

# Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection Report

Oliver III Wind Energy Center – Morton & Oliver Counties  
Oliver Wind III, LLC

ND PSC Case No. PU-16-123

**Prepared for:**

North Dakota Public Service Commission  
Public Utilities Division  
State Capitol  
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## Executive Summary

The State of North Dakota, acting through its North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), Division of Public Utilities, has contracted Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to perform consulting services for reclamation and revegetation inspections. This report addresses the inspection findings concerning issues requiring resolution, areas of concern, recommendations for resolution of issues, and a determination whether the area affected by construction activities has been restored as near as practicable to the condition as it existed prior to the beginning of construction, including the establishment of desired plant species where applicable in Case No. PU-16-123.

The Oliver III Wind Energy Center (Project) is located in Morton and Oliver Counties, North Dakota. The Project consists of 48 turbines generating up to 100 megawatts. Construction for the Project began in July 2016 and was completed in January 2017. The purpose of the reclamation and revegetation inspection was to ensure the Project was constructed in compliance with the siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order Amending Certificate and Permit for the Project. Prior to the construction inspection, Keitu reviewed all Project documents to identify any and all aspects requiring site verification.

The site was visually inspected on October 18, 2018 by Keitu staff. It appears to be returned as near as practical to preconstruction conditions at the time of visit.

Overall, the project was very well-maintained, secured, and in good condition. Keitu listed an item to be addressed at the Commission's discretion in the Recommendations section of this report. If the recommendation is followed, the Project should continue to be as near as practical to pre-construction conditions.

## Introduction

The Oliver Wind III Wind Energy Center (Project) was approved and constructed in 2016-2017. The Project is operated by Oliver Wind III, LLC, a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. The Project is a wind farm located in Morton and Oliver Counties, North Dakota, and has a nameplate capacity of approximately 100 megawatts (MW) consisting of 48 wind turbines using both General Electric 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 building, meteorological towers, and a construction laydown area. The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), which issued its Order Amending Certificate and Permit for Case No. PU-16-123 on June 22, 2016.

## Purpose and Scope of Inspection

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) authorizes the Commission to determine that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and welfare of the citizens of North Dakota. Construction inspections ensure the Project is constructed in compliance with siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order.

The Commission retained Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to complete a reclamation and revegetation inspection of the Project. The inspection process included a review of the Application for Amended Corridor Certificate and Route Permit Application (Application), Order, Certification Relating to Order Provisions Certification, and other applicable documents to determine Project-specific siting and construction requirements; a site visit and inspection of facilities; documentation of compliance; and a report summarizing findings. This report includes, but is not limited to, site visit observations, documentation of compliance deficiencies, and a summary of issues that should be addressed for the Project to be considered complete and in full compliance.

## Methods

Keitu reviewed North Dakota siting laws and rules, the Application, Certification, and the Order for the Project to identify what Project-specific documentation was required for compliance. Keitu then reviewed Project documents in the Commission Online Case Search to identify those siting laws, rules, and Application and Order assertions that already had written verification, those that still required documentation, and those that required physical site verification.

Keitu staff visited the Project area on October 18, 2018 to visually inspect the site. Digital photographs were taken showing typical Project infrastructure and documenting any problem areas. During the field visit, construction was complete and the project was in operation.

## **As-Built Inspection Follow-Up**

An As-Built inspection was conducted on July 19, 2017 by Keitu Staff. During this inspection it was deemed by Keitu staff that the Project was constructed in compliance with the siting laws, siting rules, and applicable Commission Orders.

## **Observations**

Project areas occurring in crop lands appeared to be returned to pre-construction conditions at the time of visit. Crop density appeared to be similar to areas adjacent to the Project area. Portions of the Project occurring in range or pasture land had approximately 80-100% ground cover, but were mostly weeds and nonnative species. Even though they were undesirable species, the disturbed areas appeared to be stabilized.

## **Recommendations**

1. Continual maintenance should be done to encourage the revegetation of desirable species.

## **Conclusion**

Overall, the Project appeared to be constructed as designed with minimal impacts to the surrounding environment. The Project site is in good condition and is well maintained. The Project is as near as practical to preconstruction conditions.

## Management Review

The services performed by Keitu and its staff for this project have been conducted in a manner consistent with the degree of care and technical skill appropriately exercised by professionals currently practicing in this area under similar time and budget constraints.

