

**Oliver III Wind Energy Center
Class III Historic Architectural Resources Survey
Morton and Oliver Counties,
North Dakota**

Prepared for



and



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Prepared by



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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Oliver Wind III, LLC (Oliver Wind III), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER), proposes to construct the Oliver III Wind Energy Center (the Project). The proposed Project is located in southeastern Oliver and northeastern Morton counties, North Dakota, approximately 10 miles northwest of Mandan, and will have a nameplate capacity of approximately 100 megawatts (MW) consisting of up to 48 wind turbines using both General Electric (GE) 2.1 MW and GE 1.79 MW Xle wind turbine generators. Additional facilities include access roads, electrical collection systems and cabling, a collection substation, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, meteorological towers, and a construction laydown area. The proposed Project will interconnect to the electrical grid via a tap to the existing Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) Center to Mandan 230 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line located in the northeast quarter of Section 23, Township 141 North, Range 83 West. This site is located approximately 14 miles south, southeast of the City of Center, North Dakota. The Project encompasses an irregular-shaped area roughly bounded as follows: on the west by 38th Avenue, tending southeast to 35th Street on the south and approximately 30th Avenue on the east, and then tending northwest to approximately 31st Avenue on the east and 29th Street on the north. The Project Boundary then extends west to approximately 35th Avenue, and then southwest to approximately 33rd Street on the south and 38th Avenue on the west

The Project will require a Certificate of Site Compatibility from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) (Case No. PU-16-123 and Case No. PU-16-122); 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**. Summit Envirosolutions, Inc. (Summit) has completed this historic architectural resources investigation to provide the necessary information for the SHSND review by documenting aboveground historic buildings, structures, and sites within the Visual Effects Survey Area defined for this Project. The 4.5-mile transmission line must be permitted separately, and Oliver Wind III has submitted a separate application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the line and associated switchyard to the PSC. The SHSND did not request a historic architectural resources survey for the transmission line.

Based on consultation with the SHSND, the Visual Effects Survey Area was defined as all areas within two miles of the nearest turbine and is based on the turbine layout dated February 25, 2016. All accessible public rights-of-way within this area were traveled during the survey described in this report.

Summit's literature review identified sixteen previous Cultural Resources projects within the Visual Effects Survey Area. In addition, seven previously documented properties were also identified prior to the beginning of field work.

Summit identified 59 properties in the Visual Effects Survey Area. The initial property list was created using parcel data from Oliver and Morton Counties and the Landmarks data from the

North Dakota DOT and the U.S. Geological Survey. Among the landmarks identified were vacant and active farm units, vacant and active dwellings, schoolhouses, churches, and cemeteries. Summit architectural historians conducted a windshield survey of all 59 properties in order to identify previously inventoried, potentially historic, and extant properties. During the windshield survey, 32 properties were eliminated. Within the Visual Effects Survey Area, they were not further evaluated because the property had posted no-access signs and was not visible from the public Right-of-Way and no permission was granted to access the property. Within the Project Boundary, properties were not inventoried because the farmstead or homestead was clearly less than 50 years old or lacked historic or architectural integrity, even if permission was granted to access the property.

The 27 remaining properties in the Visual Effects Survey Area were evaluated during a reconnaissance survey with photographs and field notes. Based on their historic and architectural characteristics and integrity, ten of these properties were identified as having potential for listing in the NRHP. Based on field analysis, historical research, and consultation with SHPO staff, site forms were prepared for ten properties: seven had been previously inventoried and three were newly inventoried as part of this project. Summit evaluated all properties' eligibility for listing in the NRHP. One of the newly inventoried properties, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery, is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP. The three other site forms were completed in order to document a building constructed with ethnic techniques or atypical building materials.

Three cemeteries, one church, and one barn on a vacant farmstead are recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP. One vacant schoolhouse and three vacant farmsteads, including the one that contains the barn cited above, have lost significant amounts of integrity and are recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP. Two active farmsteads have lost integrity due to intrusions of modern houses and other buildings and are recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Summit assessed the effect of the Project on the five sites recommended as potentially eligible to the NRHP. None of these properties is located within the project boundary, thus all potential direct effects to these properties have been avoided. All five sites are within the 2-mile Visual Effects Survey Area and as the Project has been designed to avoid all direct effects on these properties, only indirect visual effects were considered. Based on guidance from the SHSND, Summit considered the relationship between the Project, proposed historic properties, and views toward those properties from their main access points. In addition, for public properties, views from within the property looking out were also considered. Survey Field Code Numbers OLIII-04 and OLIII-09 are situated relative to the Project in such a way that a view of both the property and the Project likely will be possible from the main access point to the property. In addition, views of the Project likely will be possible from within Field Code Numbers OLIII-01, OLIII-02, and OLIII-03, which are considered public places. Summit recommends that the Project may result in an indirect visual Adverse Effect to these five properties.