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Archaeological Survey Report Summary

To	Northern Divide Wind, LLC
Subject	Northern Divide 345-kV Transmission Line Class III: Intensive Archaeological Resources Inventory Summary Burke and Mountrail 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 construct the Northern Divide Transmission Line (Project). The Project consists of approximately 41 miles (mi) of new 345-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line on leased private property in Burke and Mountrail Counties, North Dakota. Located approximately one mile west of Powers Lake, three miles east of Tioga, and 10 miles south of Columbus, the Project will convey power from the Northern Divide Wind Energy Center (Wind Energy Center) substation in Burke County to the interconnection point at the existing Tande Substation in Mountrail County.

The Project will require a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Case No.: PU-19-370); therefore, the Project is subject to review by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) under North Dakota Century Code Section 49-22-09. The purpose of this investigation is to provide the necessary information for the SHSND review by confirming the presence or absence of archaeological sites within the survey corridor, which included a 200 foot (ft) or 60.96 meter (m) wide corridor around the proposed transmission line route, a 400 ft (121.92 m) diameter around proposed pole locations, a 30 acre (ac) or 12.14 hectare (ha) parcel which will serve as a substation and switch yard, and a number of 30 ft (9.14 m) wide off right-of-way access roads (Survey Corridor).

AECOM completed a Class III Intensive Cultural Resource Inventory on approximately 37 mi of the Project in November 2017 and December 2018 (NDSHPO Reference No. 18-0733). The report for these inventories received SHSND concurrence in February 2019 (Attachment A). The total area surveyed for the 2017-2018 Survey Corridor was 1,205.16 ac (487.71 ha). Further Class III inventories of an approximately 4-mile Project extension, small reroutes, and off right-of-way access roads were completed in 2019 (NDSHPO Ref. No. 19-0490). The additional Survey Corridor totaled 569.4 ac (230.43 ha). The combined Class III Project Survey Corridor is shown in Figures 1 and 2, and the total area surveyed comprises 1,774.56 ac (717.98 ha), which encompasses the full extent of the 41 mi Project.

Results

A Class I: Literature Review was performed by Atwell, LLC in February 2017 and updated reviews were completed by AECOM in February 2018, December 2018, and December 2019. The final literature review identified 17 Native American site leads and one Euro-American site lead partially within the additional Project Survey Corridor.

During the additional Class III Intensive Cultural Resource Inventory, AECOM documented 12 archaeological sites including four Native American sites, three Native American isolated finds, three Native American site leads, one historic Euro-American abandoned farmstead, and one Euro-American isolated find. A total of 144 shovel test probes were completed in medium to high probability areas of the Survey Corridor with low ground surface visibility.

A survey for Sites of Religious and Cultural Significance to Tribes (SRCSTT) was also undertaken for the Project by Traditional Cultural Surveyors (TCS) from the Rosebud Sioux, Spirit Lake of Fort Totten, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribes. Twenty-eight SRCSTT were documented and recorded on North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office's (NDSHPO) Cultural Heritage Forms by AECOM on behalf of the participating tribes.

AECOM is not recommending avoidance for all three Native American isolated finds (Table 1) and the historic Euro-American isolated find (Table 2). The historic Euro-American abandoned farmstead also not recommended for avoidance (Table 3). It was determined through pedestrian survey and shovel test probes that these areas contained low artifact density with little to no potential for intact, stratified subsurface deposits and the sites were determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Table 1: Native American Isolated Finds Not Recommended for Avoidance

32MNX1042	32MNX1043	32MNX1044
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Table 2: Historic Isolated Finds Not Recommended for Avoidance

32MNX1040

Table 3: Historic Sites Not Recommended for Avoidance

32BK289

AECOM is recommending avoidance with no additional buffer for one Native American site (Table 4) and three Native American site leads (Table 5). Extensive shovel test probing was completed along the boundary of the Native American site within the Project Right-of-Way and at the location of the closest infrastructure. As such, a firm site boundary has been established on these portions of the site. The site leads were documented while walking to and from the Survey Corridor and are not within the Project and therefore do not require avoidance buffers.

Table 4: Native American Site Recommended for Avoidance, No Buffer

32MN1578

Table 5: Native American Site Leads Recommended for Avoidance, No Buffer

32BKX1060	32BKX1064	32MNX1041
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AECOM recommends a 50-foot buffer for two Native American sites (Table 6).

Table 6: Sites Recommended for a 50-foot Avoidance Buffer

32MN1577	32MN1580
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AECOM is also recommending a 150-foot buffer on one Native American site (Table 7).