Recommendations and findings contained in this report represent our professional judgment and are based upon available information and technically accepted practices at the present time and location. Other than this, no warranty is implied or expressed.



10/30/2018

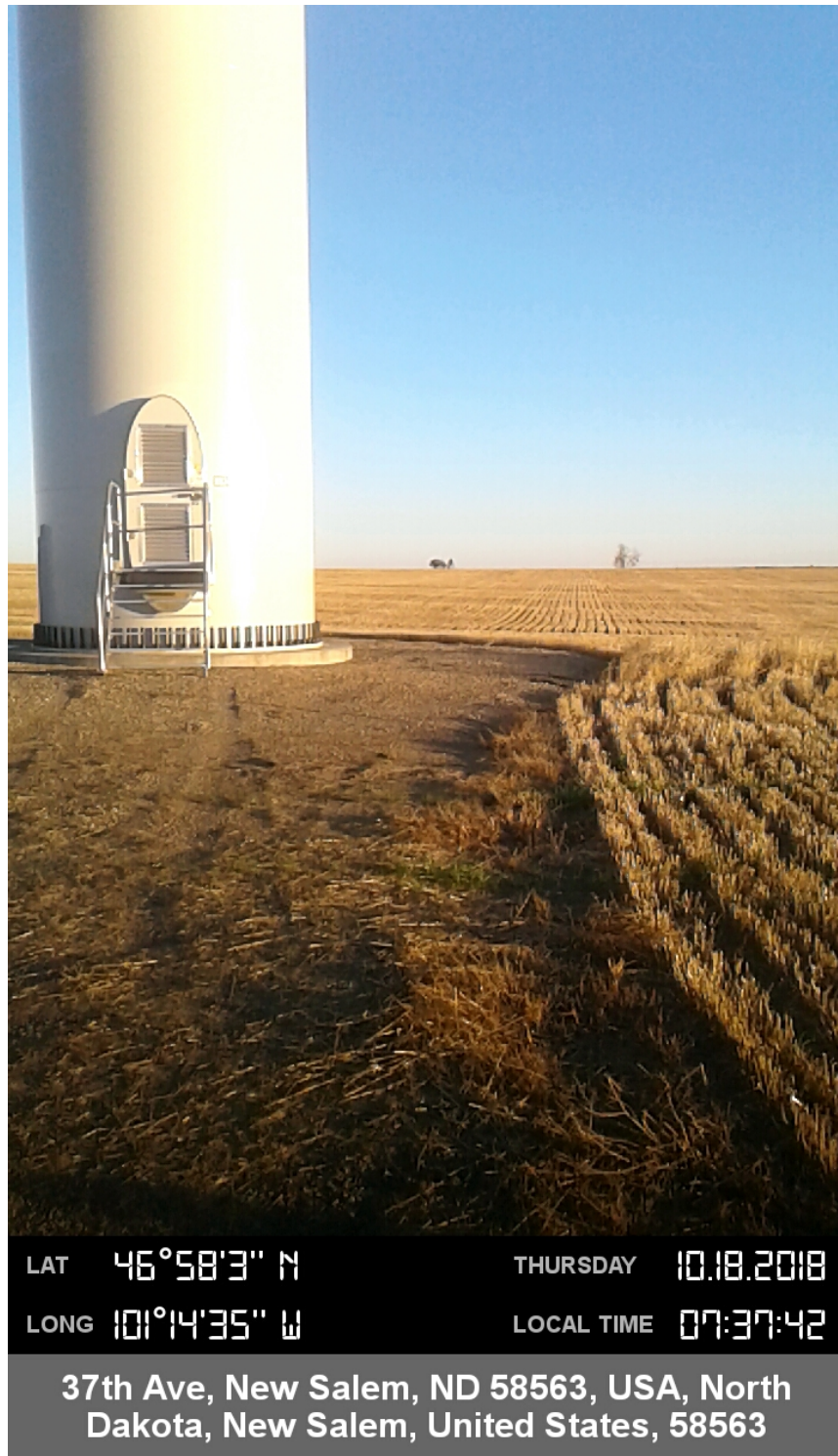
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Jaimee Antognazzi, Operations Manager

