	No	No buffer is proposed because no features are identified within the Project Corridor.

5.3 Selection Criteria

In accordance with NDAC § 69-06-08-02(3), adverse effects resulting from the location, construction, and maintenance of a transmission facility shall be minimized to the extent practicable, and shall be managed and maintained at an acceptable minimum. **Table 6** identifies the selection criteria for the Project Corridor and Route.

Table 6. Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	Potential Adverse Effects
The impact upon agriculture:	
Agricultural Production	Areas within the construction easement may be disturbed during field surveys and construction, but will be restored as practicable and landowners will be compensated through an easement payment and for loss of agricultural production.
Family farms and ranches	See above.
Land which the owner can demonstrate has soil, topography, drainage, and an available water supply that cause the land to be economically suitable for irrigation	The Project Corridor is primarily crop land and pasture land. No irrigated lands were identified within the Project Corridor.
The impact upon:	
Sound-sensitive land uses	Following construction, there will be a minimal amount of sound from the transmission line as a result of corona effects. Corona effects occur when air molecules near conducting wire are ionized due to changes in the electric field intensity at the conductor surface. The noise is most noticeable when conductors are wet as a result of precipitation. For example, for another 230-kV transmission line, noise modeling estimated the corona audible to be 15 A-weighted decibels (dBA) in fair weather and 25 to 40 dBA in wet weather at the edges of the right-of-way (USDA Rural Utilities Service 2013).

Table 6. Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	Potential Adverse Effects
The visual effect on the adjacent area	The proposed facility will be visible to landowners and travelers along roadways adjacent to the Project Route. Other transmission lines are present in the viewshed.
Extractive and storage resources	There are no extractive and storage resources identified within the Project Corridor, but there are two inactive sand and gravel pits within the 1-mile Study Area. With respect to potential future development, per landowner easement agreements, Brady Wind will coordinate with landowners to facilitate the compatibility of any future development of sand and gravel resources.
Wetlands, woodlands, and wooded areas	A wetland delineation was completed in November 2015; the Project will be built to avoid impacts to surface waters to the extent practicable. The wetland delineation report will be submitted upon completion. Permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands will be minimized as practicable. Economically important forestry resources are not found in the Project Corridor. A few small patches of trees are present as shelterbelts and in drainage ways and wetlands.
Radio and television reception, and other communication or electronic control facilities	Tall structures such as buildings, communication towers, transmission lines, and wind turbines can create minor obstructions to nearby communications systems. Television reception disruption is not anticipated.
Human health and safety	The proposed facility will be designed and constructed to meet or exceed the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code. Regular maintenance and inspections will be performed during the life of the facility to ensure its continued integrity. The nearest occupied residence is 395 feet from the Project Corridor and 520 feet from the Project Route, where electromagnetic fields will be at background levels. Safety precautions will be taken during construction and line installation.
Animal health and safety	Construction work will be coordinated with landowners to avoid impacts to livestock.
Plant life	The Applicant will avoid existing trees and shrubs as practicable. If impacts to trees and shrubs cannot be avoided, the individual trees/shrubs will be replaced according to the Commission's tree and shrub mitigation specifications. Temporarily disturbed areas will be reseeded.

5.4 Policy Criteria

In accordance with Section 69-06-08-02(4), the Commission will give preference to a proposed route that is established based on the following policies and practices with the intent to provide benefit to the area to the maximum extent practicable. **Table 7** summarizes the policy criteria for the Project Corridor and Project Route.

Table 7. Policy Criteria

Policy Criteria	Suitable Policy or Brady Wind Practice
Location and design	The Applicant has committed to minimizing and mitigating environmental impacts, following the National Electrical Safety Code requirements and policies, designing the system to efficiently transfer electricity, ensuring worker and public health and safety, and constructing facilities to most effectively and efficiently meet its delivery obligations.
Training and utilization of available labor in this state for the general and specialized skills required	The Applicant will use local qualified contractors to provide labor for the Project to the extent practicable.
Economies of construction and operation	The Applicant will use experienced local contractors to the extent practicable. The Applicant has evaluated feasible alternatives and selected a Project Route that minimizes the extent and impacts to the social, economic, and natural environment to the extent practicable.
Use of citizen coordinating committees	No citizen coordinating committees were used for the proposed Project Route or proposed Project Corridor, although an open house was held on November 4, 2015, to provide information on the associated wind energy facility and collect feedback from the local community. The Applicant has worked with landowners of properties for the Project to avoid or minimize impacts on landowners to the extent practicable.
A commitment of a portion of the transmitted product for use in this state	The Project will transmit energy from the Brady Wind Energy Center in Stark County, North Dakota, and injected into the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line, and will be delivered into Basin's integrated system to serve electric customers in North Dakota.
Labor relations	No labor relations will be affected by the proposed 230-kV Project.
The coordination of facilities	Existing infrastructure was considered in the location of the Project Corridor, Project Route, and associated facilities. The use of existing infrastructure would not be feasible. The Applicant will avoid impacts to existing infrastructure, other than interconnecting with Basin's existing transmission line. Brady Wind will coordinate that interconnection with Basin.
Monitoring of impacts	The Applicant and the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractor will employ best management practices during construction to monitor soil impacts and segregate topsoil. A stormwater pollution prevention plan will be prepared for the Project.
Utilization of existing and proposed rights-of-way and corridors	The Applicant has routed the transmission line parallel to existing roadways and section lines to the extent practicable.
Other existing or proposed transmission facilities	The Applicant is open to utilizing or paralleling existing utility ROW when siting transmission line routes, as practicable.

5.5 Design and Construction Limitations

The location of the collection substation and the connection at the Belfield to Rhame transmission line has limited potential corridor locations by dictating the points of terminus for the Project. The Applicant further refined the location of the Project Corridor by identifying interested landowners in the area between the wind project and the interconnection point. Based on these factors, the Applicant selected a study area for the proposed Project of approximately 19 miles in length. The Project Route was chosen because it follows existing road ROWs and section lines, where practicable. Pursuant to NDAC § 69-06-05-01(2)(j), the proposed location of the Project is the most direct route that also minimizes impacts on the exclusion, avoidance, selection, and policy

criteria identified in Section 69-06-08-02. In the evaluation of the study area, the Applicant also considered topography, location of existing transmission facilities (lines and substations), land ownership, and economics. It was necessary to originate the Project at the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center collection substation in Section 25 of Township 137 North, Range 96 West and connect it to the Belfield to Rhame transmission line in Section 20, Township 139 North, Range 98 West.

5.6 Economic Considerations

There are several economic considerations in deciding where to route the Project. Overall, minimizing the length decreases the cost to construct the transmission line due to use of less material and ROW. Minimized length also reduces transmission line loss.

The Applicant has and will continue to take steps to minimize any economic damage that might be created by the proposed facility. Landowners will be compensated through an easement payment for any potential loss of land and agricultural production. The Project Route was chosen to follow as straight a line as possible with consideration given to willing landowner participation, constructability, exclusion areas, avoidance areas, and other selected areas.

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6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

In the evaluation of the study area, the Applicant considered, among other things, topography, location of existing transmission facilities (lines and substations), location of communities and airfields, location of water resources, land ownership, and economics.

Final design of the Project is dependent upon several factors, including landowner input, on-site pre-construction surveys, and agency consultation. The Applicant identified the preliminary location of the Project Route based on several desktop analyses, site visits, and agency consultation.

This section provides a summary of the environmental studies conducted for the Project Corridor and Project Route. Studies that have been completed include:

- Cultural Resources Inventory
- Desktop Analysis and Wetlands/Waters of the U.S. Reconnaissance Survey
- Whooping Crane Likelihood of Occurrence Report (Tetra Tech 2015)

Wetland and cultural resources surveys are underway; these reports will be submitted to the Commission once they are complete.

Each study is summarized below.

6.1 Cultural Resources Inventory

Tetra Tech performed a Class I Literature Review for the area of potential effects (APE) and for a 1-mile study area around the APE in July 2015. The file review was completed at the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND). The APE is defined as the proposed 250-foot-wide Project Corridor that was surveyed for archaeological resources. The literature review identified one prehistoric site and two isolates (**Table 8**). An isolate is a location with five or fewer surface visible artifacts that, in the professional judgment of the archaeologist, is likely to be a limited surface expression of a former occupation area where most of the artifacts are still buried. Of these resources, one archaeological site, 32SK81 (prehistoric cultural material scatter), is within the APE. Avoidance of direct impacts to these sites is recommended, and Brady Wind intends to avoid direct impacts to significant sites.

The Class I Literature Review also identified two architectural resources and one architectural cultural resource lead (**Table 9**). Of these, one historic-age farmstead is within the APE. Brady Wind will avoid direct impacts to all of these sites.

Table 8. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites and Isolates

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type	Description	Avoidance	Location
32SK81	Prehistoric	CM Scatter	Avoid direct impacts to site	Within APE
ISOLATES				
32SKx86	Prehistoric	--	No further management necessary.	Not within APE. Within 1 mile of APE.
32SKx324	Prehistoric	--	No further management necessary.	Not within APE. Within 1 mile of APE.

Note: CM = cultural material

Table 9. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type	Description	Avoidance	Location
32SKx201	Euro-American – ca. 1900 to Present	Farmstead	Avoid direct impacts to site.	Within APE
32SK157	Euro-American – ca. 1900 to Present	Farmstead	Avoid direct impacts to site.	Not within APE. Within 1 mile of APE
32SKx85	Euro-American – ca. 1900 to Present	Farmstead	Avoid direct impacts to site.	Not within APE. Within 1 mile of APE

Tetra Tech conducted a Class III Intensive Cultural Resources Inventory of the APE to identify archaeological resources. The current pedestrian survey also investigated the status of the previously documented site and site leads in the direct effects APE.

Shovel probing may be utilized in areas where pedestrian survey cannot adequately assess the presence or absence of cultural materials due to poor surface visibility. Brady Wind and Tetra Tech coordinated with the SHSND on the appropriate scope and level of survey for the Project, and field survey procedures were approved by the SHSND on March 12, 2015. Once complete, the Class III Cultural Resources Inventory Report will be submitted to the SHSND for review and concurrence, and a summary will be provided to the Commission.

Avoidance buffers will be created for archaeological sites recorded during the pedestrian survey of the APE that are potential eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Brady Wind will avoid direct impacts to these sites.

An Unanticipated Discovery Plan will be prepared for the proposed Project outlining the procedure that would be followed to prepare for and address any unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources, including previously undiscovered archaeological sites and possible human remains. It will provide direction to on-site personnel and their consultants as to the proper procedure to follow in the event that unanticipated discoveries were to be made during construction of the Project. No significant impacts to cultural resources would, therefore, be anticipated from the proposed Project.

In the event that burials or cultural sites with Native American religious values are identified during construction of the proposed Project, work would immediately halt within 200 feet of the site and the site would be protected until the SHSND and the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission are consulted, in addition to any involved Tribes that express interest in the Project and identify a potential impact.

If confirmed or potential human skeletal remains are discovered, the Stark County Sheriff's office will be contacted. The Sheriff will call the North Dakota State Forensic Examiner to determine if the remains are associated with a crime scene. If the remains are determined not to be part of an active crime scene or investigation, the North Dakota Chief Archaeologist will be contacted.

6.2 Wetlands/Waters of the U.S. Survey

A desktop analysis of aerial photography, topographical maps, National Wetlands Inventory, and National Hydrography Dataset identified five potential jurisdictional wetlands and 19 intermittent streams crossings within the Project Corridor.

Brady Wind conducted wetland delineations of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction for the Project in October and November 2015. The delineations were conducted using the methodologies cited in the USACE Jurisdictional Determination Form Instruction Guidebook (USACE and EPA 2007), including the December 2, 2008 revised Rapanos guidance (EPA and USACE 2008). Seventeen wetland or waterbody features were delineated within the Project Corridor, including 11 wetlands, 4 streams, and 2 stock ponds. A wetland delineation report of findings will be provided upon completion.

6.3 Whooping Crane Likelihood of Occurrence

A desktop whooping crane likelihood assessment was completed in November 2015 for the Brady Wind Energy Center, including the proposed Project (Tetra Tech 2015). Although there is foraging and roosting habitat within the Project Area, the landscape-scale analysis concluded that the likelihood of whooping cranes occurring within the Project Area is low based on the location of the Project Area on the edge of the migration corridor. Sections of the transmission line that are within 0.5 mile of potentially suitable stopover habitat for whooping cranes will be outfitted with bird flight diverters per the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) (2012) recommendations to reduce risk of collision for whooping cranes and other birds.

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7.0 PUBLIC AGENCY COORDINATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF PERMITS AND APPROVALS

7.1 Agency Consultation

NDAC § 69-06-01-05 lists 27 state agencies or officers that are entitled to notice of the Applicant's proposed action. Letters describing the proposed Project were sent to the applicable agencies in August 2015. Copies of these letters and all responses received are included in **Appendix B**; a summary of the responses received as of November 2015 are presented below in **Table 10**.

Brady Wind will continue to meet with county officials as the Project moves forward and Brady Wind seeks any necessary local permits. Brady Wind also held a public open house in Schefield, North Dakota, on November 4, 2015, to provide local residents the opportunity to meet the Project staff and discuss the Project.

Table 10. Summary of Agency Correspondence

Agency	Response Date	Response Summary
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	08/19/15	If a Section 10 and/or Section 404 permit is required, a permit application must be submitted to USACE. Nationwide Permit 12 requirements and general conditions were provided.
State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND)	08/21/15	Recommends Class I file search and Class III Intensive Cultural Resources Inventories for archaeological sites and historic structures.
North Dakota Geological Survey	08/24/15	There are economic coal deposits within or adjacent to the Project Area. The agency has not initiated a landslide mapping project within this area.
North Dakota Department of Health	08/26/15	The agency believes the environmental impacts of the Project will be minor. Fugitive dust emissions should be minimized during construction. Impacts to streams should be avoided and disturbed areas should be revegetated. Projects disturbing one or more acres must have a permit to discharge storm water runoff. Noise from construction activities can be minimized by ensuring that construction equipment is equipped with a working muffler. The agency believes the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota.
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department	08/31/15	No state park lands or Land and Water Conservation Fund lands are in the Project Area. There are several significant ecological communities documented in the Project Area. The agency recommends that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the Project Area.
North Dakota State Water Commission	09/04/15	There are floodplains in the Project Area. The online link for well locations was provided. There is Southwest Pipeline Project infrastructure in the area; contact information for the Southwest Water Authority was provided. All waste materials associated with the Project must be disposed of properly and not placed in floodway areas. No sole-source aquifers have been designated in North Dakota.

Table 10. Summary of Agency Correspondence

Agency	Response Date	Response Summary
North Dakota Game and Fish	09/25/15	Suggests use of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines; recommends avoidance of wetland impacts and maintaining existing drainage patterns, and replacing wetlands that are affected. Requests burying of collection lines, marking overhead lines near streams or wetlands; recommends conducting aerial surveys for raptor nests prior to construction and implementing a ½ mile buffer around active eagle nest sites; recommends monitoring for avian and bat mortality, and requests GPS coordinates of turbines once Project is constructed.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	None received to date	N/A
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission	None received to date	N/A
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	None received to date	N/A
North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission	None received to date	N/A
North Dakota Department of Transportation	None received to date	N/A
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands	None received to date	N/A

7.2 Potential Permits/Approvals

The federal and state permits or approvals that have been identified as potentially required for the construction and operation of the Project are shown in **Table 11**. Permits dependent on the final route and structure location will be applied for in spring 2016 prior to construction.

Table 11. Potential Permits and Approvals Required for Construction and Operation of the Project

Agency	Type of Approval	Status*	Need
Federal Approvals			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Nationwide Permit 12 and 14	3	Wetland surveys were completed to ensure that the Project minimizes impacts to waters of the United States and stays below the pre-construction notification threshold.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC)	2	Required if more than 1,320 gallons of oil are stored onsite at switchyard; may be incorporated into Wind Energy Center SPCC.
State of North Dakota			
North Dakota Public Service Commission (the Commission)	Certificate of Site Compatibility	1	Required for construction of generation facility over 0.5 megawatts in size.
	Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit	1	Required for transmission lines over 115 kilovolts.

Table 11. Potential Permits and Approvals Required for Construction and Operation of the Project

Agency	Type of Approval	Status*	Need
State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND)	Concurrence with effect recommendations	1	Class I File Search is complete and a Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for archaeology is underway; the report will be submitted to SHSND for review when complete.
North Dakota Department of Health	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit: General Construction Storm Water	2	Required for disturbance of over 1 acre of land. Must prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
Local Permits			
Stark County	Conditional Use Permit for the switchyard	2	Brady Wind will apply after submittal of this permit application.
Stark County	Floodplain Permit	3	Brady Wind will work with Stark County to determine if a floodplain permit is necessary if any poles are placed in floodplains.

* Status Explanation:

1 – Applied and/or Decision Pending
2 – Applying in Spring 2016
3 – Final Design will Determine Whether Permit/Approval is Needed

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8.0 FACTORS CONSIDERED

The Siting Act lists 11 factors to guide the Commission in the evaluation and designation of the corridor and route.

8.1 Public Health and Welfare, Natural Resources and the Environment

The preceding sections discuss the research and investigations relating to the effects of the proposed facility on public health and welfare, natural resources, and the environment. These effects and the proposed mitigation to minimize these effects are summarized in Section 6.0.

8.2 Technologies to Minimize Adverse Environmental Effects

The Applicant will utilize the most current technologies and construction technologies to minimize environmental impacts, including design and construction of the Project according to APLIC (2012) recommendations, avoidance of cultural resources, and minimization of impacts to wetlands and streams. In addition, the portions of the Project that are located within 0.5 mile of suitable whooping crane stopover habitat will be outfitted with bird diverters to minimize the likelihood of large birds such as cranes colliding with the line. A Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) is being prepared for the Brady Wind Energy Center and this Project.

8.3 Beneficial Uses of Waste Energy

This factor is not applicable to the Project.

8.4 Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Effects

The Project will introduce a new visual component into the landscape; however, the existing landscape in the vicinity of the Project Corridor already includes existing electrical distribution lines and radio towers. The Project Route is expected to impact approximately 30 acres of land during operation, assuming a 30-acre switchyard and 3 square feet per pole every 700 linear feet.[1]

8.5 Alternatives to the Proposed Route

Other alternatives were considered for the Project Route within the area between the western terminus (Basin and the Applicant's preferred point of interconnection) and the eastern terminus (the location of the collection substation for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center). The Applicant believes that the proposed location is the most viable route alternative based on landowner preferences, the fact that the Project Route follows existing road ROWs and section lines where practicable, and is the most direct route that also minimizes impacts on the exclusion, avoidance, selection, and policy criteria identified in NDAC § 69-06-08-02.

8.6 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Natural Resources

Irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the effects that the use of these resources have on future generations. Irreversible effects primarily result from use or destruction of a specific resource that cannot be replaced within a reasonable timeframe. Irretrievable resource commitments involve the loss in value of an affected resource that cannot be restored as a result of the action. There are few commitments

[1] A 3 square-foot pole every 700 feet for 19 miles is approximately 430 square feet, or less than 0.01 acre.

of resources associated with this Project that are irreversible and irretrievable, but these include those resources primarily related to construction.

Labor and natural resources will be used in the fabrication and preparation of construction materials. These materials are usually not retrievable. Construction resources that will be used include steel, aggregate resources, concrete, and hydrocarbon fuel. Each steel monopole structure requires the construction of a foundation approximately 5 feet wide and approximately 20 feet deep. During construction, vehicles will be traveling to and from the site, utilizing hydrocarbon fuels. These resources are not in short supply, and their use will not have an adverse effect on the availability of these resources. In addition, the anticipated economic benefits of the Project will balance the irretrievable commitment of resources resulting from the construction of the Project (see Section 8.5).

8.7 Direct and Indirect Economic Impact of the Proposed Transmission Facility

Economic impacts include impacts associated with the temporary disturbance of up to approximately 345 acres of land due to transmission structure installation, assuming the entire 150-foot-wide construction easement would be disturbed. Permanent impacts will be lower, at slightly more than 30 acres, primarily the switchyard and approximately 140 pole structures. In general, agricultural areas surrounding each transmission line structure can still be farmed, and landowner compensation will be established by individual easement agreements. Other direct and indirect economic impacts are generally positive, and may include spending for fuel, operating supplies, and other products and services that will benefit local businesses.

