

## Oliver III Transmission Line Oliver and Morton Counties, North Dakota

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Prepared for



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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Oliver Wind III, LLC (Oliver III), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER), proposes to construct the Oliver III Transmission Line (the Project), located approximately 13 miles (mi) (20.9 kilometers [km]) northwest of the city of Bismarck in Oliver and Morton Counties, North Dakota. The Project consists of approximately 4.5 mi (7.2 km) of new 230-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line on private property in Oliver and Morton Counties, North Dakota. Additional facilities will include a new 5-acre (ac) (2.0-hectares [ha]) switchyard located at the northern terminus of the proposed transmission line in the northwest quarter of Section 23, Township 141 North, Range 83 West.

The Project will require a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Transmission Facility Route Permit from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC); therefore, the Project is subject to review by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) under North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 49-22 – **Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act**.

On April 20, 2011, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) issued Certificate of Site Compatibility for a Transmission Facility Corridor No. 117 and Route Permit No. 127 to Oliver Wind III for approximately 9.5 miles of 230 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities to be located in Morton and Oliver counties, North Dakota (PSC Case Number PU-09-724). As part of the initial PSC permitting for the proposed Project in 2011, the initial transmission line investigation received a SHSND concurrence letter in December 2011 (ND SHPO REF.: 09-1694). The transmission line as authorized in PSC Case No. PU-09-714 has not been constructed.

In November 2015, Oliver Wind III proposed a new transmission line route. Due to these significant changes in the transmission line, Oliver Wind III resubmitted the PSC permit application and requested that the proposed transmission line be substituted for and supersede that as approved in PSC Case No. PU-09-714. Tetra Tech completed a pedestrian survey of the new route in November 2015 and provided recommendations for site avoidance to Oliver Wind III in December 2015. In March and April 2016, Tetra Tech conducted additional pedestrian survey and shovel probing at the Project. The purpose of this investigation is to provide the necessary information for the SHSND review by confirming the presence or absence of archaeological resources within the Survey Corridor, which includes a 150 ft (45.7 m) wide corridor around the proposed transmission line route and a 20-ac (8.1 ha) parcel for the switchyard. The total area surveyed comprises 109 ac (44.2 ha).

Tetra Tech's literature review identified four previous archaeological investigations and no archaeological sites and one site leads within the Survey Corridor. A small portion of the Survey Corridor was investigated during the initial Oliver III Wind Energy Center Class III Cultural Resource Inventory (Holven 2011; Manuscript No. 012801) and the subsequent addendum (Holven 2012;

Manuscript No 013841). No archaeological resources were documented within the Survey Corridor during these investigations.

No archaeological resources were documented during the pedestrian survey of the Survey Corridor; however, Tetra Tech documented one Native American isolated find (32MOx605) within the Survey Corridor during shovel probing. Tetra Tech determined that the isolated find was low in density and had no, or very limited, potential for intact subsurface deposits. Due to the absence of cultural resources that are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), sites deemed culturally sensitive, or sites that have not been evaluated for eligibility following the guidelines outlined by the SHSND, Tetra Tech recommends, per NDCC 49-22-09(9), that no archaeological sites will be affected by the Project.

Recommendations for site avoidance also include associated activities such as surveying and staking the proposed layout prior to construction. An unanticipated discoveries plan has been developed to accommodate any archaeological materials that may be unearthed during the construction of the proposed facilities. If areas beyond the Survey Corridor are to be used during construction, then Tetra Tech recommends that an addendum Class III cultural resource inventory be conducted to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources within these areas.