330 2nd Avenue South, Suite 820
Minneapolis, MN 55401, United States

612 746 4028
info.US@res-group.com
www.res-group.com

September 13, 2016

RECEIVED
SEP 13 2016
NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Director
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Submitted via email to ndpsc@nd.gov

Re: Glacier Ridge Wind Farm Application for Certificate of Site Compatibility, **Case No. PU-16-539**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Attached please find additional information to be added to the docket for Case No. PU-16-539:

- North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department response letter

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at 512-213-8501 or anne-marie.griger@res-group.com.

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Griger
Permitting Specialist

27 **PU-16-539** Filed: 9/13/2016 Pages: 2
Comments of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

Glacier Ridge Wind Farm, LLC

Anne-Marie Griger, Permitting Specialist

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

September 2, 2016

Adam Holven
Tetra Tech, Inc
2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: Glacier Ridge Wind Farm – Barnes County, ND

Dear Ms. McCall,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the above referenced proposed Glacier Ridge Wind Farm in Barnes County.

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, there are no documented significant ecological community, plant or animal species of concern occurrences in our database within or adjacent to project area. 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.

Given the potential for not only habitat disturbance and disruption but the threat to nesting, feeding and migratory bird and bats in the area we suggest that all efforts be made to avoid impacts to wildlife species and their habitats. In an effort to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats we encourage proper evaluation of all potential wind energy sites. To identify and assess adverse impacts to wildlife we suggest pre and post construction avian and bat monitoring studies be conducted.

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*2016_227KD9.2.2016DL8.31.2016

Play in our backyard!