8.8 Existing Development Plans in the Vicinity of the Route

No conflicts are anticipated with existing state and local government and private entities' development plans. The Project Route was developed based on voluntary easement agreements with landowners.

8.9 Effects on Scenic and Cultural Resources

There are no designated recreational resources that would be affected by the Project. Section 6.1 describes the cultural resources inventory underway for the Project. No effects to potentially significant sites are anticipated.

8.10 Effects on Biological Resources

Biological resources within the Project Corridor and potential effects as a result of the Project are discussed in Sections 6.2 through 6.4. Effects will be avoided and minimized to the extent practicable. The transmission line will be designed and constructed following APLIC (2006) recommendations to minimize the risk of electrocution for birds, and portions of the Project that are within 0.5 mile of suitable stopover habitat for whooping cranes will be marked per APLIC recommendations (APLIC 2012) to minimize impacts to whooping cranes and other large birds. As stated in Section 8.2, a BBCS is being prepared for the Project.

8.11 Problems Identified by Agencies

Agency coordination and potential permits/approvals are discussed in Section 7.1 and Section 7.2, respectively. In general, the agencies that responded concluded that the proposed Project will have minimal adverse effects. A copy of agency response letters is included in **Appendix B**.

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9.0 QUALIFICATION OF CONTRIBUTORS

Name Project Role	Education and Professional Experience
MELISSA HOCHMUTH Project Manager, Development NextEra Energy Resources (NEER)	Ms. Hochmuth joined NEER in August 2008 and serves as NEER's lead developer for North Dakota. Melissa has over six years of experience in various roles with NEER. She spent five years in the environmental compliance and regulatory departments and began her role as lead developer for wind projects in North Dakota in October 2013. Melissa is responsible for managing and coordinating key functions of project development including site prospecting, meteorological tower deployment, financial analysis, land acquisition, contract negotiations including leases and obtaining all state, local, and environmental permits. Melissa holds a BA, Masters of Educational Administration and Law Degree from the University of Florida.
KIMBERLY WELLS, PH.D. Environmental Services Project Manager NEER	Dr. Wells has 15 years of environmental permitting experience including experience as both a consultant and environmental manager in the renewable industry. Her primary expertise is technically challenging and interdisciplinary projects on private and public land, with a focus on large environmental impact assessment and permitting projects with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and state equivalents; the ESA, the Clean Water Act, and associated natural resource laws. She is a certified wildlife biologist and wetland delineator, and obtained her BS in Natural Resource Management from the University of Arizona, her MS in Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology from Oklahoma State, and her PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from the University of Missouri – Columbia. Dr. Wells is the environmental permitting manager for the Mid-Continent Region that includes North Dakota.
JASON UTTON Director Development NEER	Mr. Utton currently directs all wind energy development efforts in the Midwest ISO and PJM markets. Jason joined NEER in 2007. While with NEER, he has successfully developed over 500 MW of clean, renewable energy, which reflects a total company investment of over $2.0B. Jason is the lead negotiator for all commercial contracts in North Dakota.
CHRIS WESTRICK Sr. Project Manager Construction NEER	Mr. Westrick is responsible for the management and oversight of early stage phases of project planning, engineering, and construction of wind projects. Duties also include budget development, contract execution, procurement, logistical planning, and ultimately transition to the construction execution team. Chris has over 10 years of experience in construction and project management.
BRIAN BJELLA Attorney for Applicants Crowley Fleck PLLP	Applicant's counsel. J.D. and Bachelor's degree, both from University of North Dakota.
ANNE-MARIE GRIGER, AICP Project Manager Tetra Tech, Inc.	Ms. Griger has 10 years of experience in environmental planning and permitting, including NEPA compliance, for large-scale infrastructure projects including wind energy generating facilities, solar energy facilities, and highways. She serves as Project Manager for wind energy projects in Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Texas. Master's in Urban and Regional Planning and Bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy and Planning, both from Virginia Tech.

Name Project Role	Education and Professional Experience
SARAH MCCALL Senior Environmental Planner Tetra Tech, Inc.	Ms. McCall has more than 12 years of experience as an environmental planner and natural resources specialist/policy analyst. Responsibilities have included project management and technical support of NEPA documents and other land use permits, focusing largely on renewable energy projects. Ms. McCall received her Master of Public Administration in Environmental Management at Indiana University, her Master of Science in Environmental Science at Indiana University, and her Bachelors of Science in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin.
JAKE ENGELMAN GIS Analyst Tetra Tech	Mr. Engelman prepared the application figures, impact calculations, and other GIS tasks in support of this permit application. He is a GIS specialist with four years of experience in environmental resource and utility planning projects. His skills include geographic information systems (GIS), cartographic and graphic design, remote sensing, natural and cultural environmental resource mapping, and global positioning system (GPS) data collection. He uses these skills to produce high-quality graphic products of proposed projects, ranging from generation scale utility projects to single parcel substations. Mr. Engelman received his Bachelors of Science in Geography at Minnesota State University-Mankato.
ADAM HOLVEN Archaeologist Tetra Tech	Mr. Holven led the Class I and Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for archaeology for the Project. He has extensive archaeological field experience, including large-scale multi-square mile cultural resource surveys for wind farms in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Mr. Holven obtained his Master's off Arts in Anthropology at Iowa State University, his Bachelors of Arts in Anthropology at University of Northern Iowa, and his Bachelors of Science in Geology at University of Northern Iowa.
STEVE YARBROUGH Wetlands Biologist Tetra Tech	Mr. Yarbrough led the wetlands delineation surveys for the Project. He is a certified professional ecologist with the Ecological Society of America and a director on the board of the Colorado Native Plant Society, and has 26 years of experience as a biologist and environmental scientist in the environmental consulting field. Mr. Yarbrough obtained his (Master of Arts in Biology at the University of Colorado, Denver, and his Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies at the University of Kansas.

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11.0 DEFINITIONS

APE	area of potential effects
APLIC	Avian Power Line Interaction Committee
Applicant	Brady Wind, LLC
Basin	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Brady Wind	Brady Wind, LLC
BBCS	Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy
Class I Cultural Resources Inventory	Existing data inventory – a large-scale review and compilation of known cultural resource data
Class III Cultural Resources Inventory	Field inventory to identify cultural resources that could be affected by project facilities within the Project Area
Commission	North Dakota Public Service Commission
Corridor Certificate	Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit
GIS	Geographic information system
Guidelines	Commission Application Guidelines for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility
kV	kilovolt
MW	megawatt
NEER	NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
NDAC	North Dakota Administrative Code
NDCC	North Dakota Century Code
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
Project, the	Brady Transmission Line
ROW	right-of-way
SHSND	State Historical Society of North Dakota
Siting Act	North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Figures

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND

Legend

- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary
- Major River
- Municipal Boundary

Existing Electrical Transmission
(Ventyx 2015)

- 115kV Transmission Line
- 230kV Transmission Line

Transportation
(BTS 2013)

- Public Airport
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway

DICKINSON - THEODORE ROOSEVELT RGNL

STARK COUNTY

SLOPE COUNTY

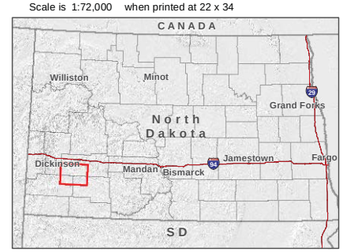
HETTINGER COUNTY

New England

Cannonball River

0 1.5 3
Miles

Scale is 1:72,000 when printed at 22 x 34



TETRA TECH

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Figure 1: Project Location

Path: P:\6360_Dickinson_Wind_2\GIS\Layouts\PSC_Application\Transmission_Line\Project_Location.mxd Revised: 11/24/2015

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND

Legend

- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary
- Major River
- Municipal Boundary

Transportation

- State Highway
- County Road

Jurisdiction
(ND GIS Hub 2014)

Federal

- National Grassland

State

- State Trust Land

Other

- North Dakota Game & Fish Conservation PLOTS Recreational Easement (Private Land Open to Sportsmen)

0 1 2
Miles

Scale is 1:42,000 when printed at 22 x 34

TETRA TECH

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Path: P:\5360_Dickinson_Wind_2\GIS\ArcmxdPSC_Application\Transmission_LineAerial.mxd Revised: 12/7/2015

Figure 2: Project Corridor (Aerial)

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND

Legend

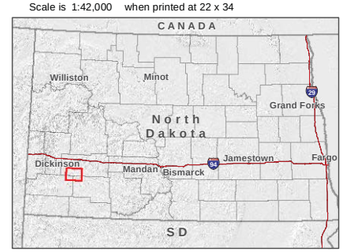
- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary

*USGS Topo

0 1 2

Miles

Scale is 1:42,000 when printed at 22 x 34



TETRA TECH

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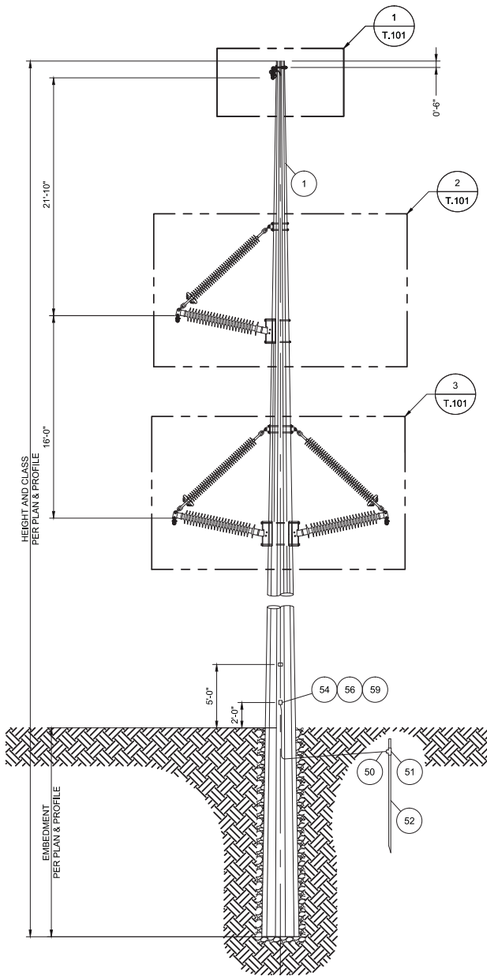
Figure 3: Project Corridor (Topographical)

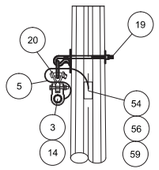
Path: P:\5360_Dickinson_Wind_2\GIS\Layouts\PSC_ApplicationTransmission_LineTap.mxd Revised: 12/7/2015

TANGENT BILL OF MATERIAL
MATERIAL REQUIRED THIS SHEET

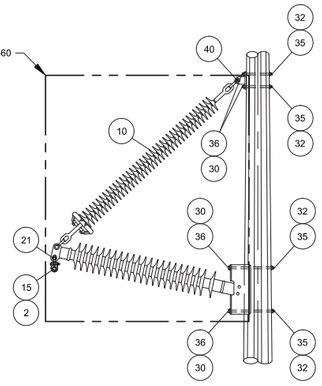
Item	QTY	Units	Manufacturer	Part No.	Description	Provided by
1	1	EA	TRINITY MEYER		POLE: STEEL, WOOD EQUIVALENT, HEIGHT AND CLASS AS SHOWN ON PLAN AND PROFILE DRAWING	OWNER
2	AS REQ'D	FT			CONDUCTOR: 1272 kcmil "BITTERN", 1.345" DIAMETER, 34,100 LB ULTIMATE STRENGTH, 1.434 LB/FT	OWNER
3	AS REQ'D	FT	SFPOC	SFSJ-J-4388	OPGW: 48 FIBER, 0.530" DIAMETER, 18,800 LB ULTIMATE STRENGTH, 0.365 LB/FT	OWNER
5	1	EA	ELECTROTEK	S-STRAP	S-STRAP: SEE DRAWING XXX FOR DIMENSIONS, WITH REQUIRED TERMINALS	OWNER
10	3	EA	MACLEAN	B211089AL99N-60	INSULATOR: BRACED POST, 230 kV	OWNER
14	1	EA	PREFORMED	4300109YC	SUSPENSION CLAMP: FOR 0.512" TO 0.536" DIAMETER OPGW, SINGLE, FIBERLIGN, INCLUDES Y-CLEVIS	OWNER
15	3	EA	ANDERSON	CFS-213-N	SUSPENSION CLAMP: FOR "BITTERN", ALUMINUM,	OWNER
19	1	EA	HUGHES BROS	2855.5-10-BCL	BRACKET: SHIELD WIRE SUPPORT, 5/8" DIAMETER, 10" LENGTH, 5/8" LINK CHAIN, MAX VERTICAL LOAD 5 KIP	OWNER
20	1	EA	ANDERSON	YCS-05	Y CLEVIS EYE: 20 KIP ULTIMATE LOAD, 3/4" PIN DIAMETER, 11/16" DIAMETER AND 5/8" WIDTH EYE	OWNER
21	3	EA	ANDERSON	YCS-22-90	Y CLEVIS EYE: 30 KIP ULTIMATE LOAD, 3/4" PIN DIAMETER, 11/16" DIAMETER AND 2 1/4" WIDTH EYE	OWNER
25	3	EA	PREFORMED	AR-0146	ARMOR RODS: FOR 1272 kcmil, 45/7 Strand, "BITTERN"	OWNER
30	12	EA			BOLT: 7/8" DIAMETER, LENGTH NOT SPECIFIED	CONTRACTOR
32	12	EA	LOK-MOR	ANCO	LOCKNUT: FOR 7/8" BOLT	CONTRACTOR
35	4	EA	HUGHES BROS	SW3-80-3/8	WASHER: SQUARE, FLAT, 3" X 3" FOR 7/8" BOLT	CONTRACTOR
36	8	EA	HUGHES BROS	RW2-80	WASHER: ROUND FOR 7/8" BOLT, 2" OUTSIDE DIAMETER	CONTRACTOR
40	3	EA	HUGHES BROS	2817-S-15	DEADEND TEE: 60,000 LB ULTIMATE STRENGTH, 6" HOLE SPACING, 15/16" MOUNTING HOLE, 15/16" CHAMFERED STEM HOLE	CONTRACTOR
50	AS REQ'D	FT			CONDUCTOR: COPPER, #2 AWG, 0.292" DIAMETER, 7-STRAND	CONTRACTOR
51	AS REQ'D	EA			CLAMP: COMPRESSION, FOR #2 AWG TO 1/2" DIAMETER GROUND ROD	CONTRACTOR
52	AS REQ'D	EA	HUBBELL	C611300	GROUND ROD: 1/2" DIAMETER X 10' LENGTH, COPPER	CONTRACTOR
54	2	EA			TERMINAL: FOR #2 AWG TO 2 HOLE NEMA PAD	CONTRACTOR
56	4	EA			BOLT: 1/2" DIAMETER, 2" LONG	CONTRACTOR
59	4	EA			WASHER: LOCKWASHER FOR 1/2" BOLT	CONTRACTOR



TAN-230 DETAIL
SINGLE CIRCUIT
TANGENT STRUCTURE
SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"



1 / T.101 DETAIL
SHIELD WIRE ATTACHMENT
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



2 / T.101 DETAIL
BRACED POST ATTACHMENT
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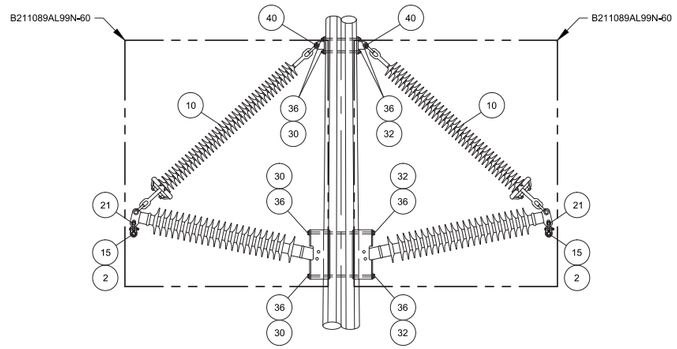

3 / T.101 DETAIL
BRACED POST ATTACHMENT
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

NOTES

1. USE GROUNDING PROCEDURE FOR INSTALLATION OF GROUNDING RODS. SEE DRAWING T.XXX
2. REFERENCE PLAN AND PROFILE DRAWINGS FOR REQUIRED STRUCTURE EMBEDMENTS.

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Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-237-6601
www.kleinfelder.com

REVISIONS

REV	DESCRIPTION	DSN / DWN	CHK / APP	DATE
A	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	BJA	SMA	02/03/15
		BJA	SMA	

SCALE VERIFICATION
THIS BAR IS 1 INCH IN LENGTH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING
0 1"
IF IT'S NOT 1 INCH ON THIS SHEET ADJUST YOUR SCALES ACCORDINGLY

ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE IS 24 x 36

TANGENT STRUCTURE ASSEMBLY DRAWING

DICKINSON TRANSMISSION LINE

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

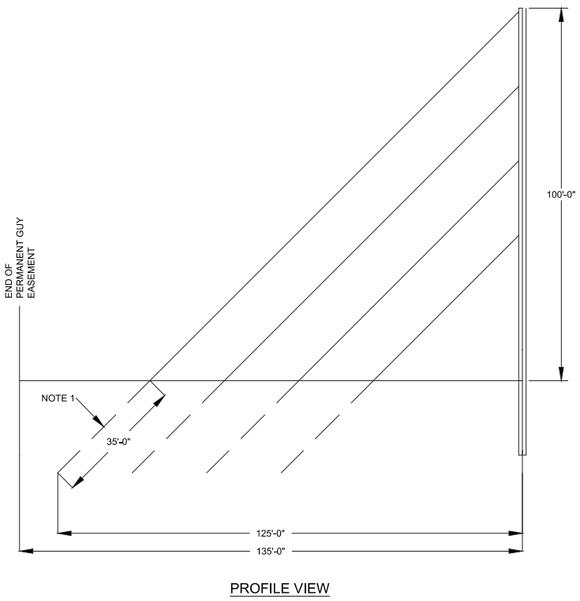
ISSUED FOR REVIEW

PROJECT NO.	20153924
ISSUE DATE	02/03/15
CURRENT REVISION	A
DESIGNED BY	B. AVERILL
DRAWN BY	B. AVERILL
CHECKED BY	S. ARNDT
APPROVED BY	S. ARNDT

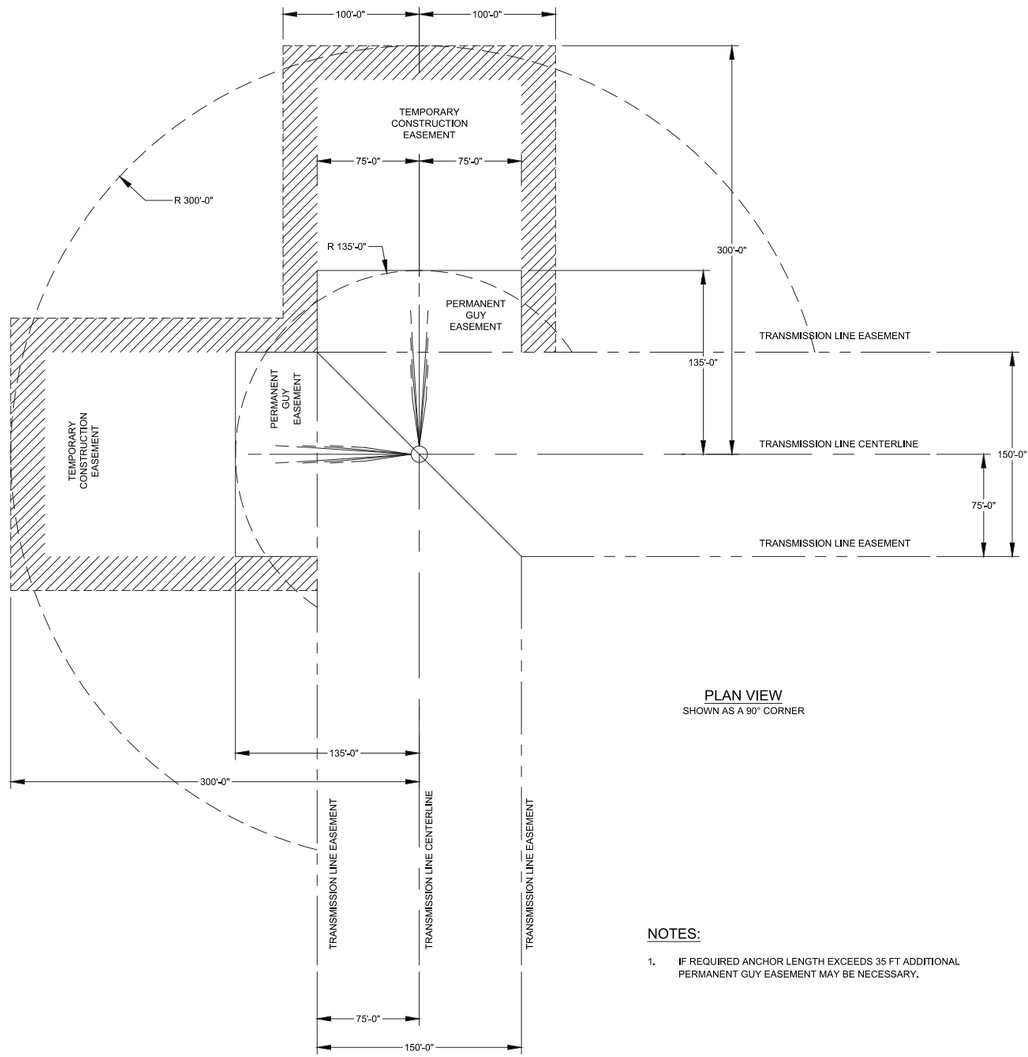
T.101

SHEET --- of ---

Figure 4: Transmission Line Typical Structure



PROFILE VIEW



PLAN VIEW
SHOWN AS A 90° CORNER

NOTES:

