

NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OLIVER WIND IV, LLC
OLIVER IV WIND ENERGY CENTER
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE COMPATIBILITY
AND
OLIVER IV 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF CORRIDOR COMPATIBILITY AND ROUTE PERMIT

CASE NOS. PU-23-317 AND PU-23-318

JANUARY 17, 2024

PART I

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF
CLAY CAMERON

1 **I. Introduction and Background**

2 **Q1. Please state your name, by whom you are employed, and your business address.**

3 A. My name is Clay Cameron. I am employed by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC ("NextEra
4 Energy Resources"). My business address is 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach, Florida
5 33408.

6 **Q2. What is your position with NextEra Energy Resources?**

7 A. I am a Director, Development for NextEra Energy Resources. Oliver Wind IV, LLC
8 ("Oliver Wind IV") is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources.
9 NextEra Energy Resources, through its subsidiaries and affiliates, is the largest generator
10 of wind-powered electricity in North America, with over 27,400 megawatts ("MW") of
11 total net generating capacity in 40 states in the United States and in Canada. In North
12 Dakota, NextEra Energy Resources subsidiaries own and/or operate 15 wind generation
13 facilities with approximately 1,615 MW of generating capacity.

14 **Q3. Briefly describe your educational background and professional experience.**

15 A. I studied business management at Louisiana State University. I hold a State of Florida
16 General Contractors license. I have over 23 years of experience in project management
17 including development, federal, state, and local permitting of large construction projects

1 across the country. I have spent the last 13 years at NextEra Energy Resources in various
2 roles of increasing responsibility, including project development and engineering and
3 construction oversight. I have overseen the development of over 500 MW of wind projects
4 and managed construction of over 1,000 MW of wind energy projects located in the U.S.
5 and Canada.

6 **Q4. What is your role with respect to the Oliver Wind IV Energy Center (“Wind Project”)**
7 **and the Oliver Wind IV 345 kilovolt (“kV”) Transmission Line (“Transmission**
8 **Project”) (collectively, the “Projects”)?**

9 A. In my role as Director, Development, I oversee the Projects’ development.

10 **Q5. Are you familiar with the contents of Oliver Wind IV’s Application for a Certificate**
11 **of Site Compatibility for the Wind Project, which is marked as Exhibit No. 1, and the**
12 **Consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route**
13 **Permit for the Transmission Project, which is marked as Exhibit No. 2 (collectively,**
14 **the “Applications”)?**

15 A. Yes. I am familiar with the contents of the Applications for both Projects.

16 **Q6. Do these Applications accurately describe the Projects?**

17 A. Yes, along with the supplemental and supporting information Oliver Wind IV has filed
18 with the Commission.

19 **Q7. What entities will construct, own, and operate the Projects?**

20 A. Oliver Wind IV is the entity responsible to construct, own, and operate the Projects. Oliver
21 Wind IV has engaged experienced engineering, procurement, and construction (“EPC”)
22 contractors, Blattner Company (“Blattner”), to construct the Wind Project, and Brink
23 Constructors, Inc. (“Brink”) to construct the Wind Project substation and the Transmission
24 Project. Following construction, Oliver Wind IV will own, operate, and maintain the
25 Projects.

1 **Q8. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

2 A. My testimony provides an overview of the Projects, including their development history,
3 interconnection, site selection, layout and facility design, land acquisition, landowner
4 coordination, and benefits.

5 **II. Description of the Projects**

6 **Q9. What factors make the Project site a good site for wind development?**

7 A. Oliver Wind IV selected the Project Area because of its excellent wind resource, proximity
8 to a viable interconnection point to the grid, strong landowner and community support, and
9 compatibility with existing land uses.

10 **Q10. Please describe the Wind Project, its general location, proposed capacity, and**
11 **facilities.**

12 A. The Wind Project is a planned wind generation project with a nameplate capacity of
13 approximately 200 MW to be located in Oliver County in south-central North Dakota,
14 approximately 6.4 miles west of the City of Center. The Wind Project is primarily rural
15 and agricultural-based and encompasses approximately 22,135 acres (34.58 square miles).

