

**Badger Wind, LLC
Badger Wind Project
PU-22-086**

Resource	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Commitments
Land Classifications	
Grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) and North Dakota Game and Fish Department (“NDGF”), Badger Wind revised the size and location of the Project Area and moved Project infrastructure out of unbroken grassland in the northeast corner of the Project Area. • Conducted Grassland Assessment, involving desktop and field verifications of unbroken grassland within the Project Area; used these results to evaluate and inform Project infrastructure siting decisions to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to unbroken grassland habitat. • In current Project layout, 77 of 79 turbines are sited in broken grassland or other previously disturbed habitats. Only two turbine pads will have permanent impacts to field-verified unbroken grassland. The north edge of the pad of Turbine 17 will impact 0.02 acres and the west edge of Turbine 60 will impact 0.06 acres of this grassland type. All turbines are sited in already fragmented areas. • Sited access roads along field edges and within other previously disturbed areas to the extent practicable to minimize further fragmentation.
Surface Waters and Floodplains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project facilities have been sited to avoid or minimize impacts to surface waters resources. • Collection lines intersect one perennial watercourse. However, collection lines will be bored under this watercourse, thereby avoiding impacts.
Wetlands and Waterbodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted desktop and field delineations. • Temporary impacts to wetlands will be minimized through matting, boring, and collocation of facilities. • Badger Wind has minimized permanent impacts to wetlands. One access road will cross a field-delineated drainage wetland that parallels an existing road. Badger Wind has sited this access road in the location of an existing farm road to further minimize impacts to this wetland, resulting in a permanent impact of less than 0.01 acre. A culvert will be installed where this access road crosses a drainage to facilitate continued wetland function and local hydrology. This impact will be self-certified under the Nationwide Permit in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

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<p>Threatened & Endangered Species</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Area lies at the edge of the portion of the whooping crane migration corridor in which 75 percent of whooping crane sightings have occurred. • Conducted whooping crane stopover habitat assessment using data sources recommended by USFWS and NDGF. The assessment identified potential suitable stopover habitat for whooping cranes within the Project Area; however, this habitat is of relatively lower quality and quantity compared to reference areas within the regional landscape. • Although the occurrence of whooping cranes in the Project Area is unlikely, if a whooping crane is sighted within the Project Area during construction, Badger Wind will stop construction within one mile of the sighting until the whooping crane has left the area.
<p>Eagles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted two years of baseline general avian use surveys (2019-2020; 2020-2021) which included fixed-point avian use surveys during the spring (March through May) and fall (August through November) seasons from May 2019 to April 2021. • Conducted aerial and ground-based eagle and raptor nest surveys (2019; 2020) and completed additional follow-up ground monitoring at specific nest locations in 2021. • There are no golden eagle nests within the Project Area or within ten miles of the Project Area. • There are no bald eagle nests located within two miles of proposed wind turbine locations. • Badger Wind will continue to coordinate with USFWS regarding recommendations and any potential adaptive management measures, as needed.
<p>Avian Species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhered to the USFWS Wind Energy Guidelines (“WEG”) through close coordination with USFWS and NDGF on survey type/methodology, data analysis, and avoidance and minimization measures. • Conducted two years of pre-construction avian surveys, including baseline general avian use surveys, fixed-point avian use surveys, aerial and ground-based raptor/eagle nest surveys, and aerial and ground-based sharp-tailed grouse lek monitoring surveys.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines will be sited at least 0.25 miles from identified active, occupied non-eagle raptor nests to the extent practicable. • Layout designed to minimize tree clearing and potential impacts to raptor nests. • Developed a Plains Sharp-Tailed Grouse Conservation Strategy for the Project involving a multi-step analysis that included: (1) determining sharp-tailed grouse habitat requirements and potential impacts from wind energy development on the species using existing research; (2) considering how the Project would impact sharp-tailed grouse populations at a landscape level by summarizing existing data; (3) identifying potentially suitable sharp-tailed grouse habitat within the Project Area based on existing lek locations, research-based suitable habitat factors, and a site-specific unbroken grasslands assessment; and (4) considering turbine spacing to allow movement of grouse species between turbines. • Badger Wind sited the majority of turbines in areas that are not suitable for sharp-tailed grouse, and all turbines are sited in previously fragmented areas, which helps minimize impacts to the local sharp-tailed grouse population. As a result, all turbines are sited at least 0.5 miles away from known, active sharp-tailed grouse leks. Badger Wind also spaced turbines a minimum of 0.6 miles apart, which may facilitate movement between key habitats. • Turbines sited on cropland to the extent practicable to minimize impacts on grasslands, wetlands, and wooded habitats. • Collection lines will be buried, and access roads have been sited to minimize grassland fragmentation. • If a previously unknown lek or raptor nest is discovered, USFWS and NDGF will be informed. • A draft Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy has been prepared in coordination with USFWS outlining the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures Badger Wind has implemented or committed to implementing for the Project. • Badger Wind is coordinating with USFWS and NDGF on voluntary offsets for direct grassland impacts and potential waterfowl and grassland breeding bird displacement.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will conduct post-construction fatality monitoring for at least a one-year period, which will be developed in coordination with USFWS and NDGF.
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted pre-construction acoustic bat monitoring and Northern Long-eared Bat (“NLEB”) Desktop Habitat Assessment within the Project Area. Potential suitable habitat for NLEB is limited within the Project Area. The bat habitat desktop assessment found that less than 0.1 percent (approximately 62.9 acres) of the Project Area supports woodlands and wooded shelter belts that may provide roosting and foraging habitat for NLEB. Project designed to minimize tree clearing. Based on the bat activity data and NLEB Desktop Habitat Assessment, while the NLEB may potentially use the Project Area for foraging or during migration, potential hibernacula and roosting sites are not known to occur in the Project Area or vicinity.
Cultural Resources	
Archaeological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted Class I archaeological literature review, Class III intensive cultural resources inventory, and supplemental Class III inventory. During the initial Class III inventory, all potential archaeological sites identified were recommended ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (“NRHP”). One archaeological Site Lead was identified, which is unevaluated for listing in the NRHP. Badger Wind has designed the Project to avoid this Site Lead. Class III report submitted to SHSND in April 2022; conducting shovel testing on seven sites per SHSND guidance to assist in eligibility determination, but all seven sites are avoided by Project infrastructure/construction activities. Supplemental Class III report for survey of minor Project layout adjustment areas in progress, expected to be submitted the end of June 2022; no NRHP eligible resources identified during supplemental surveys. Prepared an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan.
Architectural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted Class I architectural literature review and Class II architectural and reconnaissance inventory. Class II survey identified five architectural resources and one contributing resource within two miles of the Project turbines that are recommended as potentially eligible for

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	<p>listing in the NRHP. However, the Project is not anticipated to have an adverse direct or indirect impact on these resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report submitted to SHSND, and concurrence has been received.