1. IF REQUIRED ANCHOR LENGTH EXCEEDS 35 FT ADDITIONAL PERMANENT GUY EASEMENT MAY BE NECESSARY.

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Phone: 303-237-6601
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REVISIONS

REV	DESCRIPTION	DSN / DWN	CHK / APP	DATE
A	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	BJA / BJA	SMA / PMG	02/24/15

SCALE VERIFICATION

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0 — 1"

IF IT'S NOT 1 INCH ON THIS SHEET ADJUST YOUR SCALES ACCORDINGLY

ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE IS 24 x 36

HEAVY ANGLE EASEMENT DRAWING

DICKINSON TRANSMISSION LINE

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

ISSUED FOR REVIEW

PROJECT NO.	20153924
ISSUE DATE	02/24/15
CURRENT REVISION	A
DESIGNED BY	B. AVERILL
DRAWN BY	B. AVERILL
CHECKED BY	S. ARNDT
APPROVED BY	P. GRANT

T.901

SHEET --- of ----

CAD FILE: W:\20153924_NextEra_Dickinson_T-line\3.0 ALT Drawings\5.1 DWG\T.901 HEAVY ANGLE EASEMENT DRAWING.dwg LAYOUT: T.901 HEAVY ANGLE EASEMENT DRAWING PLOTTED: 2/23/2015 8:03 PM BY: bsin.averill

Figure 5: Heavy Angle Easement Drawing

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND

52ND ST
125TH AVE
124TH AVE
123RD AVE
53RD ST
STARK COUNTY

Legend

- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary

Transportation

- State Highway
- County Road

Avoidance Areas

- Historic Farmstead
- Occupied Residence - 500ft buffer
- North Dakota Game & Fish Conservation PLOTS Recreational Easement (Private Land Open to Sportsmen)

Exclusion Areas

Archeological Sites Not Shown Due to Confidentiality

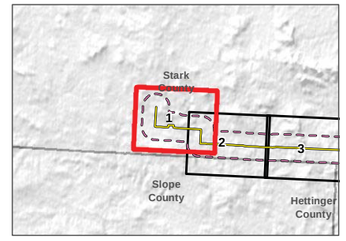
Selection Criteria

NWI 2014, NLCD 2011

- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- NWI Wetland
- NLCD Wooded Areas*
  *Categories: 41, 42, 43, 90

0 750 1,500
Feet

Scale is 1:7,200 when printed at 22 x 34



TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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Figure 6: Exclusion and Avoidance Areas - Sheet 1

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND

STARK COUNTY

SLOPE COUNTY

123RD AVE

122ND AVE

121ST AVE

125TH AVE

53RD ST

54TH ST

Legend

- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary

Transportation

- State Highway
- County Road

Avoidance Areas

- Historic Farmstead
- Occupied Residence - 500ft buffer
- North Dakota Game & Fish Conservation PLOTS Recreational Easement (Private Land Open to Sportsmen)

Exclusion Areas

Archeological Sites Not Shown Due to Confidentiality

Selection Criteria

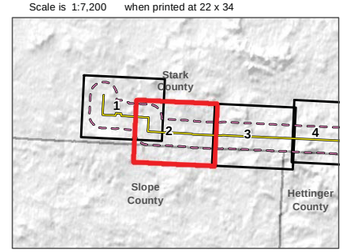
NWI 2014, NLCD 2011

- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- NWI Wetland
- NLCD Wooded Areas*
  *Categories: 41, 42, 43, 90

0 750 1,500

Feet

Scale is 1:7,200 when printed at 22 x 34



TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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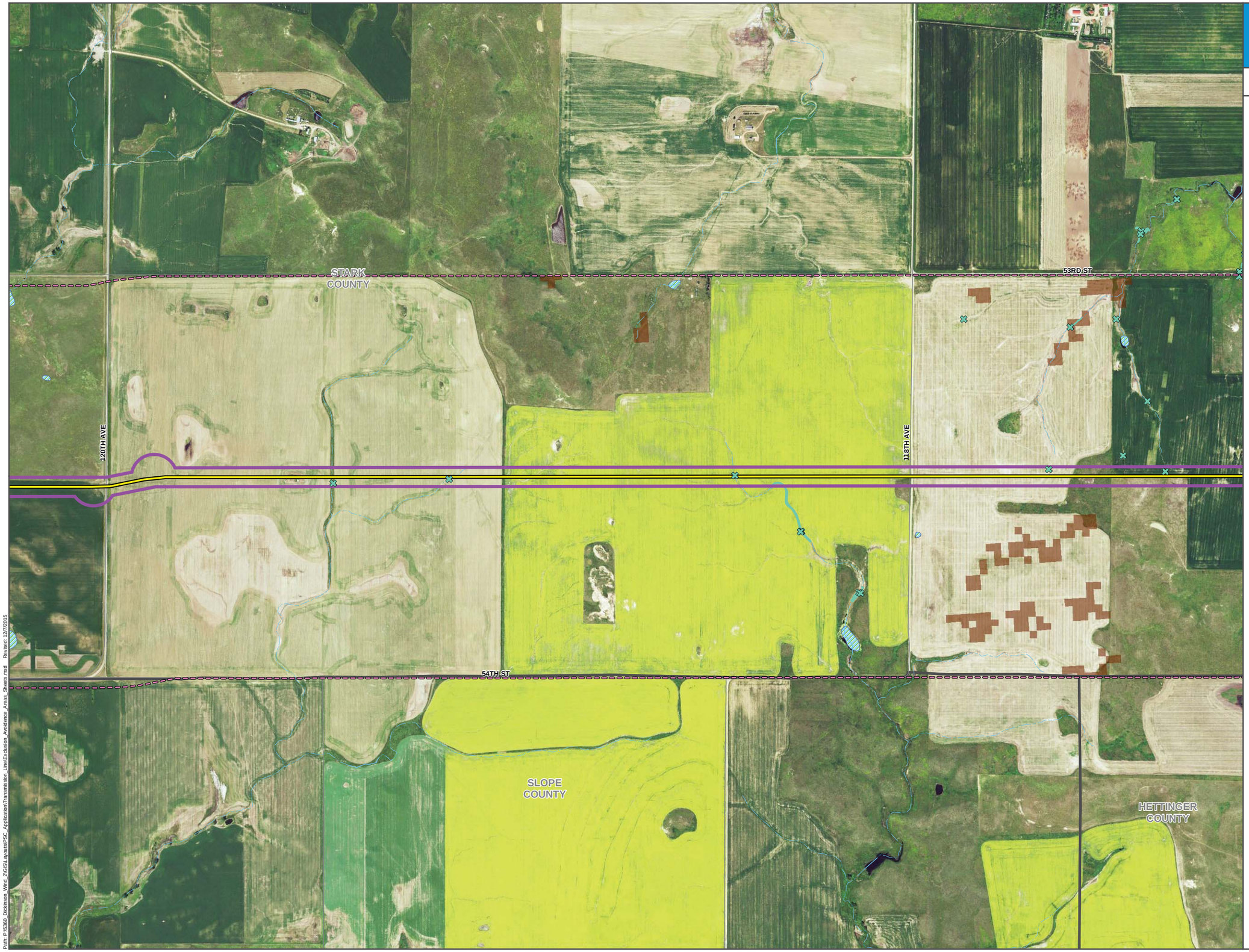
Figure 6: Exclusion and Avoidance Areas - Sheet 2

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND



Legend

- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary

Transportation

- State Highway
- County Road

Avoidance Areas

- Historic Farmstead
- Occupied Residence - 500ft buffer
- North Dakota Game & Fish Conservation PLOTS Recreational Easement (Private Land Open to Sportsmen)

Exclusion Areas

Archeological Sites Not Shown Due to Confidentiality

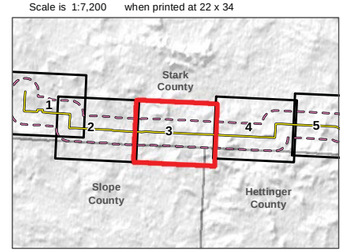
Selection Criteria

NWI 2014, NLCD 2011

- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- NWI Wetland
- NLCD Wooded Areas*
  *Categories: 41, 42, 43, 90

0 750 1,500
Feet

Scale is 1:7,200 when printed at 22 x 34



TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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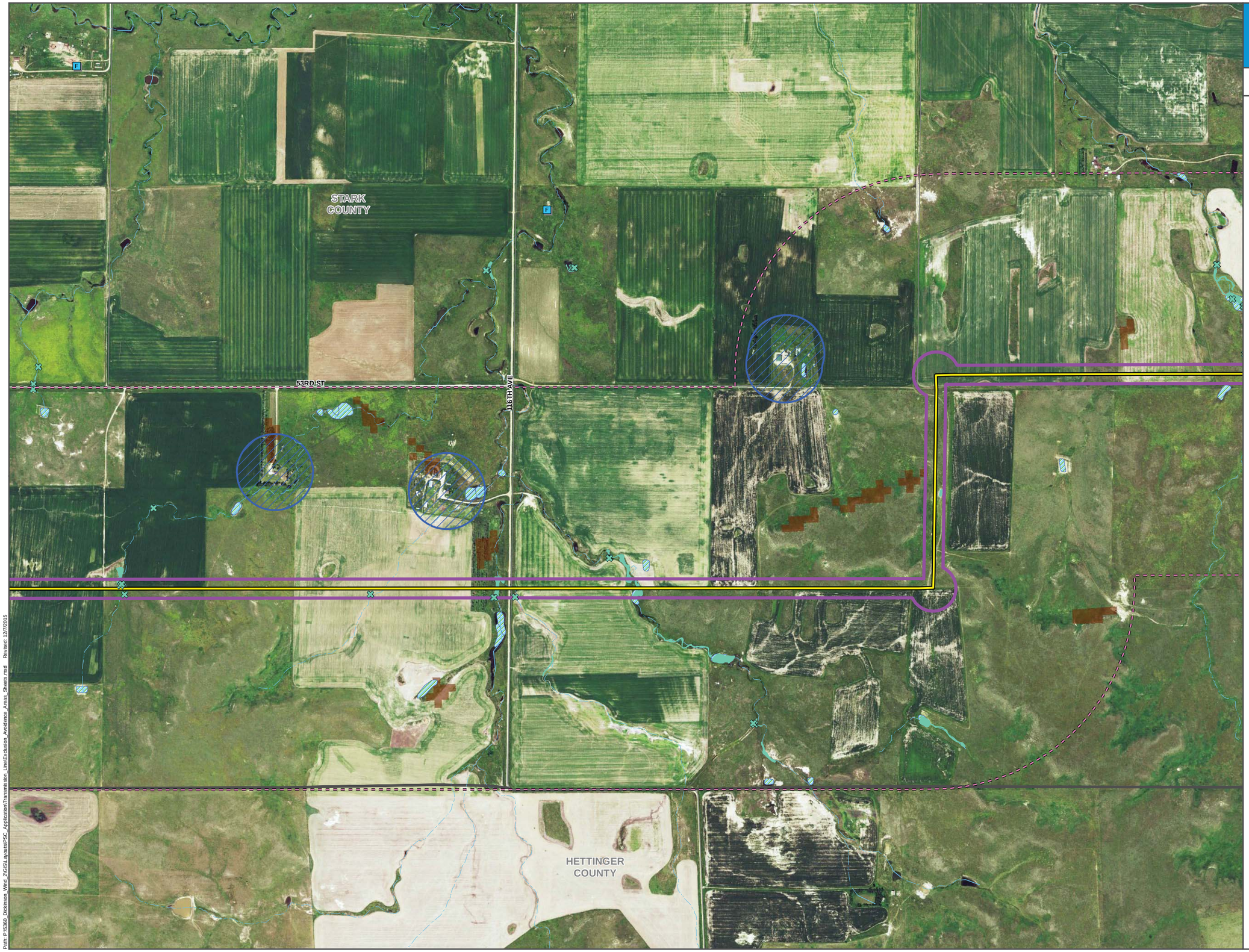
Figure 6: Exclusion and Avoidance Areas - Sheet 3

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND



Legend

- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary

Transportation

- State Highway
- County Road

Avoidance Areas

- Historic Farmstead
- Occupied Residence - 500ft buffer
- North Dakota Game & Fish Conservation PLOTS Recreational Easement (Private Land Open to Sportsmen)

Exclusion Areas

Archeological Sites Not Shown Due to Confidentiality

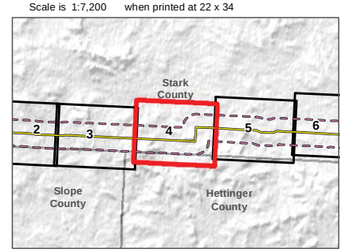
Selection Criteria

NWI 2014, NLCD 2011

- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- NWI Wetland
- NLCD Wooded Areas*
  *Categories: 41, 42, 43, 90

0 750 1,500
Feet

Scale is 1:7,200 when printed at 22 x 34



TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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Figure 6: Exclusion and Avoidance Areas - Sheet 4

Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND

52ND ST
114TH AVE
STARK COUNTY
122ND AVE
53 1/2 ST
54TH ST
22

Legend

- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary

Transportation

- State Highway
- County Road

Avoidance Areas

- Historic Farmstead
- Occupied Residence - 500ft buffer
- North Dakota Game & Fish Conservation PLOTS Recreational Easement (Private Land Open to Sportsmen)

Exclusion Areas

Archeological Sites Not Shown Due to Confidentiality

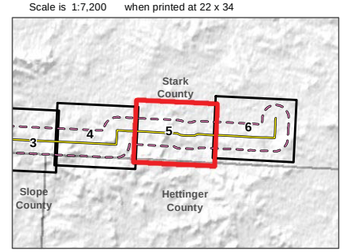
Selection Criteria

NWI 2014, NLCD 2011

- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- NWI Wetland
- NLCD Wooded Areas*
  *Categories: 41, 42, 43, 90

0 750 1,500
Feet

Scale is 1:7,200 when printed at 22 x 34



TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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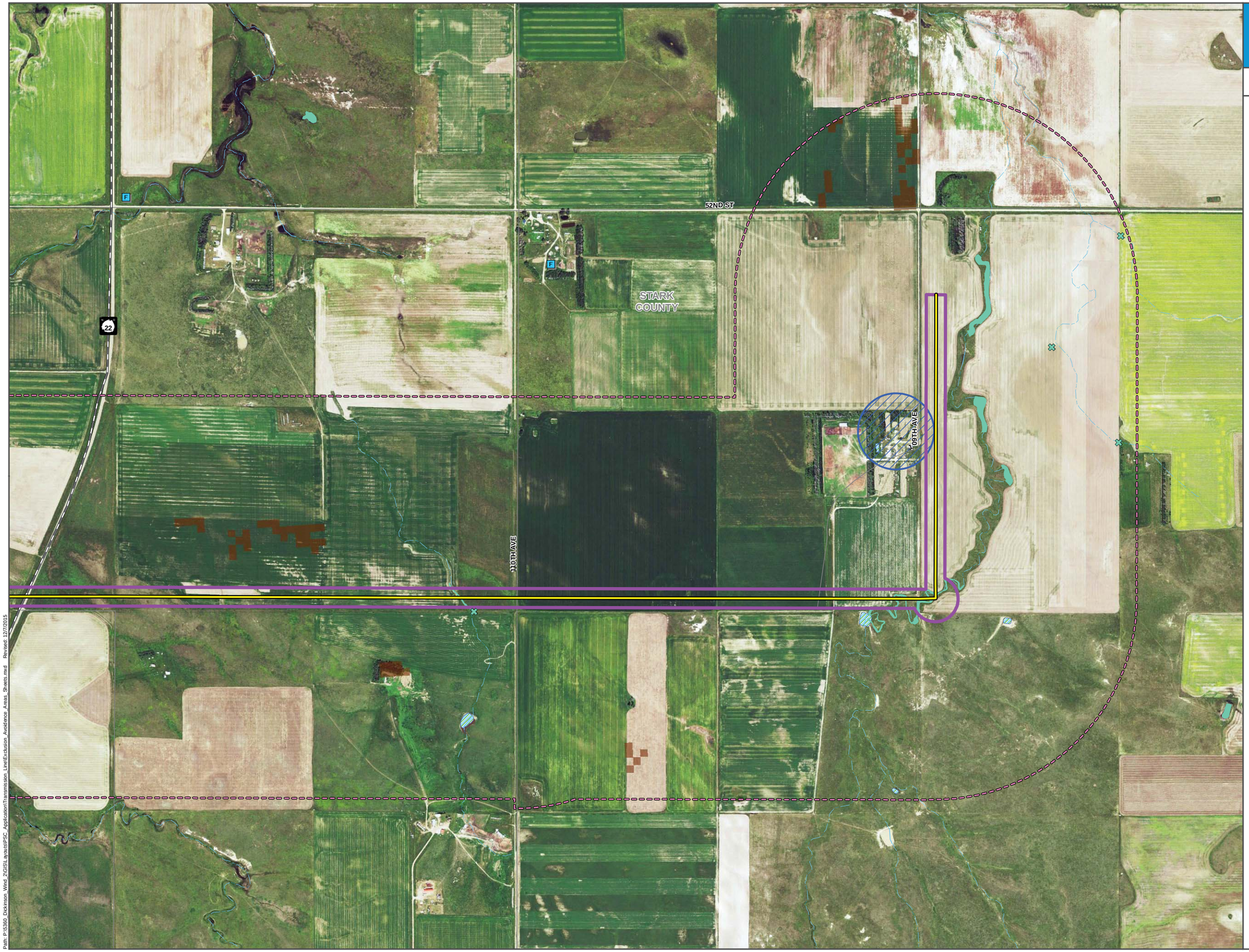
Figure 6: Exclusion and Avoidance Areas - Sheet 5



Brady Wind Transmission Line

Stark County, ND

Legend

- Proposed Route (10/16/15)
- Proposed Project Corridor (10/19/15)
- Proposed Switchyard (08/13/15)
- 1-mile Study Area
- County Boundary

Transportation

- State Highway
- County Road

Avoidance Areas

- Historic Farmstead
- Occupied Residence - 500ft buffer
- North Dakota Game & Fish Conservation PLOTS Recreational Easement (Private Land Open to Sportsmen)

Exclusion Areas

Archeological Sites Not Shown Due to Confidentiality

Selection Criteria

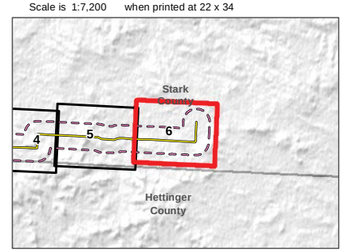
NWI 2014, NLCD 2011

- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- Field-verified Wetlands and Streams
- NWI Wetland
- NLCD Wooded Areas*
  *Categories: 41, 42, 43, 90