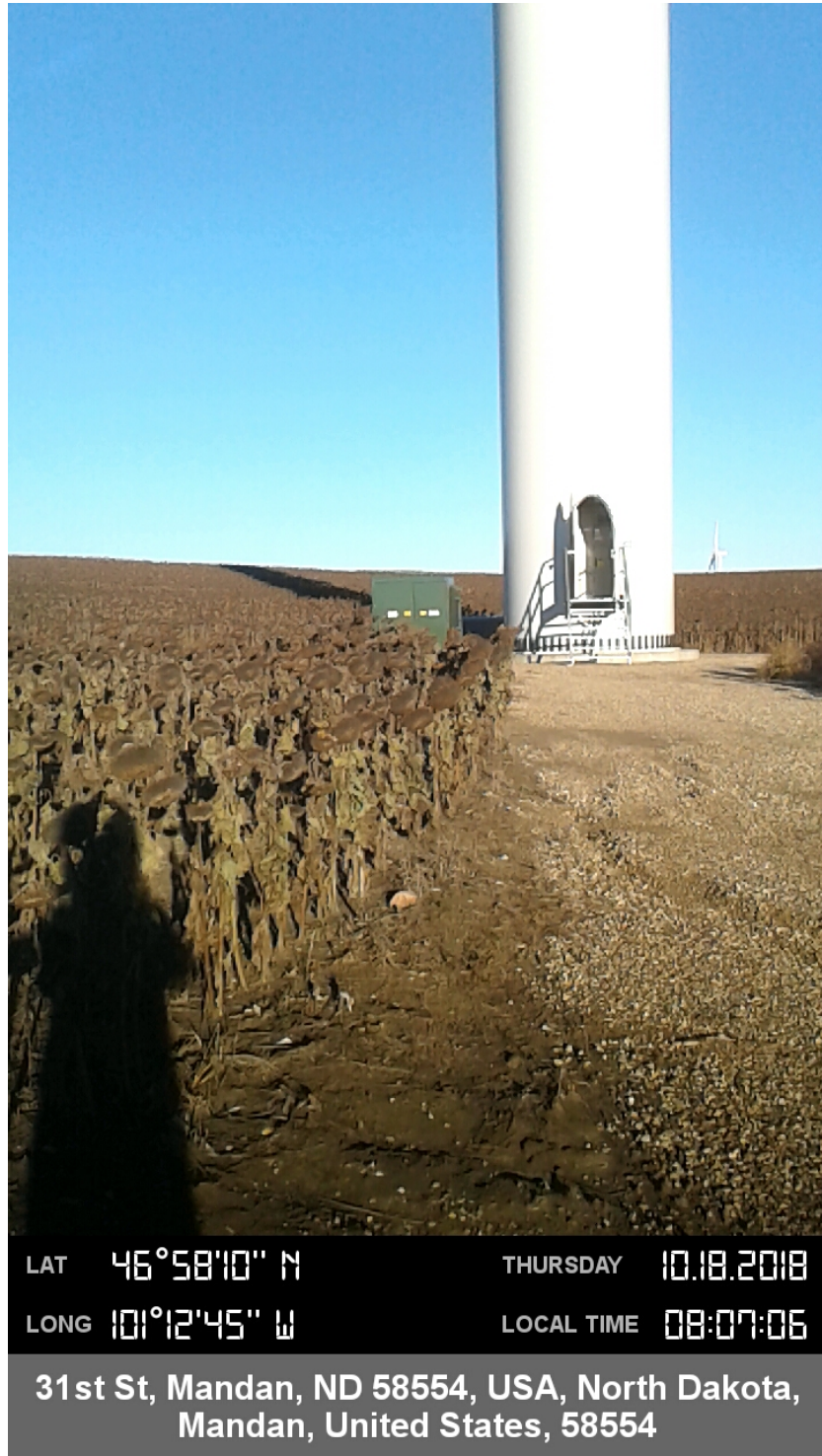
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Date

**Report Photo #1:** Overview of turbine construction block (T48) from South to North.



**Report Photo #2:** Overview of turbine construction block (T40) from South to North.



**Report Photo #3:** Overview of turbine construction block (T18) from North to South.



**Report Photo #4:** Overview of turbine construction block (T3) from South to North.



**Report Photo #5:** Overview of turbine construction block (T1) from South to North.



**Report Photo #6:** Overview of turbine construction block (T14) from South to North.



**Report Photo #7:** Overview of turbine construction block (T30) from South to North.



**Project Photo Location Map:**