16 The Wind Project will consist of 73 turbines. Oliver Wind IV expects to use
17 General Electric ("GE") 2.82 MW wind turbines, which have a 292-foot (89 meter) hub
18 height and a rotor diameter of approximately 417 feet (127 meters). The total height of the
19 GE 2.82 turbines is approximately 500 feet (152 meters) from base of tower to tip of upright
20 blade and a swept area of 136,745 square feet (12,704 square meters). Oliver Wind IV also
21 requests flexibility to use up to five GE 2.52 MW wind turbines, which have a 295-foot
22 (90-meter) hub height and a rotor diameter of approximately 381 feet (116 meters), with a
23 total height of approximately 486 feet (148 meters) from base of tower to tip of upright
24 blade and a swept area of 114,743 square feet (10,660 square meters). As explained further
25 below, Oliver Wind IV has also identified two alternate turbine locations in order to
26 provide siting flexibility; for clarity, Oliver Wind IV will only construct 73 total turbines.

27 The permanent Wind Project structures will occupy up to 54.84 acres during
28 operation, or less than one percent of the total participating land. Each turbine has a
29 permanent impact of approximately 0.06 acres.

1 Additional facilities associated with the Wind Project include access roads to
2 turbine locations, underground electrical collection and communication systems, one (1)
3 collection substation, one (1) Operations and Maintenance (“O&M”) building, one (1)
4 permanent meteorological tower (“MET”), and two (2) permanent Aircraft Detection
5 Lighting System (“ADLS”) radar system towers.

6 The Wind Project’s temporary facilities will include a construction laydown area,
7 staging areas at turbine locations, intersection improvements to existing roads, crane paths
8 between turbines, and a concrete batch plant. In addition, the Wind Project layout includes
9 two alternate turbine locations to provide siting flexibility.

10 **Q11. Describe the associated Transmission Project, its general location, facilities, and**
11 **where it will interconnect to the grid.**

12 A. In addition to the Wind Project, Oliver Wind IV also is seeking a Certificate of Corridor
13 Compatibility and Route Permit for the associated Transmission Project located in Oliver
14 and Mercer Counties. The Transmission Project is an approximately 19.5-mile long, 345
15 kV overhead transmission line, of which approximately 10.8 miles are in Oliver County
16 and 8.7 miles are in Mercer County. The Transmission Project’s corridor is 150 feet wide
17 and consists of primarily rural and agricultural land types and encompasses 379 acres. The
18 Transmission Project will convey 200 MW from the Wind Project’s turbines to the point
19 of interconnection at Basin Electric Power Cooperative’s (“Basin Electric”) new Leland
20 Olds 345 kV Substation in Mercer County that Basin Electric is currently constructing.

21 The Transmission Project will be constructed using approximately 121
22 transmission line structure locations, which includes steel monopole structures and four tri-
23 pole dead-end structures. The average height of a single pole structure is 120 feet and will
24 range from 100 to 170 feet depending on final engineering design. Structure foundation
25 types include direct embed and drilled shaft with concrete foundations that will be used for
26 angle and dead-end structures. Structure spans will range from 200 feet to 1,200 feet with
27 an average span of approximately 900 feet.

28 Permanent impacts from the Transmission Project will be 0.2 acres. Pole locations
29 comprise about 50.27 square feet of permanent impacts per monopole structure, and
30 structures with guy wires will have an additional 314.16 square feet of permanent impacts.

Q12. Describe the development history of the Projects.

A. In 2019, NextEra Energy Resources, through its subsidiary Red Butte Wind, LLC (“Red Butte”), began development of the Red Butte Wind Energy Center, which originally was conceived as a 400 MW wind project in the same general area as the Oliver Wind IV project area. In 2023, NextEra Energy Resources split the Red Butte project into two projects to be developed separately: the 200 MW Oliver Wind IV project and the 200 MW Red Butte wind project. The Oliver Wind IV Wind Project that is the subject of this Application includes the northern 200 MW portion of the original Red Butte wind project, while the southern 200 MW portion remains under development as the Red Butte Wind Energy Center. During development of Oliver Wind IV, the point of interconnection for the Oliver Wind IV Wind Project was changed from the existing Basin Electric Leland Olds 230 kV Substation (T144N-R84W Sec. 21) to the new Basin Electric Leland Olds 345 kV Substation (T144N-R84W Sec. 27).

Q13. Have there been any changes to the Wind Project’s turbine array since Oliver Wind IV filed its Application with the Commission?

A. Yes. Through its continued development of the Wind Project since filing the Application, Oliver Wind IV has determined to drop one of the originally identified primary turbine locations (which was numbered as Turbine 35) and activate one of the three alternate turbine locations (Alternate Turbine 3). This does not change the total number of turbines that Oliver Wind IV will construct, as Oliver Wind IV will construct a total of 73 turbines; however, it reduces the number of alternate turbine locations identified in the Application from three to two. This change slightly reduced the total acreage included in the Wind Project Area, as well as reduced certain environmental impacts. In my testimony and the testimony of Oliver Wind IV’s witness, Dina Brown, we are providing the most current information with this change incorporated. Attachment 1 to my testimony shows the changes to the site plan associated with the removal of original Turbine 35.

Q14. Please describe the local permitting efforts related to the Projects.

A. Oliver Wind IV submitted a conditional use permit (“CUP”) application to Oliver County for the wind facility turbine locations and associated facilities. Oliver Wind IV submitted a separate CUP to Oliver County for an approximately 11-mile long 345 kV transmission

1 line located in Oliver County. The applications were presented to the Oliver County
2 Planning & Zoning Board in a public hearing on November 16, 2023. On November 16,
3 2023, the Oliver County Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval of the
4 applications to the Oliver County Commissioners in a 4-0 vote, and the Oliver County
5 Commissioners approved both CUP applications in a 3-0 vote on December 7, 2023
6 (Exhibit 3).

7 With respect to the approximately nine miles of the Transmission Project located
8 in Mercer County, Oliver Wind IV presented a CUP to the Mercer County Planning &
9 Zoning Board on October 19, 2023. The Mercer County Planning & Zoning Board
10 recommended approval of the application to the Mercer County Board of Commissioners
11 on October 19, 2023 in a 5-0 vote. The Mercer County Board of Commissioners approved
12 the CUP application in a 5-0 vote on November 1, 2023 (Exhibit 4).

13 **Q15. Please explain the need for the Projects.**

14 A. Oliver Wind IV has entered into two 15-year power purchase agreements ("PPA") with
15 Verizon Communications, Inc. for the full 200 MW output of the Wind Project.

16 **Q16. What are the Projects' estimated costs?**

17 A. The Wind Project is estimated to cost approximately \$345 million, and the Transmission
18 Project is estimated to cost approximately \$45 million.

19 **Q17. Please describe the Wind Project's electrical collection system and collection**
20 **substation.**

21 A. The power from the wind turbines will be run through an underground 34.5 kV collection
22 system consisting of various sized cables. Collection lines will be buried 48 inches deep
23 and will not affect farming operations or other surface uses of the land during operations
24 of the Wind Project. The collection system has been designed to minimize temporary and
25 permanent environmental impacts. All the collection system cables will terminate at the
26 proposed Wind Project collection substation. The Wind Project collection substation will
27 include power transformers to step up the voltage from 34.5 kV to 345 kV.

1 **Q18. Please describe the Projects' interconnection arrangements.**

2 A. As I explained above, the Projects will interconnect to Basin Electric's transmission system
3 at the new Leland Olds 345 kV Substation in Mercer County.

4 Interconnection studies performed by the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP") and
5 Basin Electric show that the Project will not adversely impact reliability to the transmission
6 system. A generator interconnection agreement with SPP and Basin Electric was originally
7 executed for 200 MW of the original Red Butte wind project in January 2021. An amended
8 and restated generator interconnection agreement was executed in April 2023 that included
9 the entity change to Oliver Wind IV, an updated commercial operation date, and a reduction
10 in the affected system and network upgrade costs.

11 **Q19. Explain Oliver Wind IV's proposed timeline for construction and operation of the**
12 **Projects.**

13 A. Subject to receipt of Commission approval and other necessary permits, road restrictions,
14 and weather conditions, Oliver Wind IV currently anticipates beginning construction of the
15 Projects in May 2024. Oliver Wind IV proposes to complete construction in time to place
16 the Wind Project into commercial operations by December 2024.

17 **Q20. What is the status of land and easement acquisition for the Projects?**

18 A. Oliver Wind IV has negotiated easements or is in the process of executing remaining
19 easements with all landowners for the Wind Project. With respect to the Transmission
20 Project, Oliver Wind IV has negotiated or is in the process of executing remaining
21 easements with landowners along the proposed route, except for two pending land
22 easements from Great River Energy and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Per
23 correspondence from Great River Energy dated October 18, 2023 (Exhibit 5) and Basin
24 Electric dated October 23, 2023 (Exhibit 6), both entities will execute an easement
25 agreement upon receipt of the Commission's final order.

26 **Q21. Provide a brief overview of the Projects' construction process.**

27 A. Once the necessary siting approvals are received from the Commission for the Projects,
28 several activities must be completed prior to the proposed commercial operation date. The
29 majority of the activity relates to delivery of the equipment and construction of the

1 facilities. Pre-construction, construction, and post-construction activities for the Projects
2 will include:

- 3 • Constructing access roads, underground collection lines, and the Wind Project
4 substation;
- 5 • Installing turbine tower foundations, and underground and aboveground junction
6 boxes;
- 7 • Placing and erecting wind turbines;
- 8 • Delivery, assembly, and installation of transmission pole structures;
- 9 • Acceptance testing; and,
- 10 • Commencing commercial operations.

11 **Q22. How will Oliver Wind IV handle topsoil removal during construction?**

- 12 A. Oliver Wind IV will comply with the Commission's requirements regarding topsoil
13 removal and replacement in accordance with the Commission's Certifications Relating to
14 Order Provisions.

15 **Q23. What roads are necessary for the construction and operation of the Projects?**

- 16 A. Oliver Wind IV expects to build approximately 27 miles of permanent access roads for the
17 Wind Project, in which access roads will be 16 feet wide on average. Access roads will
18 temporarily be up to 50 feet wide during construction, allowing access to the turbines
19 during and after construction.

20 No permanent access roads will be built to construct or maintain the Transmission
21 Project. The Transmission Project is adjacent to existing public roads or section lines and
22 can be accessed with minimal off-road work.

23 **Q24. Please explain Oliver Wind IV's process for landowner coordination if a landowner
24 has any concerns during or after construction.**

- 25 A. If a landowner has concerns, he or she may contact the Construction Manager during
26 construction and the O&M Manager after construction. Prior to construction, all
27 landowners within the Projects will receive mailers that will include the Construction
28 Manager's contact information. During construction, a mailer will be sent out containing

the O&M Manager's contact information. Additionally, post-construction reclamation concerns may be directed to the local O&M Manager.

III. Setbacks

Q25. Are the Projects designed to comply with local setback requirements and the setback requirements set forth in the Commission's rules and regulations?

A. Yes.

Q26. Please describe the setbacks applicable to the Wind Project.

A. The Wind Project has been designed to comply with or exceed the Commission's and Oliver County's setback requirements, which are summarized in the table below. Oliver Wind IV based setback distances on the GE 2.82 turbine model, the taller of the two turbine types that Oliver Wind IV may use. The distance from the nearest participating residence to a turbine is 2,040 feet, and the distance to the nearest non-participating residence to a turbine is approximately 2,806 feet.

The table below summarizes the Commission's and Oliver County's setbacks applicable to the Wind Project.

| Wind Project Setback Distances | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Setback Type | Setback Distance | Setback Distance |
| Commission | | |
| Interstate and state road right-of-way | 1.1 x height of the turbine | 550 feet |
| Centerline of any county or maintained township roadway | 1.1 x height of the plus 75 feet | 625 feet |
| Railroad right-of-way | 1.1 x height of the turbine | 550 feet |
| 115 kV or higher transmission lines | 1.1 x height of the turbine | 550 feet |
| Property line of non-participating landowners | 1.1 x height of the turbine | 550 feet |
| Non-participating residences | 3 x height of the turbine | 1,501 feet |
| Geographic center of an intercontinental ballistic missile launch or launch control facility | 1,200 feet | 1,200 feet |
| Oliver County | | |
| Occupied dwelling, commercial building, publicly used structure or facility, or state and county park | 1.25 x height of the turbine or 1,320 feet, whichever is greater | 1,320 feet |

| Wind Project Setback Distances | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| Setback Type | Setback Distance | Setback Distance |
| Interstate, state, or county road; or above-ground communication or electrical lines; or railroad right-of-way | 1.1 x height of the turbine plus 75 feet from the centerline of the existing right-of-way or object | 625 feet |
| Section Line | 100 feet | 100 feet |
| Setback from the wind energy facility perimeter | 1.5 x height of the turbine | 751 feet |
| Blade tip of turbine | Ground clearance of no less than 70 feet | - |

Q27. Please describe the setbacks applicable to the Transmission Project.