0 750 1,500

Feet

Scale is 1:7,200 when printed at 22 x 34



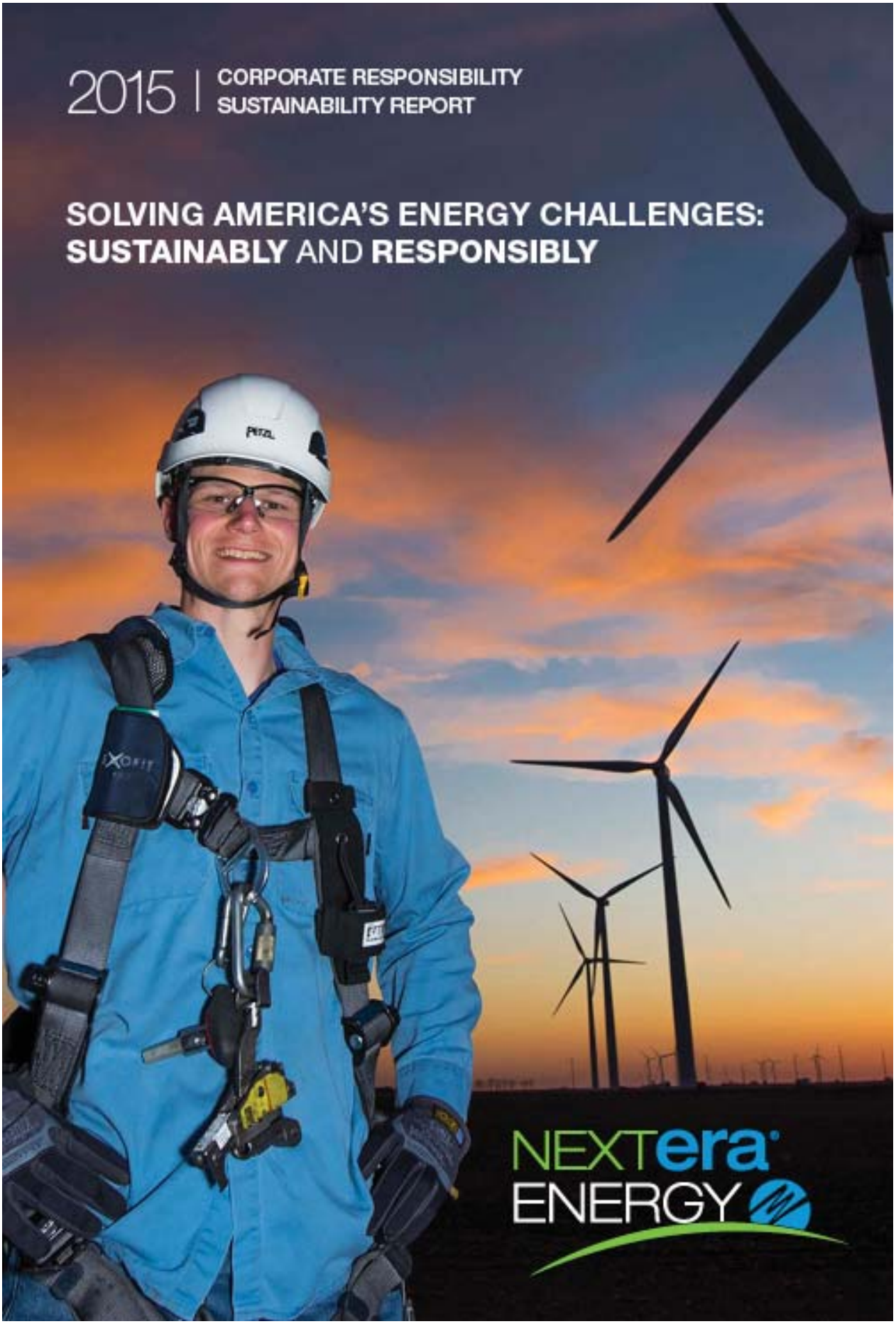
TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

Path: P:\5360_Dickinson_Wind_2\GIS\Layouts\PSC_Application\Transmission_Line\Exclusion_Avoidance_Areas_Sheets.mxd Revised: 12/7/2015

Figure 6: Exclusion and Avoidance Areas - Sheet 6

Appendix A
Excerpt of NextEra Energy, Inc.'s 2014 Corporate Responsibility Report



Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

Our Story

At NextEra Energy, we're proud of the role we're playing in helping solve America's energy challenges and in creating a more affordable clean energy future ... sustainably and responsibly.

To us, being sustainable and responsible means respecting our environment, investing in customer value, sustaining and growing our communities, investing in our team, and growing shareholder value.

As we continue to pursue our vision of becoming America's clean energy leader, we do so with a commitment to ensuring we are providing benefits daily for our environment, our customers, our communities, our employees and our shareholders.

We're pleased you've taken the time to learn about the NextEra Energy story, and we invite you to join us in our journey to create a more affordable clean energy future we can all be proud of.

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

Delivering for OUR ENVIRONMENT

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

Highlights

1. NextEra Energy achieved its lowest-ever emissions rates of SO2, NOx and CO2 in 2014 – rates that were 97-, 79- and 55-percent lower, respectively, than our industry's averages
2. We installed more than 1,600 MW of wind and solar power in 2014
3. We committed to interacting with nature in a positive manner and have developed wildlife protection programs to protect a number of species and their habitats, including eagles, kestrels, sea turtles, crocodiles, and ospreys

Environmental Stewardship

At NextEra Energy, we're committed to being an industry leader in environmental protection and stewardship. As citizens, we're all stakeholders of our earth's environment. As an energy company, we recognize that environmental protection and stewardship are essential to the way we do business and critical to the value we deliver for our stakeholders.

Our Environmental Policy establishes our core environmental expectations and provides actionable guidance for all employees as we strive to foster a culture of environmental excellence and challenge ourselves to continuously improve. The policy is incorporated in our Code of Business Conduct & Ethics and Supplier Code of Conduct, which apply to our employees and suppliers, respectively. Everyone at NextEra Energy understands that protecting the environment is a collective responsibility. It's why our senior executives are actively involved in our environmental accountability, management and stewardship programs that are intended to:

- Design, construct, operate and maintain our facilities in an environmentally sound and responsible manner;
- Prevent pollution, minimize waste and conserve natural resources;
- Avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to habitat and wildlife; and
- Engage stakeholders to build trust and partner toward common goals for environmental stewardship and protection.

We want to be the first and best source of information for our stakeholders to learn about our environmental performance and programs. That's what it means to be the clean energy leader. And that's how we deliver for the environment.

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

The protection of our natural environment is a fundamental part of our goal to be America's clean energy leader. We are committed to meeting our energy needs, while protecting the air, water, land and wildlife, and our exceptional environmental performance record and clean energy portfolio demonstrate just how well we are doing. These commitments are important to our employees, customers and communities and are what further enable us to deliver outstanding value to our customers and shareholders.

-Randy LaBauve, vice president of environmental services

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

Toward Cleaner Air

At NextEra Energy, we're committed to being an industry leader in environmental protection and stewardship, and one of the key ways in which we've demonstrated this commitment is by making business decisions to invest in emissions-free and clean generation. This enables us to reduce our impact on the air we all breathe. In fact, NextEra Energy's generation fleet has significantly lower rates of emissions of CO_2, SO_2 and NO_x compared to the U.S. electric power industry as a whole.

At year-end 2014, NextEra Energy Resources was the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and the sun. We ended 2014 with more than 11,400 megawatts of wind generation capacity and nearly 1,000 megawatts of solar generation capacity.

At FPL, we are continuing to modernize our fossil generation fleet by replacing older, inefficient oil-fired generation with state-of-the-art combined-cycle, natural gas generation. Since 2001, FPL's investments in clean, fuel-efficient power plants have saved customers more than $7.5 billion in fuel costs and helped reduce the company's use of foreign oil by 99 percent. Because of these modernization efforts, FPL has been able to avoid more than 40 million barrels of oil, using less than 1 million barrels of oil for generation in 2014. These investments have also enabled FPL to significantly reduce power plant emissions rates and have prevented more than 85 million tons of carbon emissions to date. FPL now operates one of the most modern, clean, fuel-efficient and low-carbon generation fleets in the nation.

At NextEra Energy, we have positioned our business well to meet the challenges of new federal environmental regulations. We anticipate these new rules will significantly advance the need for low-emitting and zero-emitting electric generation. At NextEra Energy, we've positioned our business to manage the opportunities and risks presented by these new regulations while simultaneously lowering emissions.

Reducing Our Emissions

SO_2 Emissions Rate

NEXTERA ENERGY VS. INDUSTRY:

97% lower

SO_2 emissions rate*

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

*Source for Electric Sector: U.S. Department of Energy

*The environmental attributes of NextEra Energy's electric generating facilities, such as renewable energy credits, emissions reductions, offsets, allowances and the avoided emission of greenhouse gas pollutants, have been or likely will be sold or transferred to third parties, who are solely entitled to the reporting rights to any federal, state, foreign or voluntary emissions trading program and to ownership of such environmental attributes.

NO_X Emissions Rate

*Source for Electric Sector: U.S. Department of Energy

*The environmental attributes of NextEra Energy's electric generating facilities, such as renewable energy credits, emissions reductions, offsets, allowances and the avoided emission of greenhouse gas pollutants, have been or likely will be sold or transferred to third parties, who are solely entitled to the reporting rights to any federal, state, foreign or voluntary emissions trading program and to ownership of such environmental attributes.

CO_2 Emissions Rate

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

NEXTERA ENERGY VS. INDUSTRY AVERAGE:

55% lower

CO_2 emissions rate*

NextEra Energy:		U.S. electric sector rate
538 LBS / MWh	VS	1,186 LBS / MWh

*Source for Electric Sector: U.S. Department of Energy

*The environmental attributes of NextEra Energy's electric generating facilities, such as renewable energy credits, emissions reductions, offsets, allowances and the avoided emission of greenhouse gas pollutants, have been or likely will be sold or transferred to third parties, who are solely entitled to the reporting rights to any federal, state, foreign or voluntary emissions trading program and to ownership of such environmental attributes.

- In 2014, FPL brought into service its Riviera Beach Next Generation Clean Energy Center – one of the cleanest, most energy-efficient plants in the nation. Over its operational lifetime, the new, fuel-efficient plant is expected to provide FPL customers with hundreds of millions of dollars in fuel and other savings. This is part of FPL's focus on modernizing its power plant fleet by replacing oil-fired plants with clean, highly efficient, combined-cycle natural gas plants such as this one. It's also a big reason parent company NextEra Energy in 2014 recorded its lowest-ever air emissions rates.

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

In 2014, 97 percent of the power produced by NextEra Energy facilities was generated from a diverse mix of clean or renewable sources, including wind, solar, combined-cycle natural gas and nuclear. By implementing our strategy to become America's clean energy leader, we have been able to reduce our emissions rates of SO2, NOX and CO2 by 98 percent, 93 percent and 33 percent, respectively, since 1990, while at the same time growing our generation fleet by approximately 274 percent.

FPL Powers Formula E Electric Race with Clean Solar Energy; Student Focus Garners Statewide Honors

FPL powered the vehicles racing in the country's first-ever electric car race, held in downtown Miami in March 2015. Part of the FIA Formula E Championship, the Miami ePrix featured the highest class of competition for electrically powered racing cars.

"Our partnership with Formula E and the Miami ePrix is another example of our commitment to advancing zero-emissions solar energy and the use of electric vehicles in Florida," said Eric Silagy, president and CEO of FPL. "By the end of 2016, we will triple the energy we are able to produce from the sun, furthering our mission to provide low-cost, reliable and clean energy to our 4.8 million customers."

FPL announced its partnership with Formula E at its Martin Next Generation Solar Energy Center, along with famed race car driver Michael Andretti and drivers in the Miami ePrix. During the announcement event, electric race cars were charged with power generated from the Martin Next Generation Solar Energy Center, one of three solar power plants operated by FPL. Earlier in the year, FPL announced plans to install more than 1 million solar panels at three additional solar power plants by the end of 2016. These new plants, combined with community-based solar installations and other small-scale arrays that FPL is installing, would total more than 225 megawatts of new solar capacity. This would effectively triple FPL's solar capacity, which currently totals approximately 110 megawatts.

"The Formula E Miami ePrix is all about sharing our passion for electric vehicles," said Alejandro Agag, CEO of Formula E Holdings. "The race series is exciting, it's entertaining, and we hope it will turn the world's attention to the potential electric vehicles have to change the way we power transportation. We are pleased to partner with FPL – a company that shares our vision for powering the future with affordable, clean energy."

"It's an honor for us to have been selected as one of the 10 founding Formula E teams for the inaugural season," said Michael Andretti, chairman and CEO of Andretti Sports Marketing.

Formula E hosts races in 10 cities around the world, including London, Beijing, Monaco and Buenos Aires. The Miami ePrix was the first Formula E race in the United States.

Education tie is applauded

As part of its Formula E partnership, FPL also sponsored a student electric vehicle race. Students from schools throughout FPL's service area who are involved in science, technology, engineering and

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

math (STEM) programs assembled 10 electric kit cars. The student teams competed in the Formula E School Series, racing on the same track as the Miami ePrix. The grand prize was $5,000, second-place $2,500 and third-place $1,500. All prizes support STEM or robotics initiatives of the winning school teams.

The effort was hailed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho, who chose FPL for the Florida Commissioner of Education's Corporate Business Recognition Award. "Miami-Dade County Public Schools and its students have benefitted tremendously from FPL's support of STEM initiatives," said Superintendent Carvalho. "Their commitment has enriched the learning environment by providing additional resources in our classrooms and giving students invaluable real-life learning experiences."

"We are proud of our long-time partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and of the difference we are making in our classrooms," said Eric Silagy, president and CEO of FPL. "FPL is honored to be recognized for our involvement inside and outside the classroom. Together with the school district, we are making Miami an even better place to work and raise a family."

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

Wildlife and Habitat Preservation

At NextEra Energy, we're committed to being an industry leader in environmental protection and stewardship, and that includes wildlife and habitat protection. We have operations across the U.S. and Canada, so we are keenly aware of the potential impacts that existing and future operations may have to wildlife and their habitat. This is why we have environmental policies and programs in place at both the corporate and local levels to avoid and minimize these impacts and to address any remaining impacts through appropriate mitigation measures. Here's what we do:

- Before we build a power plant or other electric facilities, we work hard to make sure we understand the local ecosystem and what it takes to be a partner in its preservation and to be a good neighbor to all the species that live there.
- As part of that work, we consider the presence of any threatened or endangered species and the proximity to valuable wildlife corridors, wetlands or other ecologically important areas. We make efforts to avoid these areas entirely. If we can't do that, we seek to minimize and mitigate the impact of our developments to affected areas.
- Once a project is operating, we continue to monitor potential impacts to biodiversity that may occur. For example, at wind sites, we implement a voluntary Wildlife Response and Reporting System (WRRS) to monitor long-term avian and bat interactions. We also voluntarily adhere to the FWS Wind Energy Guidelines that were issued in 2012, and conduct a minimum of one year of formal post-construction mortality monitoring at all U.S. wind sites constructed after March 2012.
- In Ontario, our company complies with Ministry of Natural Resources guidance, which requires that we perform a minimum of three years of post-construction mortality monitoring for birds and bats, in addition to other project-specific monitoring conditions.

We have long adhered to numerous policies and programs to protect threatened and endangered species. We follow all federal and state regulations including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We also go above and beyond those regulations by making important contributions to protect a number of vulnerable species and habitat areas. Some examples of our wildlife-related programs are featured below.

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

- FPL has donated 130 concrete power poles to an artificial reef program managed by St. Lucie County, Florida. The poles provide additional habitat for marine life. Area fishing and diving businesses also benefit.

Eagle Nest Platforms

- For many centuries, eagles have represented strength, courage and power. That's been true not only in the U.S. ? where the bald eagle has been our national symbol since the late 1700s ? but in countries the world over.
- During early construction of NextEra Energy's Summerhaven Wind Energy Centre in Ontario in late 2012, Canada, a pair of eagles began building a new nest within the project area. For three years prior, the area had been monitored and no nest had been found.
- After consulting with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and receiving their approval, we removed the tree and nest in January 2013 to eliminate a potential hazard to the eagles and to give the birds time to build a new nest or find another one prior to their breeding season.
- From early January through late February 2013, a team of experts installed five eagle platforms near the Lake Erie shoreline in the general vicinity of the original nest, but at a safe distance from the turbines, to provide alternative nesting sites for this pair of eagles and other pairs in the local eagle population.
- To our delight, a pair of eagles was documented to have successfully raised young in one of these nests in the summer of 2013. The eagles returned in 2014 and successfully raised two chicks.
- See the following website for more information, including photographs and a video of the eagles.

Nesting platform success in Florida

- Bald eagles are found in all 50 U.S. states, including throughout FPL's service territory in Florida.
- In the fall of 2013, a bald eagle built its nest on a 230-kV transmission line in Volusia County, Fla. To protect the nest and the eagles that would be raising their family in it, and because the surrounding area lacked viable nest trees, FPL for the first time ever constructed an independent pole and platform to provide the birds with a nearby nest location. With input from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the platform was designed to provide long-term support of the nest. Within 45 days of the nest transfer, a pair of eagles began to add onto and occupy the nest, and in 2014, a baby eaglet hatched in the nest!

Duette Preserve – Kestrel Boxes

- The colorful Southeastern American Kestrel is the smallest falcon in North America. Unfortunately, its numbers have dwindled so much that researchers cannot say how many of the threatened species still exist in Florida.
- In March 2013, while installing new, more storm-resilient power line poles and replacing old wooden poles in an area of its service territory, FPL identified an opportunity to assist the kestrel. Line workers attached kestrel boxes to four of the new poles - a first for the company - and also preserved the old wooden poles that contained inactive nests.
- In 2015, as FPL continues to upgrade the poles in this area of Kestrel habitat, we've included nest boxes on an additional 20 poles. We're also working with the Audubon Society toward a program to monitor the boxes for nesting success.

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

We're No. 1 in Wind

At NextEra Energy, we're the No. 1 owner of wind energy in North America. We operate approximately 11,400 MW of emissions-free wind energy, enough to power a city the size of Chicago - the "Windy City." Our wind program helps us deliver reliable and affordable energy to customers with a focus on environmental stewardship. Wind energy is an especially attractive source of electric power because:

- wind farms can be constructed quickly,
- they use no water and produce no solid waste or air emissions,
- there are no fuel costs because wind is free,
- many customers are requesting electricity produced only from renewables such as wind, and
- the price of wind energy is low and competitive with other forms of power generation.

NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST GENERATOR OF WIND POWER

107 wind facilities

9,899 individual wind turbines

19 U.S. states and 4 Canadian provinces

Avoided CO_2 emissions of 30 million tons due to wind generation

In 2012, we set an aggressive goal for additions to our U.S. wind portfolio, and through diligence and hard work, we exceeded it. We commissioned roughly 1,500 MW of wind in the United States, a milestone no other company has ever achieved. In fact, we celebrated the commissioning of our 10,000th MW of wind at our 400-MW Limon Wind Project in Colorado in December 2012. Not only did this record building program result in 1,500 MW of zero-emissions generation, it also helped us

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deliver for our communities by creating more than 3,000 construction jobs, 90 full-time jobs, and new tax revenue that state and local governments use to meet pressing community needs.

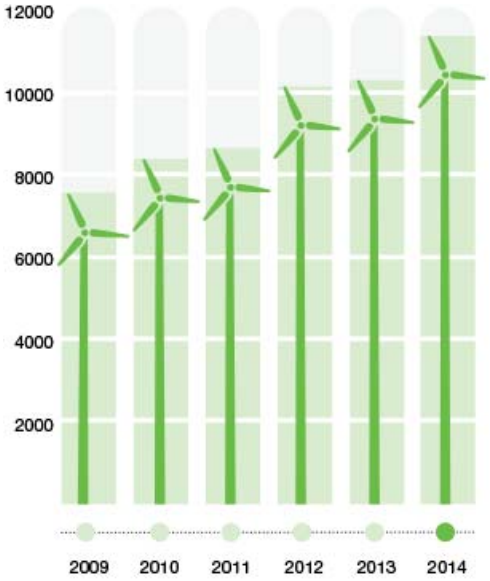
At NextEra Energy Resources, our wind portfolio grew in 2014 by approximately 1,300 MW, including facilities in Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas, as well as four wind sites in Ontario, Canada.

We now have wind projects in 19 states and four Canadian provinces, representing a total capital investment of more than $20.1 billion and a fleet size that is comparable to the generation capacity of a top-15 utility.

WIND ENERGY PORTFOLIO

CUMULATIVE MW

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.



- Enough emissions-free wind energy can be generated at our Vasco Wind Energy Center in California to power more than 19,500 homes.