Table 7: Native American Site Recommended for a 150-foot Avoidance Buffer

32BK290

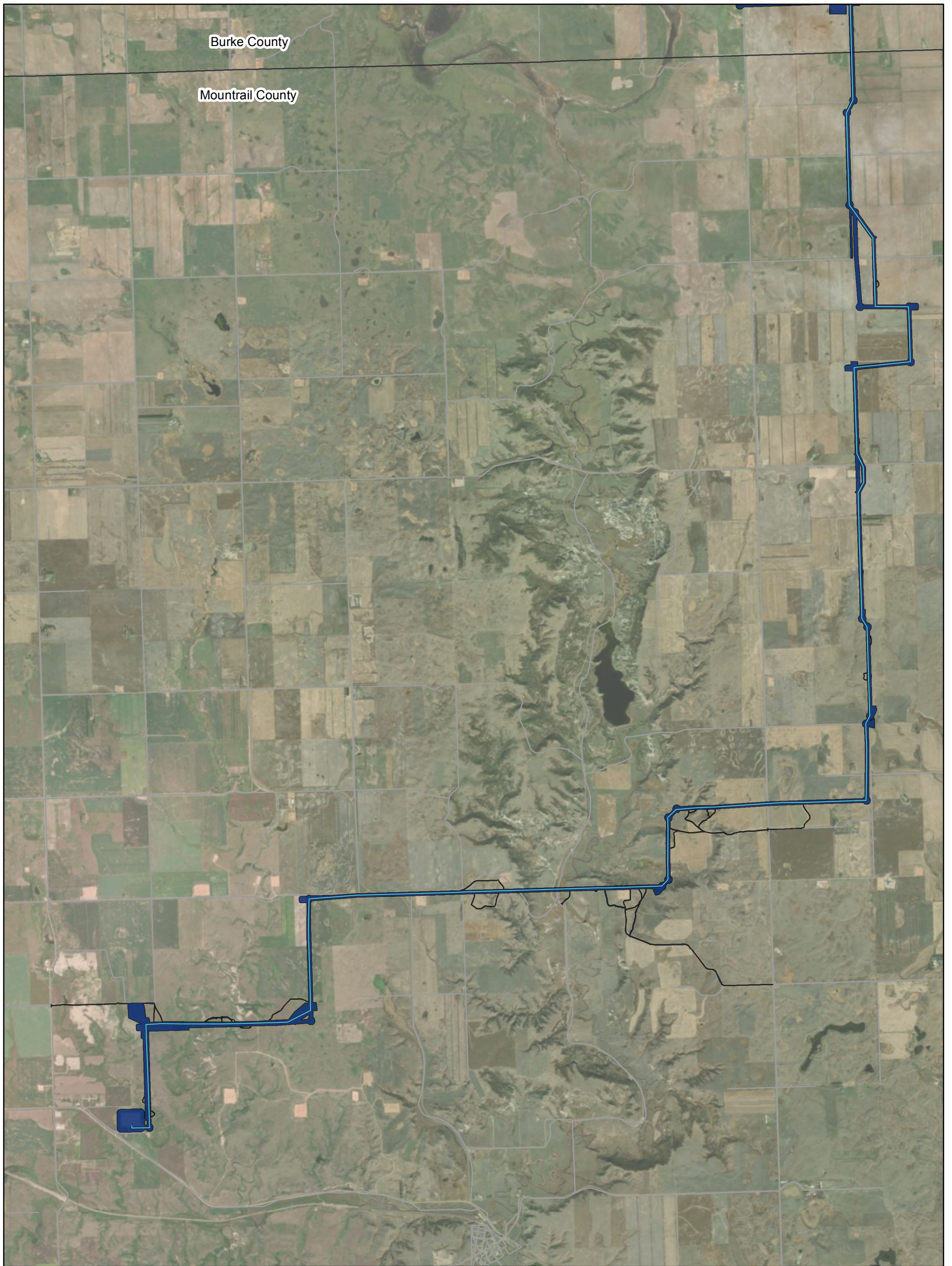
Per the recommendation of the participating tribes, 27 SRCSTT should be considered eligible for the NRHP and avoidance is recommended (Table 8). One SRCSTT, CHFBK123, was recommended not eligible for the NRHP by TCS in the field due to the nature of the feature and extensive prior disturbance, and does not require avoidance.

Table 8: SRCSTT Recommended for Avoidance

CHFBK107	CHFBK112	CHFBK117	CHFBK122	CHFBK132	CHFMN33
CHFBK108	CHFBK113	CHFBK118	CHFBK124	CHFMN29	CHFMN34
CHFBK109	CHFBK114	CHFBK119	CHFBK125	CHFMN30	
CHFBK110	CHFBK115	CHFBK120	CHFBK126	CHFMN31	
CHFBK111	CHFBK116	CHFBK121	CHFBK127	CHFMN32	

AECOM recommends avoidance of all cultural resources that are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, sites deemed culturally sensitive, or sites that have not been evaluated for eligibility following the guidelines outlined by the NDSHPO. For this investigation, Northern Divide has committed to avoiding effects to archaeological resources that could be considered archaeologically or culturally significant.

The Class III 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. If areas beyond the Survey Corridor are to be used during construction, AECOM recommends completion of an addendum Class III cultural resource inventory to determine the presence or absence of any cultural resources within these areas.



Legend





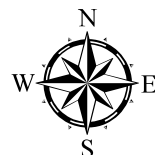
-  County Roads
-  Transmission Centerline
-  County Boundary
-  Survey Corridor



Figure 2
Cultural Survey Corridor - Mountrail County
 Northern Divide Transmission Line
 Cultural Resources Inventory
 Burke and Mountrail Counties, ND





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February 22, 2019

Ms. Melinda McCarthy, MA, RPA
Principal Investigator
AECOM
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Bismarck, ND 58503

**ND SHPO Ref: 18-0733 "Burke Transmission Line: A Class III Cultural
Resource Inventory in Burke and Mountrail Counties, North Dakota"**

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref: 18-0733 "Burke Transmission Line: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Burke and Mountrail Counties, North Dakota," and find it acceptable. We concur with a "No Significant Sites Affected" determination for this project, provided the project remains as mapped and described in your AECOM report dated February 2019, and provided sites recommend for avoidance are avoided and monitored when needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Please include the ND SHPO reference number listed above in any further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Picha at (701)-328-3574 or Susan Quinnell at (701) 328-3576 or squinnell@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudia J. Berg
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota