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Architectural History Survey Report Summary

To	Northern Divide Wind, LLC
Subject	Northern Divide Wind Energy Center Class II Architectural Resources Inventory Summary Burke and Divide Counties, North Dakota
From	AECOM
Date	February 3, 2020

Introduction and Purpose

Northern Divide Wind, LLC (Northern Divide Wind), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, proposes to develop the Northern Divide Wind Energy Center (Project) in Burke County, in northeastern North Dakota. The Project consists of up to 74 turbines, access roads, underground electrical collection systems, collection substations, an operations and maintenance building, meteorological evaluation towers, a construction laydown area, and a batch plant.

The Project will require a Certificate of Site Compatibility from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Case No. PU-19-376); therefore, the Project is subject to review by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) under North Dakota Century Code 49-22-09. Based on consultation with the SHSND, the Architectural Survey Corridor (Survey Corridor) was defined as all areas within two miles of the nearest turbine and is based on the locations of turbines within the proposed turbine layout dated November 18, 2019. The purpose of this investigation is to facilitate the SHSND review by documenting the aboveground historic buildings and structures within the Survey Corridor defined for this Project. No Architectural Survey was required by SHSND for the Project transmission line (Attachment A).

Methods

As the Project is designed to avoid all direct effects to architectural sites, only indirect visual effects were considered. Based on guidance from the SHSND, the relationship between the Project and the view toward a property from the main access point to said property was considered. All accessible public rights-of-way (ROW) within this area were traveled during the survey described in this report. Where AECOM received permission, private property was entered so that buildings could more closely be examined and documented.

Results

A previous Class II inventory was completed by Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc (Metcalf) in 2018. During this survey, a total of 45 new architectural resources were recorded. Based on an updated Survey Corridor from a new 2019 Northern Divide Project Area, AECOM completed a second round of Class II Inventory in November 2019. During the survey, an AECOM architectural historian identified 99 previously unrecorded architectural resources. Of these sites, 77 were documented on North Dakota Cultural Resources Survey (NDCRS) Architectural Site forms. The documented resources included homes, barns, silos, garages, sheds, livestock shelters, churches, grain bins, and schools. Four

previously recorded sites were re-evaluated during the survey, and updated NDCRS forms were submitted. Seventeen of the previous Metcalf Class II resources remained within the current Survey Corridor. Due to their recent recordation, these sites were not updated or re-evaluated during the AECOM survey. NDCRS forms were not completed for 22 resources, which were determined to be entirely modern in nature; however, these will briefly be discussed in the report. Three resources noted during desktop review were documented in the field as completely collapsed and were recorded as site leads on NDCRS historical archaeological forms. A further five areas observed during desktop review were removed from the architectural inventory when field survey revealed they were not architectural in nature.

A total of 111 sites were surveyed or evaluated by an architectural historian during this reconnaissance level architectural inventory. It is AECOM's recommendation that one of the documented sites, a church, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Further, one site updated by AECOM, a fourteen-sided barn, is listed in the NRHP.

The eligible resource, South St. Olaf's Church, was constructed by Norwegian settlers in the early 1900's. The Romanesque style church is recommended eligible under criteria A and C, for its connection to early settlement traditions in Burke County and its distinctive design characteristics. The church is located approximately 1.6 (mi) mi from the closest turbine. The Neils Nielson Fourteen-Sided Barn was constructed in 1914 and listed in the NRHP in 1986. The barn is listed under Criterion C, as a representative example of the round barn style and the popularity of pre-cut kits for construction. The barn is located approximately 1.3 mi from the closest turbine.

As the Project has been designed to avoid all direct effects to historical resources, only indirect visual effects to these two properties were considered. Based on methods and guidance from the SHSND, AECOM assessed the views of both the property and the Project from each site's main access point. Both sites are situated relative to the Project in such a way that a view of both the property and the Project will likely be possible from the main access point to the property. Northern Divide Wind is in consultation with the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (NDSHPO) to determine if the Project would have indirect effects to the barn and church that would diminish their eligibility for listing on the NRHP.

The Class II report will be submitted to the NDSHPO and concurrence will be obtained prior to construction of the Project. Once the NDSHPO concurrence letter is received it will be submitted to the Commission.



January 24, 2020

Melinda McCarthy
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Dear Ms. McCarthy,

Pursuant to our conversation in my office the other day, this letter is to acknowledge the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office does not require a viewshed analysis for the project NDSHPO Ref #19-0574: Northern Divide 345kV Transmission Line in Burke and Mountrail Counties, ND provided it takes place in the location and manner described in the documentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions please contact Lorna Meidinger, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-2089, e-mail lbmeidinger@nd.gov

Sincerely,

for Claudia J. Berg
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)

19-0574