Project totals for NextEra Energy, Inc. and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC include those in which NextEra Energy Partners, LP holds a minority interest.

Appendix B
Agency Notification Letters and Responses

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Daniel Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, North Dakota Regulatory Office
1513 South 12th Street
Bismarck, ND 58504

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Cimarosti:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	3-9, 15-18
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6, 8-13
Stark	137 N	95 W	1, 2, 9-16, 19-24, 27-34
Stark	137 N	96 W	23-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	25-29, 32-36

Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	98 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	99 W	1-3
Stark	137 N	95 W	18-20, 29-32
Stark	137 N	96 W	11-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	13-36
Stark	137 N	98 W	13-36

Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Scott Davis
Executive Director
North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
1st Floor – Judicial Wing, Room #117
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Davis:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

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Stark	137 N	96 W	23-36
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Stark	137 N	98 W	13-36

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This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Dr. Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M.
State Health Officer
North Dakota Department of Health
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0200

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Dr. Dwelle:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
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Stark	137 N	96 W	23-36
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Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

Dr. Dwelle
North Dakota Department of Health
August 14, 2015

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	98 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	99 W	1-3
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This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Lance D. Gaebe
Commissioner
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands
P. O. Box 5523
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Gaebe:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

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Mr. Gaebe
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands
August 14, 2015

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This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Larry Gangl
District Engineer
North Dakota Department of Transportation, Dickinson District
1700 Third Avenue West, Suite 101
Dickinson, ND 58601-3009

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Gangl:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

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8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

Mr. Gangl
North Dakota Department of Transportation, Dickinson District
August 14, 2015

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

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Stark	137 N	97 W	13-36
Stark	137 N	98 W	13-36

Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Goehring:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	3-9, 15-18
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6, 8-13
Stark	137 N	95 W	1, 2, 9-16, 19-24, 27-34
Stark	137 N	96 W	23-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	25-29, 32-36

Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	98 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	99 W	1-3
Stark	137 N	95 W	18-20, 29-32
Stark	137 N	96 W	11-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	13-36
Stark	137 N	98 W	13-36

Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Ms. Julie Hoff
Central Stark & Western Soil Conservation District
2948 4th Ave. West, Room "C"
Dickinson, ND 58601

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Ms. Hoff:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	3-9, 15-18
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Stark	137 N	98 W	13-36

Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Edward C. Murphy
State Geologist
North Dakota Geological Survey
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505-0840

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
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Stark	137 N	95 W	1, 2, 9-16, 19-24, 27-34
Stark	137 N	96 W	23-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	25-29, 32-36

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Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	98 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	99 W	1-3
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Stark	137 N	96 W	11-36
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Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Director
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Paaverud:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	3-9, 15-18
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6, 8-13
Stark	137 N	95 W	1, 2, 9-16, 19-24, 27-34
Stark	137 N	96 W	23-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	25-29, 32-36

Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

Mr. Paaverud
State Historical Society of North Dakota
August 14, 2015

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	98 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	99 W	1-3
Stark	137 N	95 W	18-20, 29-32
Stark	137 N	96 W	11-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	13-36
Stark	137 N	98 W	13-36

Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Todd Sando
State Engineer
North Dakota State Water Commission
900 East Boulevard, Dept. 770
Bismarck, ND 58505-0850

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Sando:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	3-9, 15-18
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6, 8-13
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8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	98 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	99 W	1-3
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Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Kevin Shelley
Acting ND Field Supervisor
USFWS North Dakota Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Shelley:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	3-9, 15-18
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6, 8-13
Stark	137 N	95 W	1, 2, 9-16, 19-24, 27-34
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Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	98 W	1-6
Slope	136 N	99 W	1-3
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Stark	137 N	96 W	11-36
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Stark	137 N	98 W	13-36

Per Section 69-06-01-05 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC)'s administrative rules, we are consulting your agency for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the boundaries of the tracts listed below that would influence a decision regarding the use of the land, as well as applicable permits that may be required from your office.

This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Historical Society of North Dakota, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF).

NextEra Energy is developing the Project following the voluntary Final Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. Desktop habitat analyses for bats and whooping crane are underway as part of Tier 1 and Tier 2 assessments for the Project. Tier 3 assessments that are currently planned or underway for the Project include fall and spring avian migration surveys, biweekly eagle use surveys, raptor nest and grouse lek surveys, and bat acoustic monitoring.

We requested documented eagle nest locations in the vicinity of the Project Area from the NDGF in May 2015 and conducted a ground-based summer nest inventory in June 2015. There are no documented eagle nests within 3 miles of the Project Area. There is one occupied bald eagle nest approximately 3 miles east of the Project Area; one active and three inactive golden eagle nests are located approximately 7 miles from the Project Area.

We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Terry Steinwand
Director
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Steinwand:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	3-9, 15-18
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6, 8-13
Stark	137 N	95 W	1, 2, 9-16, 19-24, 27-34
Stark	137 N	96 W	23-36
Stark	137 N	97 W	25-29, 32-36

Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
Hettinger	136 N	97 W	1-6
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This information will be used to help guide Project development in a manner that identifies and avoids impacts to sensitive resources where practicable. We have sent similar query letters to other agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Historical Society of North Dakota, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF).

NextEra Energy is developing the Project following the voluntary Final Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. Desktop habitat analyses for bats and whooping crane are underway as part of Tier 1 and Tier 2 assessments for the Project. Tier 3 assessments that are currently planned or underway for the Project include fall and spring avian migration surveys, biweekly eagle use surveys, raptor nest and grouse lek surveys, and bat acoustic monitoring.

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We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Larry Taborsky
Director
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
P. O. Box 5020
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-5020

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Taborsky:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

The Project would interconnect to the electrical grid via a 230-kV transmission line approximately 17 miles in length from the Project substation to the Belfield to Rhame 230-kV line approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Dickinson. We will also prepare a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the proposed transmission line.

The wind energy center would include portions of the following tracts:

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Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

Mr. Larry Taborsky
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
August 14, 2015

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Hettinger	136 N	96 W	2-6
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We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

TETRA TECH

August 14, 2015

Mr. Mark Zimmerman
Director
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Ave, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503

Subject: **Information Request for the Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND**

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to prepare an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed Brady Wind Energy Center (the Project), in accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-07. As part of that application, we are conducting an investigation of property in Hettinger and Stark counties south of the city of Dickinson. This proposed Project would consist of approximately 150 megawatts (MW). The Project area shown in the attached figure is the primary focus of our investigation.

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Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite #2310, Austin, TX 78759
Tel 512.338.1667 Fax 512.338-1331 tetratech.com

Mr. Zimmerman
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
August 14, 2015

The associated transmission line corridor includes the following tracts:

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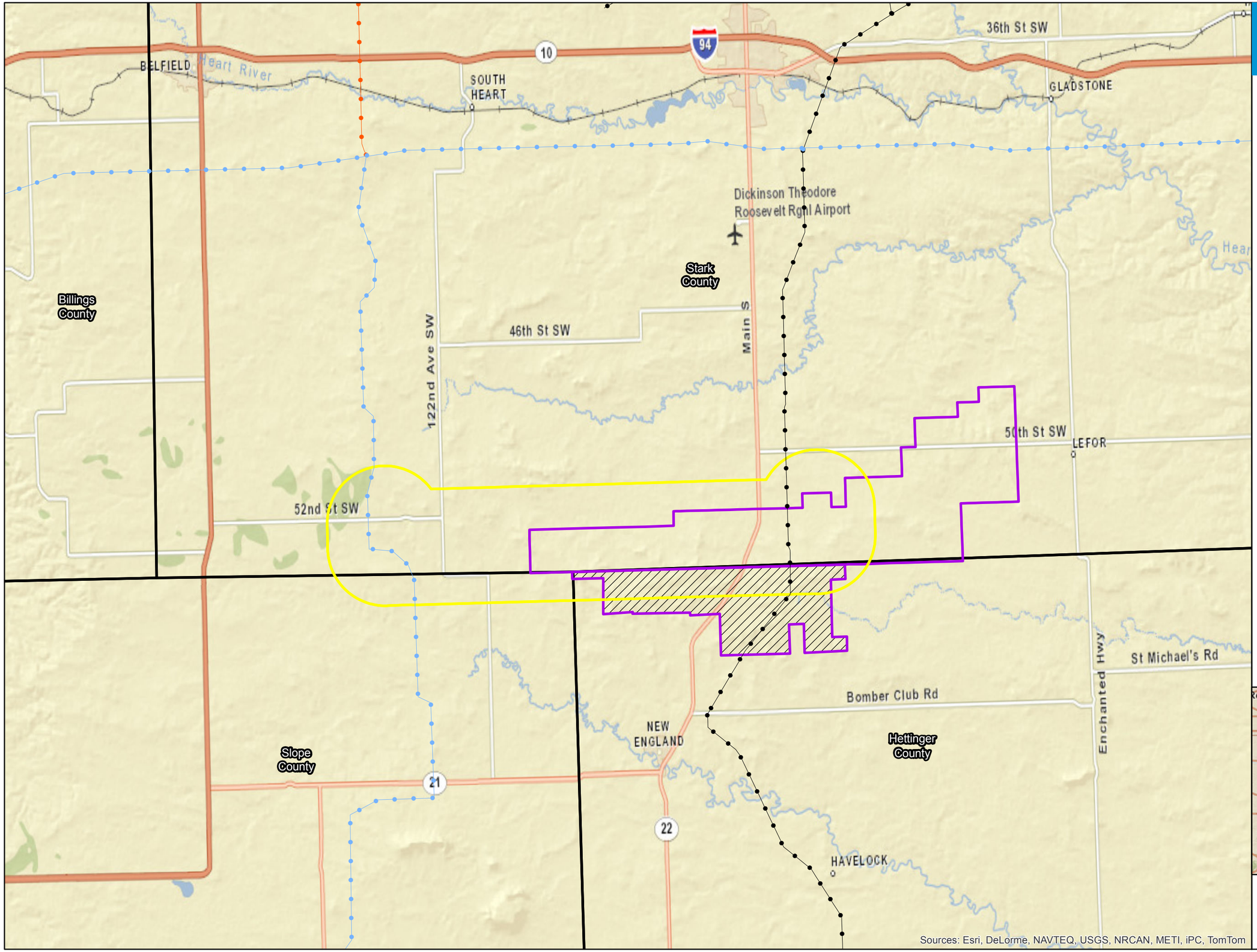
We would appreciate a response by September 30, 2015. Please contact me at (512) 213-8501 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP

Brady Wind Energy Center North Dakota

Project Location



Legend

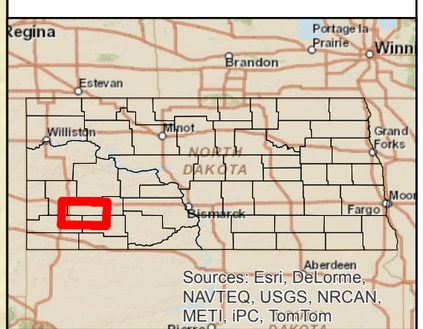
- Transmission Line Corridor
- Project Boundary
- Additional Area Under Consideration
- County Boundary

Existing Electrical Transmission

- 115kV Transmission Line
- 230kV Transmission Line
- 345kV Transmission Line

0 1.5 3 6

Miles



NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

Path: T:\GIS\NextEra\Brady\MXD\Project Location.mxd

Griger, Anne Marie

From: Estabrook, Richard <Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:36 AM
To: Quinnell, Susan L.
Cc: Wells, Kimberly; Griger, Anne Marie; Sexton, James
Subject: RE: Ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County, North Dakota

Susan,

Just following up on our 13 August call concerning the Ethnic Farmsteads in southern Stark County. The project now has a name (Brady) and a preliminary boundary and turbine layout, which I'm providing on the attached map. This map is based on a desktop evaluation that Tetra Tech conducted for the project area. Per our last conversation, we've now categorized the locations containing recorded Ethnic Farmsteads as "Extant" for those we know still contain standings structures; "Ruins" for those we have determined are no longer standing and should be considered archaeological resources; and "Further Research Required" for those locations where there could be some standing remains, but the exact condition of these locations could not be determined.

On our 13 August call, we discussed possible visual effects "APEs" (this project has no federal nexus) for a project site in the south Stark County area, and a 3-mile buffer was recommended. However, per your August 20 email regarding visual effects evaluation of industrial wind farms which generally have turbines in excess of 400 feet, a 2-mile radius around the individual turbines was suggested. Also suggested in your memo was creating a map, which I've attached, showing the preliminary turbine locations and project boundaries, and the locations of the recorded Ethnic Farmsteads. As there is a historic cemetery in the vicinity that may contain Iron Folk-Art monuments, we've included that location as well.

We would like to speak with you again on a conference call to discuss any modifications to the proposed Study Area ("APE") or other approaches we might undertake to evaluate potential visual effects to these (and any other) historic properties that could be in the project vicinity.

Would a follow-up call early next week be possible?

Cheers, Rich

Richard W. Estabrook, Ph.D. RPA
Environmental Services Project Manager - Archaeologist
NEXTera Energy Resources, LLC
561.691.3054 (office)
561.427.5483 (cell)
Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com

From: Quinnell, Susan L. [mailto:squinnell@nd.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Estabrook, Richard
Cc: Wells, Kimberly; Griger, Anne Marie; Sexton, James
Subject: RE: Ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County, North Dakota

Any of those times are OK.

Susan Quinnell
Review and Compliance Coordinator
ND State Historic Preservation Office
State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505-0830

701-328-3576
701-328-3710 FAX

From: Estabrook, Richard [mailto:Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:32 AM
To: Quinnell, Susan L.
Cc: Wells, Kimberly; Griger, Anne Marie; Sexton, James
Subject: RE: Ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County, North Dakota

Susan,

That's sounds good, although I'll be traveling out West those days. I'll be somewhere that I can jump on a call between 2-5 PM Central on Thursday and 11-3 Central on Friday. What time works best for you? If not, perhaps something first thing next week?

Cheers, Rich

Richard W. Estabrook, Ph.D. RPA
Environmental Services Project Manager - Archaeologist
NEXTera Energy Resources, LLC
561.691.3054 (office)
561.427.5483 (cell)
Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com

From: Quinnell, Susan L. [mailto:squinnell@nd.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:19 AM
To: Estabrook, Richard
Cc: Wells, Kimberly; Griger, Anne Marie; Sexton, James
Subject: RE: Ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County, North Dakota

Sure, Thursday or Friday this week would work.

Susan Quinnell
Review and Compliance Coordinator

ND State Historic Preservation Office
State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505-0830

701-328-3576
701-328-3710 FAX

From: Estabrook, Richard [mailto:Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:27 AM
To: Quinnell, Susan L.
Cc: Wells, Kimberly; Griger, Anne Marie; Sexton, James
Subject: Ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County, North Dakota

Susan,

NextEra Energy is looking at alternative locations in North Dakota in which to site a potential wind energy project. One of the locations being considered in is southern Stark and northern Hettinger counties. A preliminary records search conducted by Tetra Tech identified a number of late 19th – early 20th century ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County that were identified during a study entitled: *Ethnic Architecture in Stark County, North Dakota: A Historic Context* by Lon Johnson, Mark Hostetler and Alice Emerson circa 1991. Next Era is very much interested in avoiding historic properties whenever possible.

Would it be possible to speak with you about these resources via a conference call sometime soon? While it is entirely possible to avoid the physical footprint of these resources, we were concerned about potential secondary effects/visual concerns for these farmsteads.

If so, I can set something up with the folks at Tetra Tech and provide a call-in number.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Cheers, Rich

Richard W. Estabrook, Ph.D. RPA
Environmental Services Project Manager - Archaeologist
NEXTera Energy Resources, LLC
561.691.3054 (office)
561.427.5483 (cell)
Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com

Brady Wind Energy Center

Stark County, ND

Historic Structures

Legend

- Project Boundary (07/22/15)
- 2-mile Turbine Buffer
- Historic Cemetery

Turbine Layout (09/16/15)

- GE Xle 1.7515-103 Turbine
- GE Xle 1.7515-103 Turbine (Alt)
- GE Xle 1.79-100 Turbine

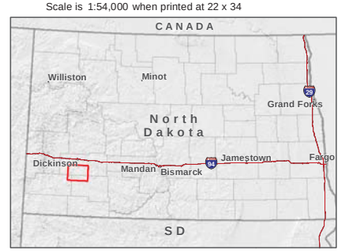
Ethnic Farmsteads Recommended as Eligible

- Still Extant
- Further Research Required
- In Ruins

0 1.25 2.5

Miles

Scale is 1:54,000 when printed at 22 x 34



NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

STARK COUNTY

SLOPE COUNTY

HETTINGER COUNTY

Daglum

Schefield

New England

Lefor

Path: P:\5060_Dickinson_Wind_2\GIS\Layouts\Cultural\Ethnic_Farmsteads.mxd Revised: 9/16/2015

Griger, Anne Marie

From: Quinnell, Susan L. <squinnell@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:55 AM
To: Estabrook, Richard
Cc: Wells, Kimberly; Griger, Anne Marie; Sexton, James
Subject: RE: Ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County, North Dakota

Hi Rich,

Thank you for the map. Regarding the visual APE two miles is good for this location, although we reserve the ability to set custom APE's depending on a project's proximity to very sensitive and outstanding cultural resources.
A call next week would be welcome, except Monday Sept. 21st.

Best,

Susan Quinnell
Review and Compliance Coordinator
ND State Historic Preservation Office
State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505-0830

701-328-3576
701-328-3710 FAX

From: Estabrook, Richard [mailto:Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:36 AM
To: Quinnell, Susan L.
Cc: Wells, Kimberly; Griger, Anne Marie; Sexton, James
Subject: RE: Ethic farmsteads in southern Stark County, North Dakota

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NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
Gold Seal Center, 918 E. Divide Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947
701.328.5200 (fax)
www.ndhealth.gov

August 26, 2015

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP
Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2, Suite 2310
Austin, TX 78759

Re: Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center
Hettinger and Stark Counties, North Dakota

Dear Ms. Griger:

This department has reviewed the information concerning the above-referenced project submitted under date of August 14, 2015, with respect to possible environmental impacts.

This department believes that environmental impacts from the proposed construction will be minor and can be controlled by proper construction methods. With respect to construction, we have the following comments:

1. All necessary measures must be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions created during construction activities. Any complaints that may arise are to be dealt with in an efficient and effective manner.

2. Care is to be taken during construction activity near any water of the state to minimize adverse effects on a water body. This includes minimal disturbance of stream beds and banks to prevent excess siltation, and the replacement and revegetation of any disturbed area as soon as possible after work has been completed. Caution must also be taken to prevent spills of oil and grease that may reach the receiving water from equipment maintenance, and/or the handling of fuels on the site. Guidelines for minimizing degradation to waterways during construction are attached.

3. Projects disturbing one or more acres are required to have a permit to discharge storm water runoff until the site is stabilized by the reestablishment of vegetation or other permanent cover. Further information on the storm water permit may be obtained from the Department's website or by calling the Division of Water Quality (701-328-5210). Also, cities or counties may impose additional requirements and/or specific best management practices for construction affecting their storm drainage system. Check with the local officials to be sure any local storm water management considerations are addressed.

4. Noise from construction activities may have adverse effects on persons who live near the construction area. Noise levels can be minimized by ensuring that construction equipment is

equipped with a recommended muffler in good working order. Noise effects can also be minimized by ensuring that construction activities are not conducted during early morning or late evening hours.

The department owns no land in or adjacent to the proposed improvements, nor does it have any projects scheduled in the area. In addition, we believe the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

L. David Glatt, P.E., Chief
Environmental Health Section

LDG:cc
Attach.

NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
Gold Seal Center, 918 E. Divide Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947
701.328.5200 (fax)
www.ndhealth.gov

Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements

These represent the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Health. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect the waters of the State of North Dakota. All projects will be designed and implemented to restrict the losses or disturbances of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site.

Soils

Prevent the erosion of exposed soil surfaces and trapping sediments being transported. Examples include, but are not restricted to, sediment dams or berms, diversion dikes, hay bales as erosion checks, riprap, mesh or burlap blankets to hold soil during construction, and immediately establishing vegetative cover on disturbed areas after construction is completed. Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, or land resources will be protected against compaction, vegetation loss, and unnecessary damage.

Surface Waters

All construction which directly or indirectly impacts aquatic systems will be managed to minimize impacts. All attempts will be made to prevent the contamination of water at construction sites from fuel spillage, lubricants, and chemicals, by following safe storage and handling procedures. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances will be controlled to minimize and/or prevent silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocation, and any physical, chemical, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near these systems is forbidden without approval from this Department.

Fill Material

Any fill material placed below the high water mark must be free of top soils, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds (in toxic concentrations). This includes, but is not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The Department may require testing of fill materials. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid wastes will be removed from the site and the impacted areas restored as nearly as possible to the original condition.

"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

September 25, 2015

Anne-Marie Griger, AICP
Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy
Bldg. 2, Suite #2310
Austin, TX 78759

Dear Ms. Griger:

RE: Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center
Hettinger & Stark Counties, North Dakota

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has reviewed this project for wildlife concerns.

A primary concern with wind power development is the disturbance of native prairie associated with construction of turbines, access roads, and other associated facilities. We ask that work within native prairie be avoided to the extent possible. This could include micro-siting turbines onto adjacent previously disturbed land, locating access roads on existing section line trails rather than across undisturbed native prairie, etc. We also suggest the US Fish and Wildlife Service Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines be implemented as appropriate during the development of this project.

The National Wetland Inventory indicates various wetlands located within the proposed project area. We recommend that any unavoidable wetland impacts be replaced in kind, above-ground appurtenances not be placed in wetland areas, and no alterations be made to existing drainage patterns.

We ask that collection lines be buried whenever possible, and any necessary overhead lines be marked when placed over perennial streams or sited in close proximity to wetland complexes to minimize possible avian impacts. The publication "Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2012" provides a range of management options which can be used to reduce avian losses.

Aerial surveys should be conducted for raptor nests before construction begins. A ½-mile construction buffer should be implemented around active eagle nest sites (known occupied

within the past 5 years). Ms. Sandra Johnson, Conservation Biologist, can be contacted at 701-328-6327 for additional information on eagle nest sites in the state.

We also recommend that routine monitoring for avian and bat mortality be included as part of the facility maintenance plan for the life of the project. We would appreciate being kept informed as this project progresses, and if possible, we would like the GPS coordinates for each turbine after the site has been established.

Sincerely,

Greg Link
Chief
Conservation & Communication Division

js

North Dakota Geological Survey

Edward C. Murphy - State Geologist

Department of Mineral Resources

Lynn D. Helms - Director

North Dakota Industrial Commission

https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/

August 24, 2015

Anne-Marie Griger
Tetra Tech, Inc
8911 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Bldg 2 Suite #2310
Austin, Texas 78759

RE: Brady Wind Energy Center, Hettinger and Stark Counties, ND

Dear Ms. Griger:

There are economic coal deposits within or adjacent to the area that you have outlined. Please see https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/Coalmaps/dickinson/24Dickinson.asp for coal maps of this area. The New England North Deposit covers portions of sections 5-11, 13-17, 22 and 23 in T136N, R97W and contains approximately 58 million tons of mineable coal. We have not initiated a landslide mapping project within this area.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Murphy
State Geologist

ND Parks and Recreation Department

ND Natural Heritage Inventory
1600 East Century Ave., Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649
(701) 328-5370 FAX: (701) 328-5363

INVOICE

INVOICE NO: 0507
DATE: 8/31/2015

Anne-Marie Griger
Tetra-Tech, Inc
8911 N Capital of Texas Hwy
Bldg. 2 Suite #2310
Austin, TX 78759

CONTACT	REFERENCE NO.	DATE SHIPPED	SHIPPED VIA	F.O.B. POINT	TERMS
K.Duttenhefner	NHI_2015_079	8/31/2015	USPS		

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1	Data retrieval, data analysis, manual and computer searches, packaging and collection of data. Project: Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties	$ 60.00	$ 60.00
		SUBTOTAL	$ 60.00
		SALES TAX	
		SHIPPING & HANDLING	
		TOTAL DUE	$ 60.00

Make all checks payable to: ND Parks and Recreation Department
If you have any questions concerning this invoice, call: Kathy Duttenhefner, (701) 328-5370

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN RARE SPECIES CONSERVATION.

Entry Event	Fund	Dept.	Project	Activity
463021	398	1508	OR15082	15082

Jack Dalrymple, Governor
Mark A. Zimmerman, Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649
Phone 701-328-5357
Fax 701-328-5363
E-mail parkrec@nd.gov
www.parkrec.nd.gov

August 31, 2015

Ms. Anne-Marie Griger
Tetra Tech, Inc
Bldg 2 Suite #2310
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.
Austin, TX 78759

Re: Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Start Counties

Dear Ms. Griger,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (the Department) has reviewed the above referenced proposed Brady Wind Energy Center in Hettinger and Stark Counties.

Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare plants and ecological communities). The project as defined does not affect state park lands that we manage or affect state Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) project sites that we manage.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, we several plant, and animal species of concern and significant ecological communities documented within sections and in adjacent sections to project area. Please see the attached spreadsheet and map for more information on these occurrences.

Because this information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources. Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

It is our policy to charge requests for data services including data retrieval, data analysis, manual and computer searches, packaging and collection of data. An invoice for services provided has been enclosed.

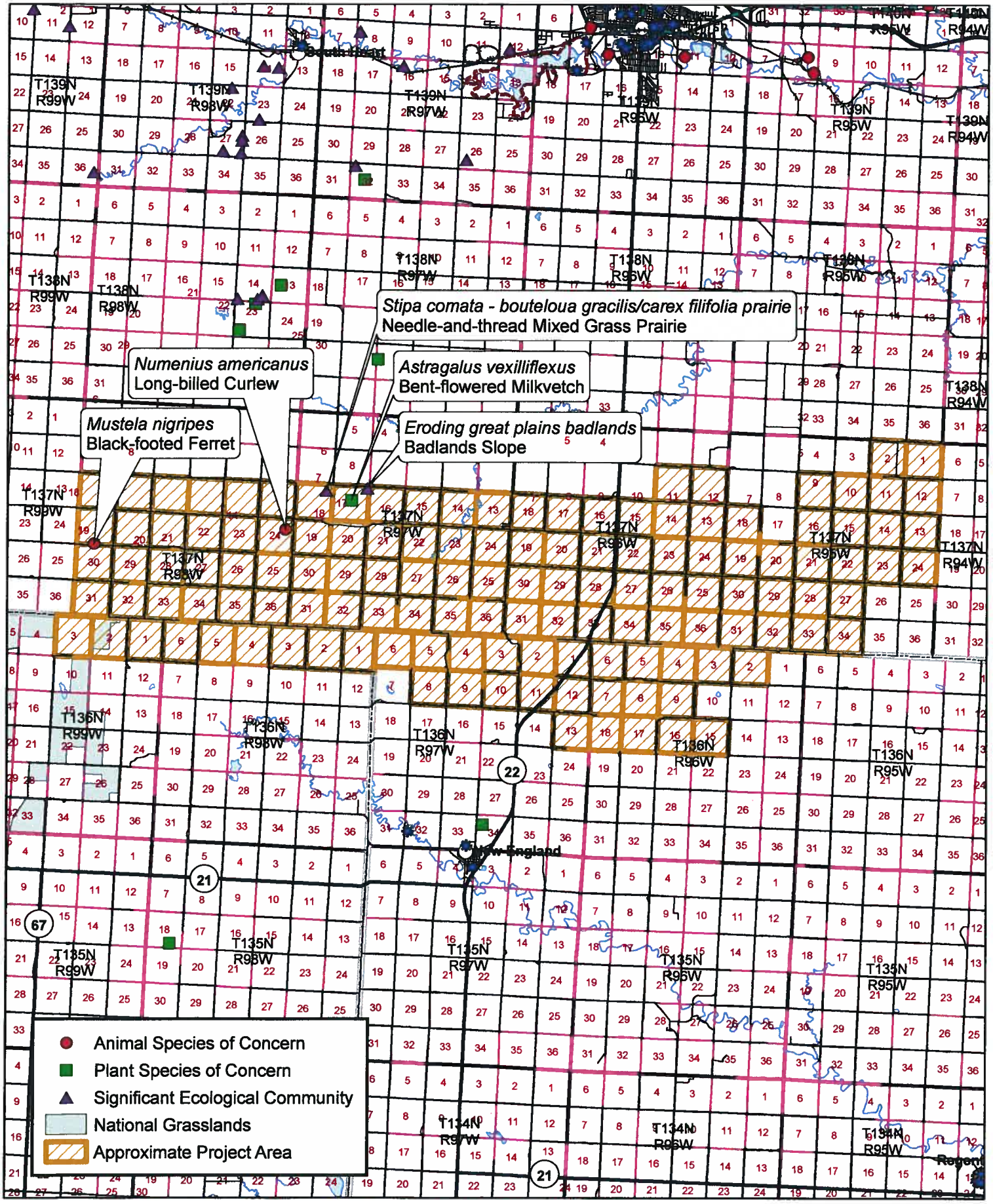
We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal and ecological community conservation, management and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact Kathy Duttenhefner (701-328-5370 or kgduttenhefner@nd.gov) of our staff. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Duttenhefner, Coordinator
Natural Resources Division

R.USNDNHI*2015_079KD18.31.2015DL8.31.2015

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory



August 2015

North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory
Rare Animal and Plant Species and Significant Ecological Communities

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Township Range Section	County	Last Observation	Estimated Representation Accuracy	Precision
Astragalus vexilliflexus	Bent-flowered Milkvetch	S3	G4		137N097W - 17	Stark	1985-09-18		S
Eroding great plains badlands	Badlands Slope	S4	GNR		137N097W - 08; 137N097W - 16; 137N097W - 17	Stark	1985-09-18		S
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	S1	G1	LE,XN	137N099W - 36; 137N098W - 29; 137N098W - 17; 137N098W - 31; 137N098W - 32; 137N098W - 30; 137N099W - 13; 137N099W - 25; 137N098W - 18; 137N099W - 24; 137N098W - 19; 137N098W - 20	Stark	1976	Low	M
Numenius americanus	Long-billed Curlew	S2	G5		137N098W - 24	Stark	1976-05		S
Stipa comata - bouteloua gracilis/carex filifolia prairie	Needle-and-thread Mixed Grass Prairie	S2	GNR		137N097W - 18	Stark	1985-09-18		S

North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory Biological and Conservation Data Disclaimer

The quantity and quality of data collected by the North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in North Dakota have never been thoroughly surveyed, and new species are still being discovered. For these reasons, the Natural Heritage Inventory cannot provide a definite statement on the presence, absence, or condition of biological elements in any part of North Dakota. Natural Heritage data summarize the existing information known at the time of the request. Our data are continually upgraded and information is continually being added to the database. This data should never be regarded as final statements on the elements or areas that are being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys.

Estimated Representation Accuracy

Value that indicates the approximate percentage of the Element Occurrence Representation (EO Rep) that was observed to be occupied by the species or community (versus buffer area added for locational uncertainty). Use of estimated representation accuracy provides a common index for the consistent comparison of EO reps, thus helping to ensure that aggregated data are correctly analyzed and interpreted.

Very high (>95%)
High (>80%, <= 95%)
Medium (>20%, <= 80%)
Low (>0%, <= 20%)
Unknown
(null) - Not assessed

Precision

A single-letter code for the precision used to map the Element Occurrence (EO) on a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' (or 15') topographic quadrangle map, based on the previous Heritage methodology in which EOs were located on paper maps using dots.

S - Seconds: accuracy of locality mappable within a three-second radius; 100 meters from the centerpoint
M - Minute: accuracy of locality mappable within a one-minute radius; 2 km from the centerpoint
G - General: accuracy of locality mappalbe to map or place name precision only; 8 km from centerpoint
U - Unmappable

North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE, DEPT 770 • BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505-0850
701-328-2750 • TDD 701-328-2750 • FAX 701-328-3696 • INTERNET: http://swc.nd.gov

September 4, 2015

Anne-Marie Griger
Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy
BLDG 2 STE 2310
Austin, TX 78759

Dear Ms. Griger:

This is in response to your request for review of environmental impacts associated with the Brady Wind Energy Center project located in Hettinger and Stark Counties south of the city of Dickinson, ND. The project will include portions of the following tracts: in Hettinger County - Sections 3-9 and 15-18, Township 136 N, Range 96 W and Sections 1-6 and 8-13, Township 136 N, Range 97 W. In Stark County - Sections 1, 2, 9-16, 19-24, and 27-34, Township 137 N, Range 95 W; Sections 23-36, Township 137 N, Range 96 W; and Sections 25-29 and 32-36, Township 137 N, Range 97 W.

The proposed project has been reviewed by State Water Commission staff and the following comments are provided:

- There are floodplains identified and mapped where this proposed project is to take place. The areas are designated to be Zone A. North Dakota has no formal "permitting" authority as state entity in National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) identified floodplain areas. The permitting is always done by the local entity, which has jurisdiction in the area in question. Please work closely with the two County Floodplain Administrator. The Floodplain Administrator for Hettinger County is: Ilene Hardmeyer; 336 Pacific Ave; Mott, ND 58646; 701-260-2452. The NFIP maps used to make this determination are: Panels #38041C0250D and 38041C0275D, Date 3/2/2012. The Floodplain Administrator for Stark County is: Bill Fahlsing; 66 Museum Drive W; Dickinson, ND 58601; 701-456-7605. The NFIP maps used to make this determination are: Panels #38089C0675E, 38089C0700E and 38089C0725E, Date 11/4/2010.

- The ND State Water Commission (Commission) maintains a network of observation/monitor water wells and the location of gaging stations throughout the state, and many are located close to public right-of-ways. The location information can be obtained from the Commission's website at: http://swc.nd.gov.; then click on "Map and Data Resources"; and then click on "Map Services". Please inform the Water Appropriations Division of the Commission at 701-328-2754, if gaging stations or water wells may be affected by the project or accidently damaged. A copy of the map is enclosed.

- There is Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) infrastructure in the area. Please contact the Southwest Water Authority at 701-225-0241 regarding SWPP infrastructure location.

- It is the responsibility of the project sponsor to ensure that local, state and federal agencies are contacted for any required approvals, permits, and easements.

- All waste material associated with the project must be disposed of properly and not placed in identified floodway areas.

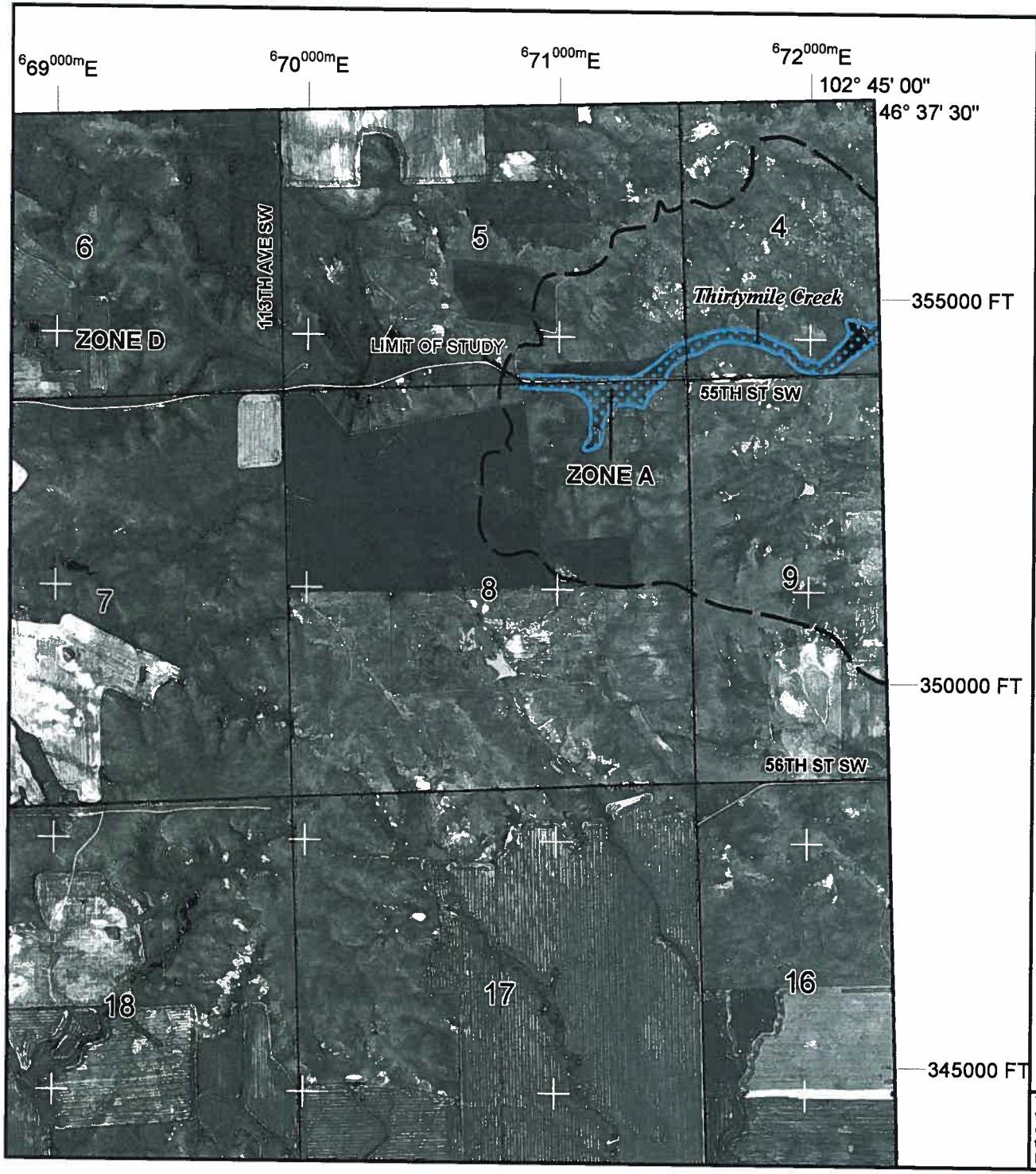
- No sole-source aquifers have been designated in ND.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 701-328-4967.

Sincerely,

Linda Weispfenning
Water Resource Planner

LW:dm/1570
Encl.



MAP SCALE 1" = 2000'

1000 0 2000 4000

FEET

METERS

NFIP

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0250D

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

HETTINGER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 250 OF 950

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

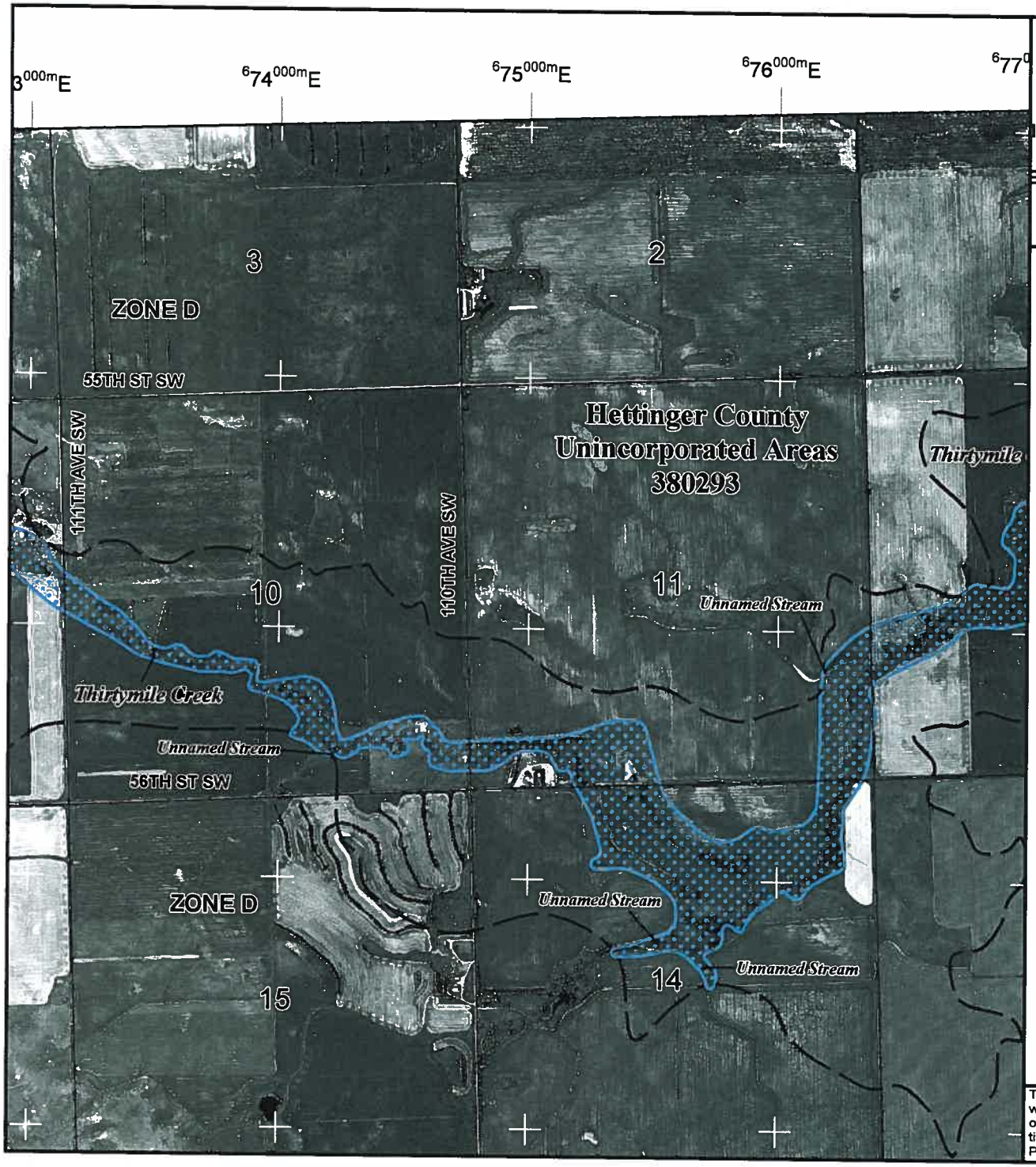
COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
HETTINGER COUNTY, Unincorporated Areas	380293	0250	D
NEW ENGLAND, CITY OF	380242	0250	D

Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.

