



January 19, 2024

Melinda McCarthy  
Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company  
3255 Greensboro Drive  
Suite 104  
Bismarck, ND 58503

**SHSND Ref: 23-0203 Oliver Wind IV Energy Center and Transmission Line, PU-23-317 and PU-23-318 in portions of 168 sections in Mercer and Oliver Counties, North Dakota**

Dear Melinda,

We received SHSND Ref: 23-0203 "Oliver Wind IV Transmission Line: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Oliver and Mercer Counties, North Dakota" and find this Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company report by Christina M. Huling and Melinda M. McCarthy acceptable. We will add it to our Manuscript Collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report. Please be advised that acceptance of this report does not constitute concurrence with the determinations therein. If you have any questions, please contact either Andrew Robinson, State Archeologist, at (701) 328-3575 or [andrewrobinson@nd.gov](mailto:andrewrobinson@nd.gov) or Lorna Meidinger, Lead Historic Preservation Specialist, at (701) 328-2089 or [lbmeidinger@nd.gov](mailto:lbmeidinger@nd.gov).

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD  
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

23-0203



January 19, 2024

Melinda McCarthy  
Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company  
3255 Greensboro Drive  
Suite 104  
Bismarck, ND 58503

**SHSND Ref: 23-0203 Oliver Wind IV Energy Center and Transmission Line, PU-23-317 and PU-23-318 in portions of 168 sections in Mercer and Oliver Counties, North Dakota**

Dear Melinda,

Based on your submission on behalf of Oliver Wind IV, LLC regarding the cultural resources potentially impacted by the project's proposed transmission line, it is our determination that there are no adverse direct effects on significant sites. We have received comments of concern for potential indirect effects on the Knife River Indian Villages and Fort Clark sites, both of which are currently being nominated for National Historic Landmark status. As such, it may be beneficial to produce a visual impact model showing the indirect effects this project may have on those sites. Please note the direct effects on cultural resources from the proposed wind energy center are being reviewed separately and another letter will be sent when that review is complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project under North Dakota cultural resources consultation. This letter does not serve as federal agency consultation or SHPO consultation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (36 CFR Part 800), or the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321- 4347).

If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Meidinger, Lead Historic Preservation Specialist at [lbmeidinger@nd.gov](mailto:lbmeidinger@nd.gov) or (701) 328-2089.

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD  
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

23-0203

January 23, 2024

William D. Peterson, PhD  
Director  
State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND)  
North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum  
612 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

**SHSND Ref.: 23-0203 Oliver Wind IV Energy Center and Transmission Line, PU-23-317 and PU-23-318, in Mercer and Oliver Counties, North Dakota**

Dear Dr. Peterson,

Thank you very much for your letter dated January 19, 2024, in which you indicate that the Oliver Wind IV Transmission Line will have no adverse direct effects on significant sites.

We understand from your January 19, 2024 letter that you have received comments of concern for potential indirect effects on the Knife River Indian Villages and Fort Clark sites, both of which are currently being nominated for National Historic Landmark status, and that you are suggesting that it may be beneficial to produce a visual impact model showing the indirect effects the Oliver Wind IV Energy Center (Project) may have on those sites. These concerns were originally expressed by the National Park Service (NPS) to the previous wind developer, Red Butte Wind, LLC. We assure you that Oliver Wind IV, LLC (Oliver Wind IV), as a responsible developer and in an effort to be good neighbor, is addressing these legacy concerns for the Project from the previous developer as discussed below.

Oliver Wind IV has been coordinating directly with NPS staff to address their concerns for visual effects. In a meeting with NPS staff on Thursday, July 6, 2023, Oliver Wind IV and NPS agreed that Oliver Wind IV would conduct a visual study to consider the potential visual impacts of the Project on the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, located approximately 9.5 miles north of the closest Project component (turbine), and on the Fort Clark State Historic Site, located approximately 2.05 miles east of the closest transmission line project component (transmission line structure). Oliver Wind IV and NPS further agreed that the visual study would consist of:

- Visibility modeling (bare earth [topographic] and vegetated) for aboveground components of both the wind energy center and the transmission line projects; and,
- Photosimulations of the Project from five key observation points associated with important viewsheds at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, as identified by NPS staff from Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and from one key observation point on the western side of the Fort Clark State Historic Site, as identified by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) in consultation with the NPS staff.