MAP NUMBER
38041C0250D

EFFECTIVE DATE
MARCH 2, 2012

Federal Emergency Management Agency



MAP SCALE 1" = 2000'

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FEET

METERS

NFIP

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0275D

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

HETTINGER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 275 OF 950

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

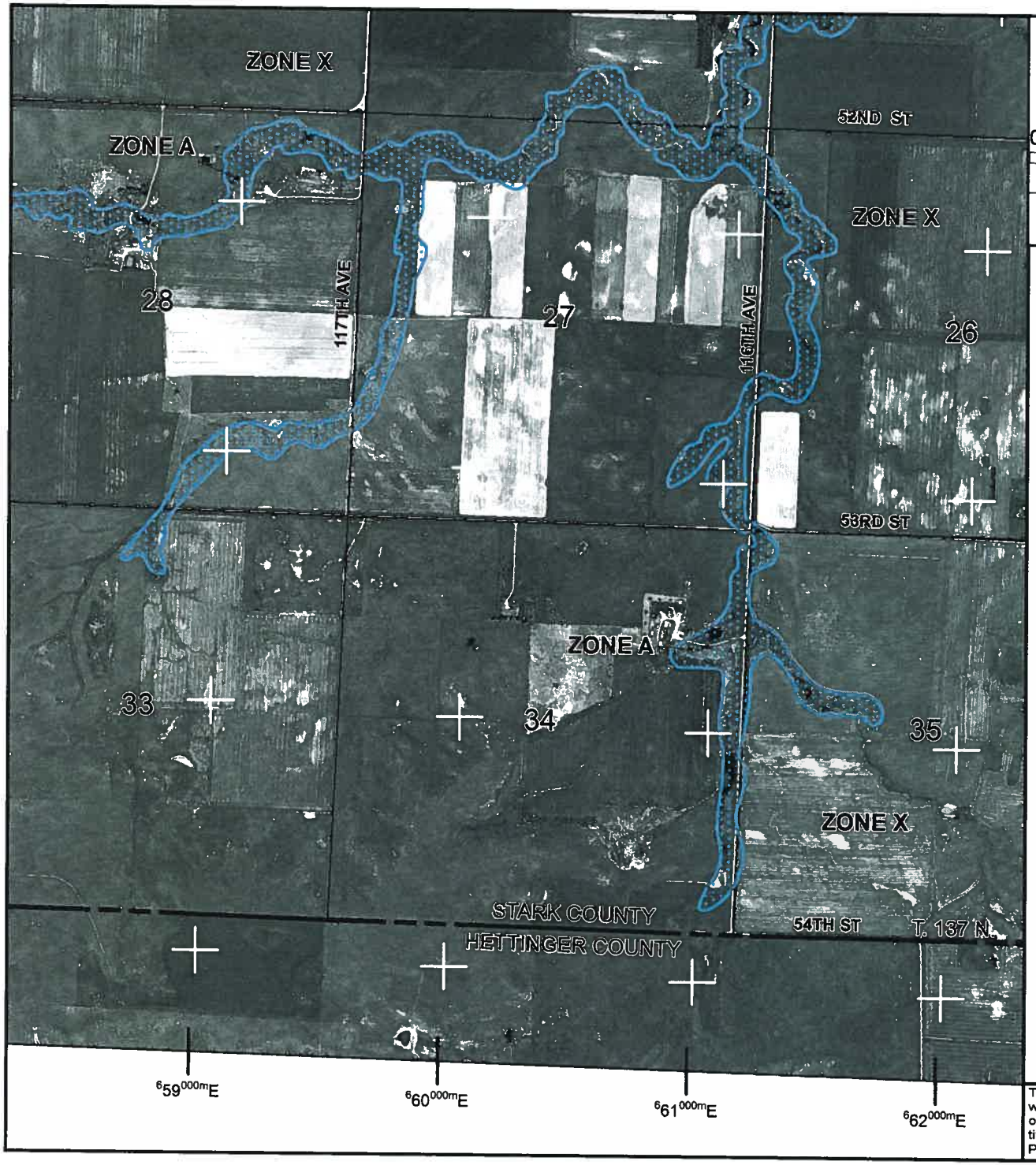
COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
HETTINGER COUNTY, Unincorporated Areas	380293	0275	D

Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.

MAP NUMBER
38041C0275D

EFFECTIVE DATE
MARCH 2, 2012

Federal Emergency Management Agency



MAP SCALE 1" = 2000'

00 0 2000 4000

FEET

METE

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0675E

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

STARK COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 675 OF 850

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

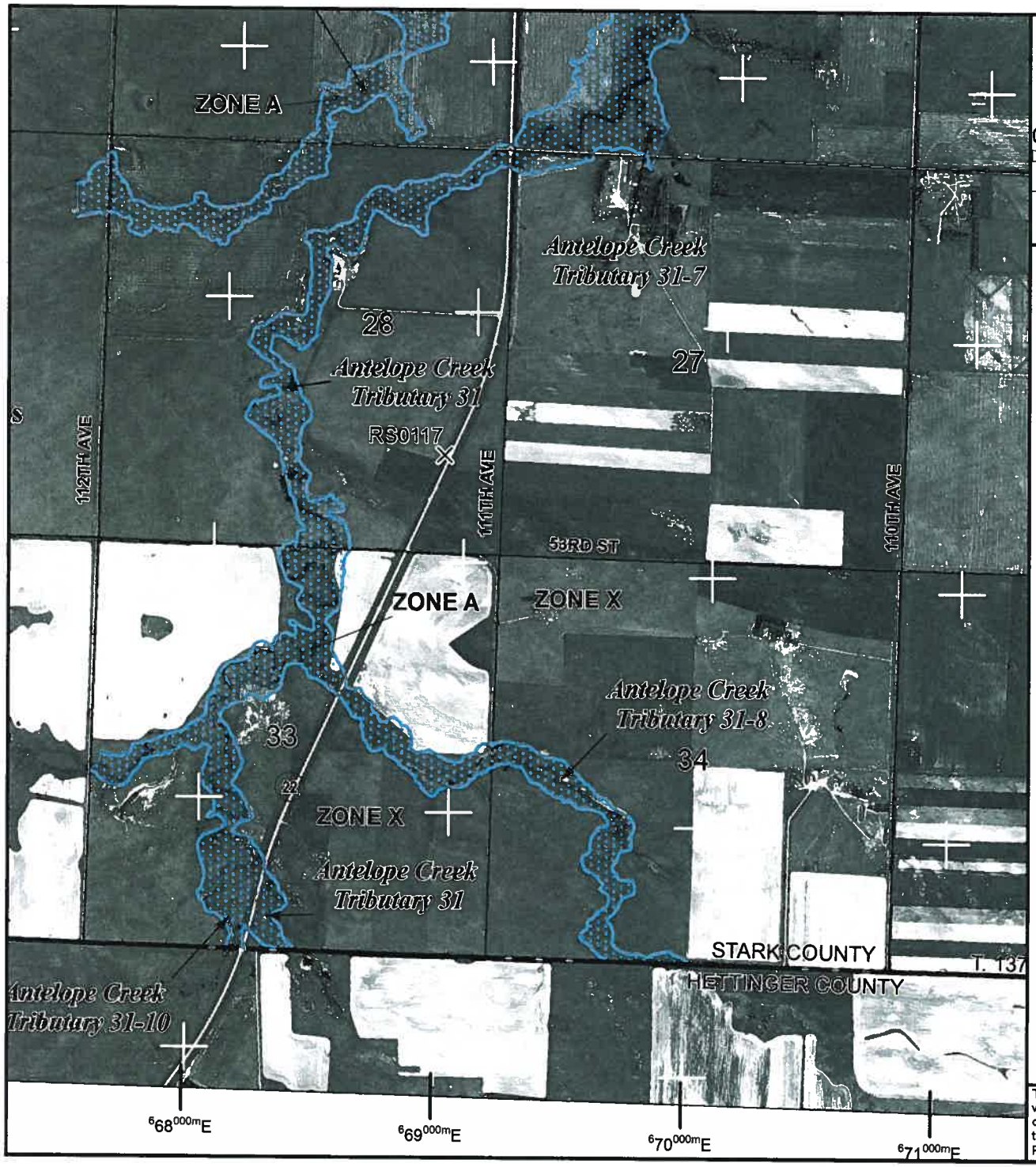
COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
STARK COUNTY	385369	0675	E

Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.

MAP NUMBER
38089C0675E

EFFECTIVE DATE
NOVEMBER 4, 2010

Federal Emergency Management Agency



MAP SCALE 1" = 2000'

00 0 2000 4000

FEET

METE

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

NFIP

PANEL 0700E

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

STARK COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 700 OF 850

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

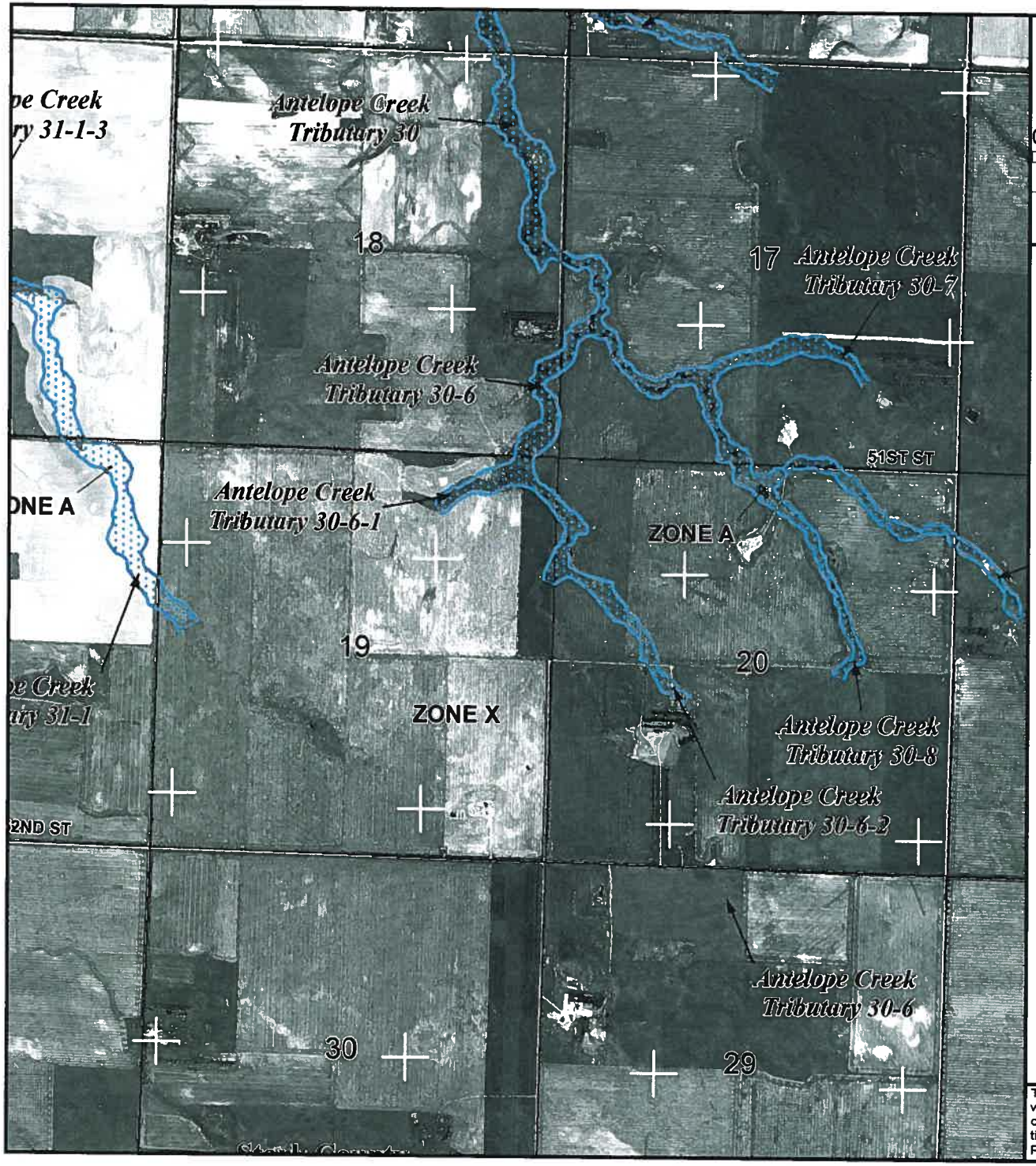
COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
STARK COUNTY	385369	0700	E

Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.

MAP NUMBER
38089C0700E

EFFECTIVE DATE
NOVEMBER 4, 2010

Federal Emergency Management Agency



MAP SCALE 1" = 2000'

00 0 2000 4000 FEET

METE

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0725E

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

STARK COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 725 OF 850

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
STARK COUNTY	385369	0725	E

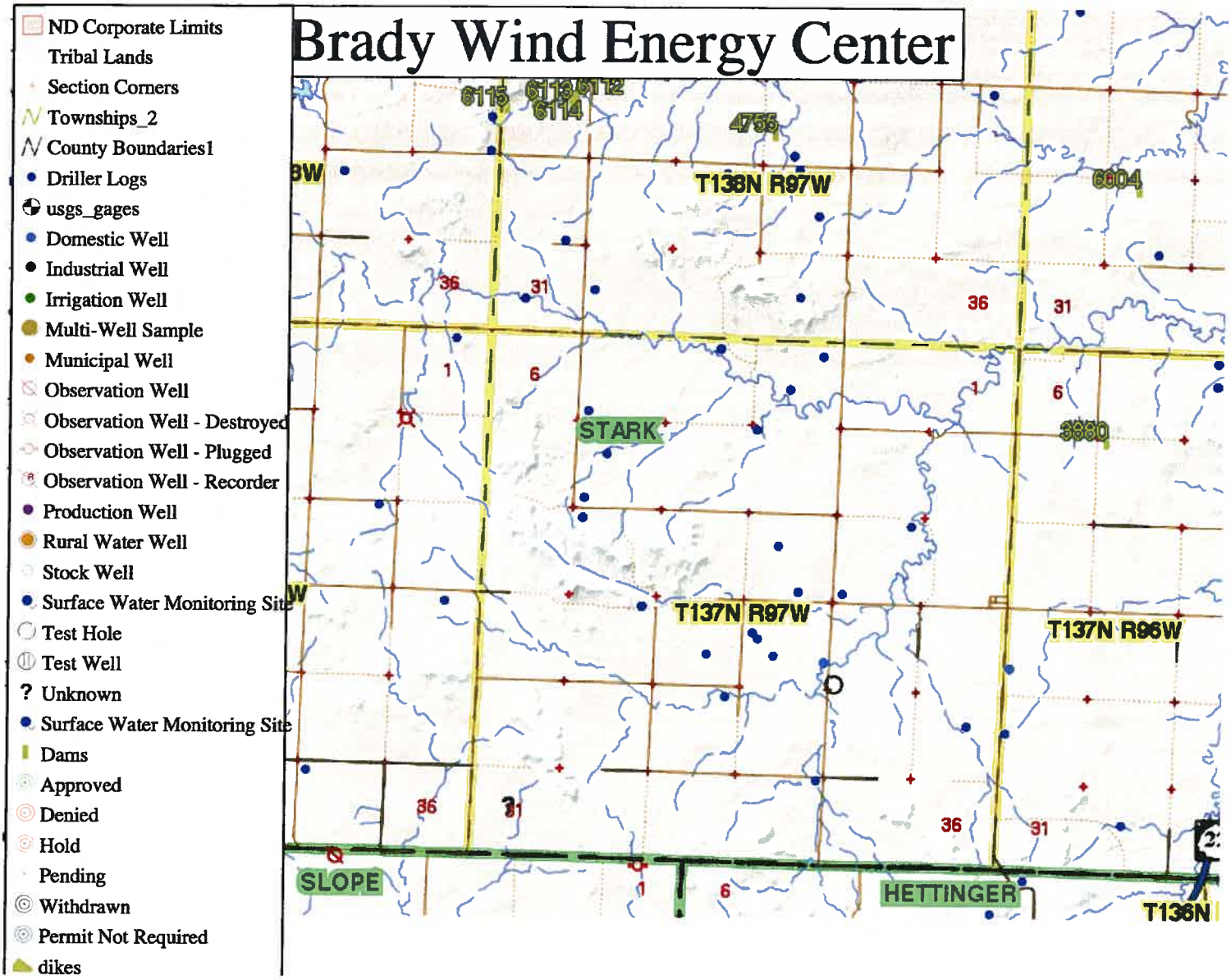
Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.

MAP NUMBER
38089C0725E

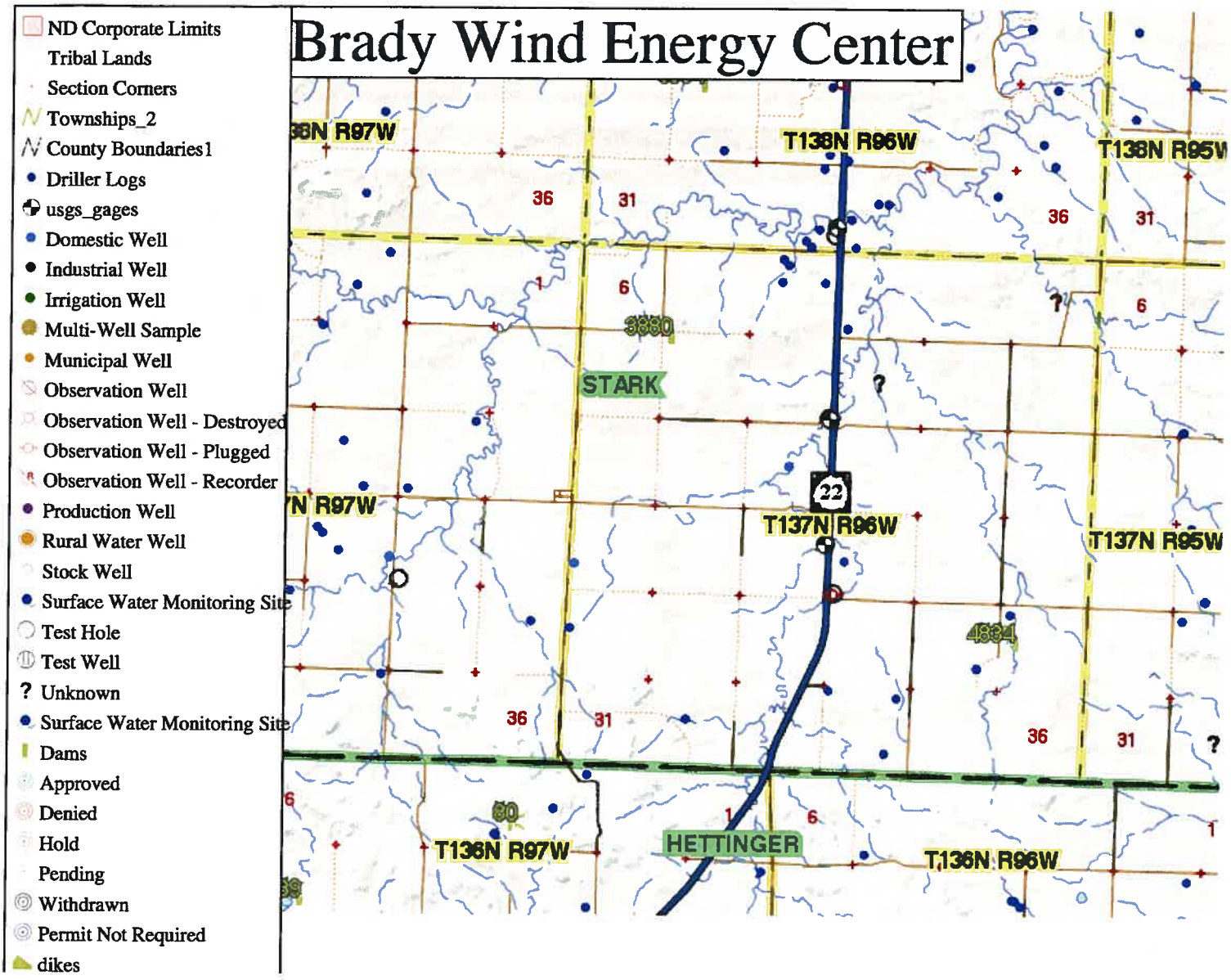
EFFECTIVE DATE
NOVEMBER 4, 2010

Federal Emergency Management Agency

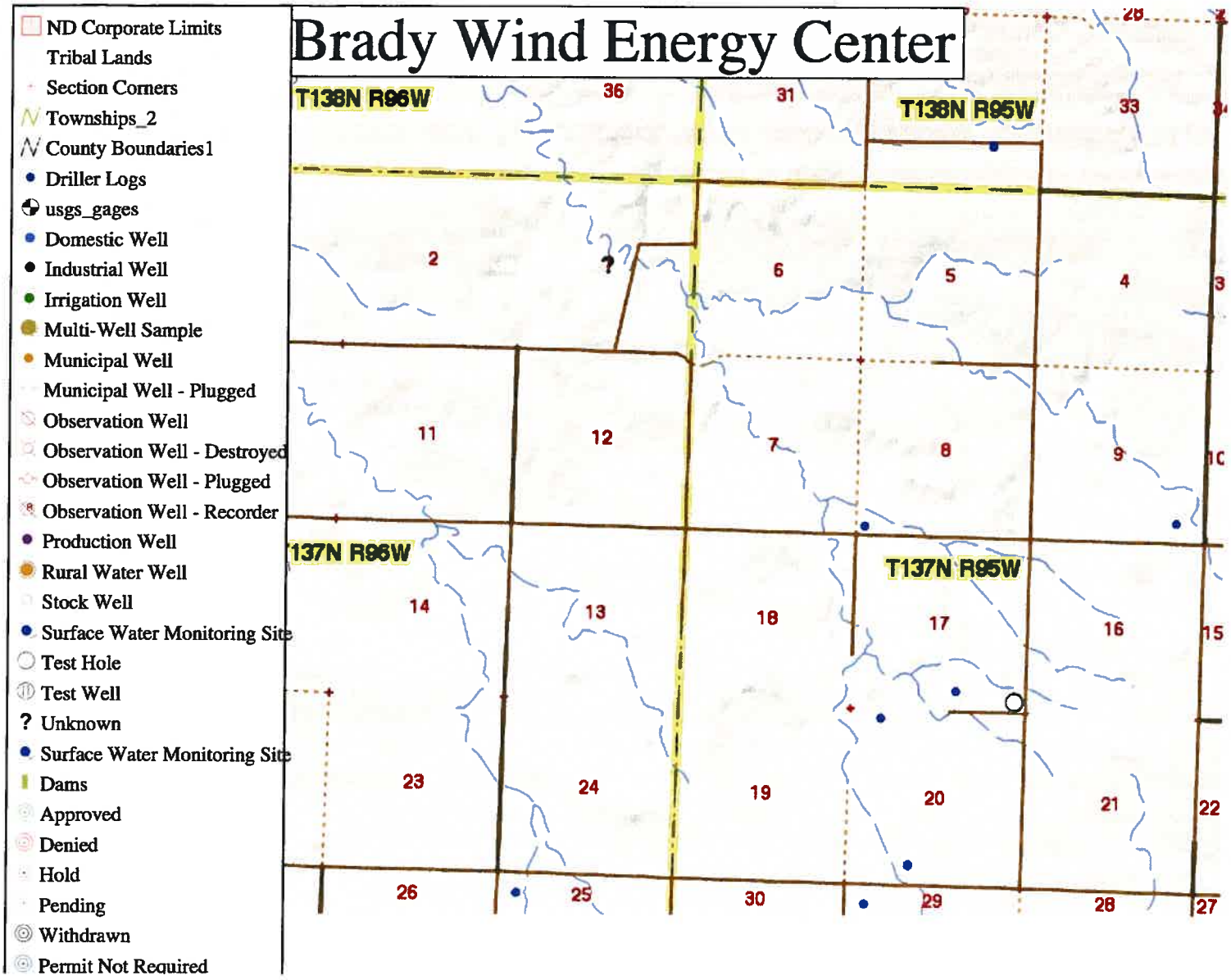
Brady Wind Energy Center



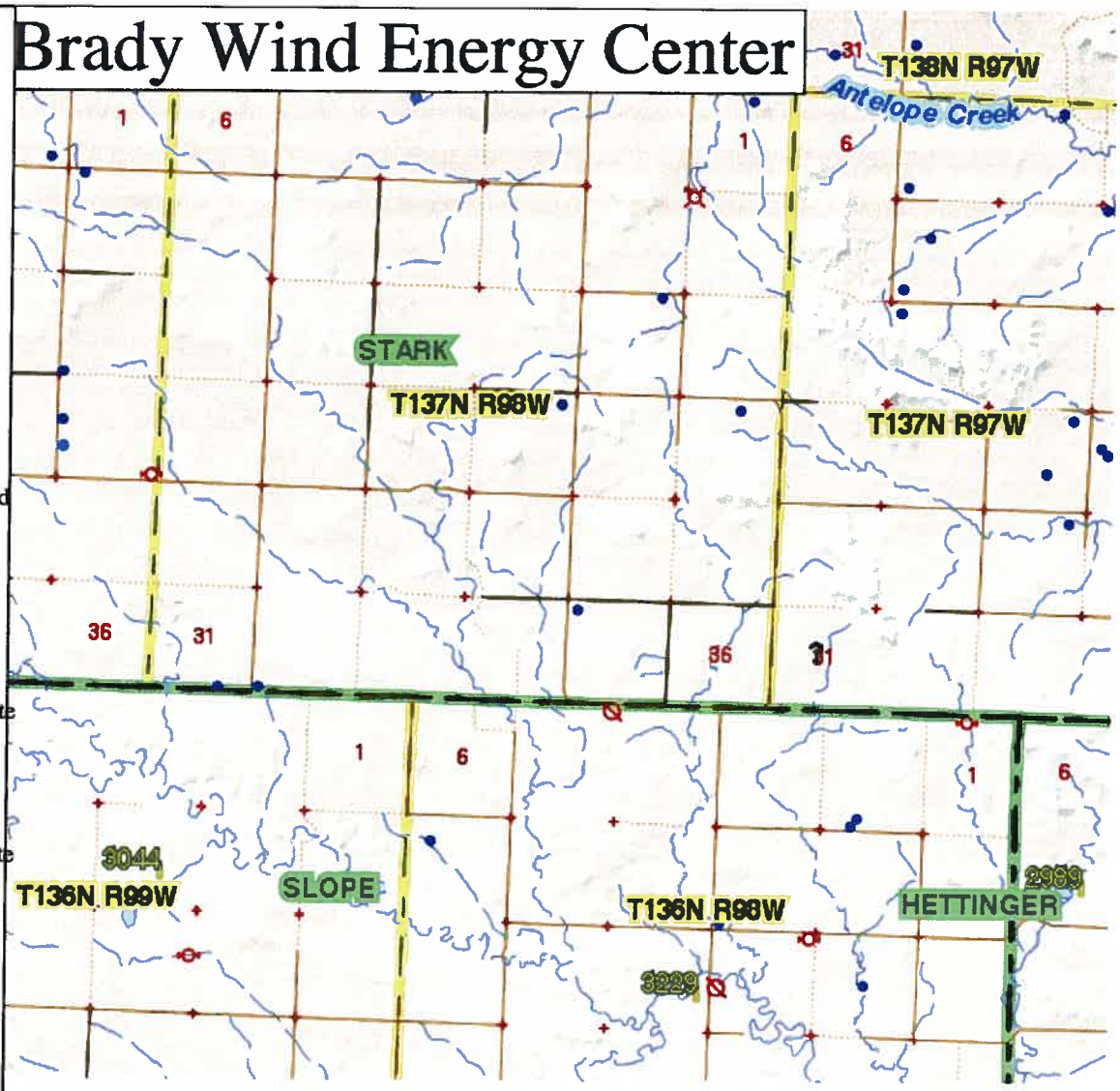
Brady Wind Energy Center



Brady Wind Energy Center



Brady Wind Energy Center



- ND Corporate Limits
- Tribal Lands
- Section Corners
- Townships_2
- County Boundaries1
- Driller Logs
- usgs_gages
- Domestic Well
- Industrial Well
- Irrigation Well
- Multi-Well Sample
- Municipal Well
- Observation Well
- Observation Well - Destroyed
- Observation Well - Plugged
- Observation Well - Recorder
- Production Well
- Rural Water Well
- Stock Well
- Surface Water Monitoring Site
- Test Hole
- Test Well
- ? Unknown
- Surface Water Monitoring Site
- Dams
- Approved
- Denied
- Hold
- Pending
- Withdrawn
- Permit Not Required
- dikes

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA

August 21, 2015

Ms. Anne-Marie Griger, AICP
Tetra Tech Inc
8911 N Capital of Texas Hwy, Building 2, Suite 2310
Austin, TX 78759

ND SHPO REF: 15-1414 ND PSC - NextEra Energy Resources, LLC Proposed Brady Wind Energy Center 230 kV transmission line in Stark, Hettinger and Slope Counties, North Dakota

Dear Ms. Griger,

Thank you for your preliminary information on ND SHPO Ref: 15-1414, the Brady Wind Energy Center and transmission line. As you know, there is potential for unrecorded and recorded cultural resource properties in a variety of physiographic settings in the overall project area. As a potential federal/state undertaking, we encourage early agency consultation as part of the review process. Early consultation should also include tribal nations, and North Dakota Indian Affairs.

We recommend a Class I (file search), a **Class III survey by a permitted architectural historian for standing structures over 50 years old in the visual Area of Potential Effect (APE).** That is within a 2 mile radius of individual turbine locations, but that APE may be modified larger or smaller, depending on those turbine locations. When the wind farm project develops to the point that turbine locations are defined, we would like to see a map of the turbine locations to see if there need to be any modifications to the APE. Susan Quinnell Review and Compliance Coordinator with ND SHPO will assist the permitted architectural historian with development of the visual APE, as each visual APE for large wind projects warrants individual review. Class III archeological (pedestrian) surveys will be warranted for all areas directly impacted by the project, **including crane paths,** access roads, staging areas, transmissions lines and turbine pads. As part of the Class III Inventory, NDCRS site updates should be submitted on all sites resurveyed. If the project APE changes, we will request additional inventories, surveys and consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project to date. We look forward to further review of cultural resource surveys and site forms, and updates as the project siting occurs. If you have any questions please contact Paul Picha, Chief Archaeologist (701) 328-3574 or Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator at (701) 328-3576, e-mail squinnell@nd.gov

Sincerely,

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
1513 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

August 19, 2015

North Dakota Regulatory Office

Ms. Anne-Marie Griger
Tetra Tech, Inc.
8911 ~~8511~~ N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg 2 Suite 2310
Austin, Texas 78759

Dear Ms. Griger:

This is in response to your letter dated August 14, 2015, requesting comments on NextEra Energy Resources' proposed Brady Wind Energy Center located in Hettinger and Stark Counties, North Dakota.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Offices administer Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 10) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404). A Section 10 permit would be required for work impacting navigable waters, this includes work over, through, or under Section 10 waters. Section 10 waters in North Dakota are the Missouri River (including Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe), Yellowstone River, James River (south of the railroad tracks in Jamestown, North Dakota), Bois de Sioux River, Red River of the North, and Upper Des Lacs Lake. A Section 404 permit would be required for the discharge of dredge or fill material (temporarily or permanently) in waters of the United States. Waters of the United States may include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, ditches, coulees, lakes, ponds, and their adjacent wetlands. Fill material includes, but is not limited to, rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mines or other excavation activities and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in waters of the United States.

Complete the enclosed application and mail it to the letterhead address if the project requires a Section 10/404 permit.

If we can be of further assistance or should you have any questions regarding our program, please do not hesitate to contact this office by letter or phone at (701) 255-0015.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Cimarosti

Daniel E. Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
North Dakota

Enclosure

Instructions for Preparing a
Department of the Army Permit Application

Blocks 1 through 4. To be completed by Corps of Engineers.

Block 5. Applicant's Name. Enter the name and the E-mail address of the responsible party or parties. If the responsible party is an agency, company, corporation, or other organization, indicate the name of the organization and responsible officer and title. If more than one party is associated with the application, please attach a sheet with the necessary information marked Block 5.

Block 6. Address of Applicant. Please provide the full address of the party or parties responsible for the application. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 6.

Block 7. Applicant Telephone Number(s). Please provide the number where you can usually be reached during normal business hours.

Blocks 8 through 11. To be completed, if you choose to have an agent.

Block 8. Authorized Agent's Name and Title. Indicate name of individual or agency, designated by you, to represent you in this process. An agent can be an attorney, builder, contractor, engineer, or any other person or organization. Note: An agent is not required.

Blocks 9 and 10. Agent's Address and Telephone Number. Please provide the complete mailing address of the agent, along with the telephone number where he / she can be reached during normal business hours.

Block 11. Statement of Authorization. To be completed by applicant, if an agent is to be employed.

Block 12. Proposed Project Name or Title. Please provide name identifying the proposed project, e.g., Landmark Plaza, Burned Hills Subdivision, or Edsall Commercial Center.

Block 13. Name of Waterbody. Please provide the name of any stream, lake, marsh, or other waterway to be directly impacted by the activity. If it is a minor (no name) stream, identify the waterbody the minor stream enters.

Block 14. Proposed Project Street Address. If the proposed project is located at a site having a street address (not a box number), please enter it here.

Block 15. Location of Proposed Project. Enter the latitude and longitude of where the proposed project is located. If more space is required, please attach a sheet with the necessary information marked Block 15.

Block 16. Other Location Descriptions. If available, provide the Tax Parcel Identification number of the site, Section, Township, and Range of the site (if known), and / or local Municipality that the site is located in.

Block 17. Directions to the Site. Provide directions to the site from a known location or landmark. Include highway and street numbers as well as names. Also provide distances from known locations and any other information that would assist in locating the site. You may also provide description of the proposed project location, such as lot numbers, tract numbers, or you may choose to locate the proposed project site from a known point (such as the right descending bank of Smith Creek, one mile downstream from the Highway 14 bridge). If a large river or stream, include the river mile of the proposed project site if known

Block 18. Nature of Activity. Describe the overall activity or project. Give appropriate dimensions of structures such as wing walls, dikes (identify the materials to be used in construction, as well as the methods by which the work is to be done), or excavations (length, width, and height). Indicate whether discharge of dredged or fill material is involved. Also, identify any structure to be constructed on a fill, piles, or float-supported platforms.

The written descriptions and illustrations are an important part of the application. Please describe, in detail, what you wish to do. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 18.

Block 19. Proposed Project Purpose. Describe the purpose and need for the proposed project. What will it be used for and why? Also include a brief description of any related activities to be developed as the result of the proposed project. Give the approximate dates you plan to both begin and complete all work.

Block 20. Reasons for Discharge. If the activity involves the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into a wetland or other waterbody, including the temporary placement of material, explain the specific purpose of the placement of the material (such as erosion control).

Block 21. Types of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards. Describe the material to be discharged and amount of each material to be discharged within Corps jurisdiction. Please be sure this description will agree with your illustrations. Discharge material includes: rock, sand, clay, concrete, etc.

Block 22. Surface Areas of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled. Describe the area to be filled at each location. Specifically identify the surface areas, or part thereof, to be filled. Also include the means by which the discharge is to be done (backhoe, dragline, etc.). If dredged material is to be discharged on an upland site, identify the site and the steps to be taken (if necessary) to prevent runoff from the dredged material back into a waterbody. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 22.

Block 23. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation. Provide a brief explanation describing how impacts to waters of the United States are being avoided and minimized on the project site. Also provide a brief description of how impacts to waters of the United States will be compensated for, or a brief statement explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required for those impacts.

Block 24. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete? Provide any background on any part of the proposed project already completed. Describe the area already developed, structures completed, any dredged or fill material already discharged, the type of material, volume in cubic yards, acres filled, if a wetland or other waterbody (in acres or square feet). If the work was done under an existing Corps permit, identity the authorization, if possible.

Block 25. Names and Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Project Site. List complete names and full mailing addresses of the adjacent property owners (public and private) lessees, etc., whose property adjoins the waterbody or aquatic site where the work is being proposed so that they may be notified of the proposed activity (usually by public notice). If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 24.

Information regarding adjacent landowners is usually available through the office of the tax assessor in the county or counties where the project is to be developed.

Block 26. Information about Approvals or Denials by Other Agencies. You may need the approval of other federal, state, or local agencies for your project. Identify any applications you have submitted and the status, if any (approved or denied) of each application. You need not have obtained all other permits before applying for a Corps permit.

Block 27. Signature of Applicant or Agent. The application must be signed by the owner or other authorized party (agent). This signature shall be an affirmation that the party applying for the permit possesses the requisite property rights to undertake the activity applied for (including compliance with special conditions, mitigation, etc.).

DRAWINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

General Information.

Three types of illustrations are needed to properly depict the work to be undertaken. These illustrations or drawings are identified as a Vicinity Map, a Plan View or a Typical Cross-Section Map. Identify each illustration with a figure or attachment number.

Please submit one original, or good quality copy, of all drawings on 8½ x11 inch plain white paper (electronic media may be substituted). Use the fewest number of sheets necessary for your drawings or illustrations.

Each illustration should identify the project, the applicant, and the type of illustration (vicinity map, plan view, or cross-section). **While illustrations need not be professional (many small, private project illustrations are prepared by hand), they should be clear, accurate, and contain all necessary information.**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

33 CFR 325. The proponent agency is CECW-CO-R.

Form Approved -
OMB No. 0710-0003
Expires: 31-AUGUST-2013

Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters, Executive Services and Communications Directorate, Information Management Division and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0710-0003). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. Please DO NOT RETURN your form to either of those addresses. Completed applications must be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned.

(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)

1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE

(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)

5. APPLICANT'S NAME	8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (agent is not required)
First - Middle - Last -	First - Middle - Last -
Company -	Company -
E-mail Address -	E-mail Address -
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	9. AGENT'S ADDRESS:
Address-	Address-
City - State - Zip - Country -	City - State - Zip - Country -
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOs. w/AREA CODE	10. AGENTS PHONE NOs. w/AREA CODE
a. Residence b. Business c. Fax	a. Residence b. Business c. Fax

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

11. I hereby authorize, _____ to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application.

_____ _____
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT DATE

NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instructions)

13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (if applicable)	14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable) Address
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT Latitude: °N Longitude: °W	City - State- Zip-

16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (see instructions)

State Tax Parcel ID Municipality

Section - Township - Range -

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)

19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)

USE BLOCKS 20-23 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

20. Reason(s) for Discharge

21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards:

Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards

22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)

Acres

or

Linear Feet

23. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation (see instructions)

24. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete? ☐ Yes ☐ No IF YES, DESCRIBE THE COMPLETED WORK

25. Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, Etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Waterbody (if more than can be entered here, please attach a supplemental list).

a. Address-

City - State - Zip -

b. Address-

City - State - Zip -

c. Address-

City - State - Zip -

d. Address-

City - State - Zip -

e. Address-

City - State - Zip -

26. List of Other Certificates or Approvals/Denials received from other Federal, State, or Local Agencies for Work Described in This Application.

AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED

* Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits

27. Application is hereby made for permit or permits to authorize the work described in this application. I certify that this information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT DATE SIGNATURE OF AGENT DATE

The Application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.