Oliver Wind IV's contractor, Burns & MacDonnell, has completed the visual study as described above and prepared a report presenting the methodology for the study, the results of the study, and conclusions regarding the visibility of the wind energy center and transmission line from the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and the Fort Clark State Historic Site. This report has been provided to NPS staff for their review and comment. The visual study report has also been provided to Lorna Meidinger of your staff, to address your comment in your letter dated January 19, 2024, that it may be beneficial to produce a visual impact model showing the indirect effects from the Project on the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and the Fort Clark State Historic Site.

The viewshed analysis concludes both the wind and transmission projects will not visually detract from the viewsheds of Knife River Indian Villages or Fort Clark State Historic Site because of the distance of the Projects' features and the similarity of these features with other existing infrastructure on the landscape, including multiple existing overhead electric transmission lines, wind turbines, the stack from the Leland Olds Power Station, and the Stanton water tower.

We wish to respectfully reference your letter dated September 12, 2023, in which the State Historical Society of North Dakota indicated that it did not require a viewshed analysis for the transmission line portion of the Project provided that it took place in the location and manner described in the documentation provided at that time. We assure you that the transmission line portion of the Project will take place in the location and manner described in that documentation.

We appreciate your continued attention to the cultural resources for the Oliver Wind IV Project and look forward to receiving the results of your separate review of the direct effects on cultural resources from the wind energy center. If you have any questions regarding the results of the visual report, please contact me at [dina.brown@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:dina.brown@nexteraenergy.com) or (281) 570-7108 or the Project Principal Investigator, Melinda McCarthy at [mmmccarthy@burnsmcd.com](mailto:mmmccarthy@burnsmcd.com) or (573) 225-6751.

Sincerely,

*Dina Brown*

Dina Brown

cc: Melinda McCarthy



January 25, 2024

Melinda McCarthy  
Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company  
3255 Greensboro Drive  
Suite 104  
Bismarck, ND 58503

**SHSND Ref: 23-0203 Oliver Wind IV Energy Center and Transmission Line, PU-23-317 and PU-23-318 in portions of 168 sections in Mercer and Oliver Counties, North Dakota**

Dear Melinda,

We reviewed the report for SHSND Ref: 23-0203, titled "Oliver Wind IV Energy Center: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Oliver County, North Dakota" and find this Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. report by Christina M. Huling and Melinda M. McCarthy acceptable. We will add it to our Manuscript Collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report. Please be advised that acceptance of this report does not constitute concurrence with the determinations therein. If you have any questions, please contact either Margie Patton, Research Archeologist, at (701) 328-3576 or [mmpatton@nd.gov](mailto:mmpatton@nd.gov) or Lorna Meidinger, Lead Historic Preservation Specialist, at (701) 328-2089 or [lbmeidinger@nd.gov](mailto:lbmeidinger@nd.gov).

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD  
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

23-0203



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Dear Melinda,

Based on your submission on behalf of Oliver Wind IV, LLC regarding the cultural resources potentially impacted by the project's proposed wind energy center, it is our determination there are no adverse direct effects on significant sites provided the 29 archeological sites and 12 cultural heritage sites listed within the report to be avoided are avoided following the measures recommended.

Therefore, it is our determination that there are no significant sites affected by this project provided it takes place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project under North Dakota cultural resources consultation. This letter does not serve as federal agency consultation or SHPO consultation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (36 CFR Part 800), or the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321- 4347).

If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Meidinger, Lead Historic Preservation Specialist at [lbmeidinger@nd.gov](mailto:lbmeidinger@nd.gov) or (701) 328-2089.

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD  
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

23-0203