A. The Transmission Project also complies with or exceeds the Commission and Oliver and Mercer County setback requirements for transmission facilities, which are set forth in the table below.

| Transmission Project Setback Distances | |
|---|------------------|
| Setback Type | Setback Distance |
| Commission | |
| The geographic center of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch or launch control facility. | 1,200 feet |
| Areas on either side of a direct line between ICBM launch or launch control facilities to avoid microwave interference. | 30 feet |
| Residence, school, or place of business. | 500 feet |

Q28. How were setbacks measured for the Projects?

A. An American Land Title Association ("ALTA") survey was conducted for the Projects. This survey identified property lines, road rights-of-way, and utility rights-of-way. A desktop analysis was performed using the ALTA survey data to ensure that turbines and other infrastructure met the most stringent setbacks provided for by the Commission, Oliver County, and Mercer County. For setbacks involving residences, schools, and places of business, the measurement was taken from the approximate outermost portion of the building. For setbacks from property lines, section lines, and county lines, the measurement was taken from the proposed center point of the turbine to the surveyed property line, section line, or county line. Where required by the Commission, setbacks were measured from the proposed center point of turbines to the nearest edge of designated

rights-of-way for interstate and state roads, railroads, and 115 kV or greater transmission lines.

Wind Project setbacks were measured in the field during micro-siting and during desktop review to verify all setbacks. Survey grade field data was utilized to verify compliance with setback requirements.

The measurement for Transmission Project setbacks involving residences, schools and places of business was taken from the edge of the Project Corridor. Aerial imagery was reviewed to identify all potential residences, schools, and places of business.

Q29. What is the status of local permitting?

A. As I described in Section II, above, Oliver Wind IV has obtained CUPs from Oliver County and Mercer County for the Projects. Remaining local agreements include Oliver County building and construction permits, and road use and utility crossing agreements in both Oliver and Mercer County. These will be obtained and filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction in areas for which said permit or authorization is required.

IV. Telecommunications, Weather Radar, and Lighting

Q30. Has Oliver Wind IV studied whether there are any possible effects of the Wind Project on microwave beam paths, telecommunications, and weather radar facilities?

A. Yes. Existing telephone and fiber optic cables within the Wind Project will be located in the field by the respective utility companies prior to construction to ensure that impacts to telephone and fiber optic cables will be avoided.

Oliver Wind IV received a response from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration on May 19, 2022 stating it had no concerns regarding radio frequency blockage. The Department of Commerce had minor issues with turbine placement in this area. According to their findings, the Project Area is situated over 48 kilometers northwest of the Bismarck, ND NEXRAD radar, placing it within the notification zone of that radar. The Department of Commerce stated that there will be low impact and only the lowest elevation angle will be contaminated. They requested additional consultation only if the Project Area changes or if the turbine height increases by 10 meters or more (Exhibit 1, Appendix C-16).

1 A telecommunications study was also completed to identify all published Federal
2 Communications Commission microwave telecommunication systems in proximity of the
3 Project Area. No microwave towers or links were identified within the Project Area, and
4 there was no intersection with any microwave links. No cellular towers were identified
5 within the Project Area, with seven cellular towers identified within a 25-kilometer radius.
6 No active AM radio towers were identified within the Project Area, with only one AM
7 tower identified within a 25-kilometer radius and four others within a 100-kilometer radius.
8 No digital or analog television stations were identified within the Project Area, and there
9 were no broadcasting stations within a 50-kilometer radius likely to cover the region. No
10 active aviation towers were found within the Project Area, although one aviation tower was
11 discovered within a 25-kilometer radius.

12 **Q31. Will the Wind Project comply with Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”)**
13 **requirements?**

14 A. Yes. The wind turbines and the MET must comply with FAA lighting and marking
15 requirements. Oliver Wind IV has received the FAA Determinations of No Hazard for the
16 wind turbine locations. The FAA’s review included the evaluation of any potential
17 interference with air traffic and concluded the proposed turbine locations do not pose a
18 hazard to air traffic.

19 **Q32. Explain Oliver Wind’s plans for use of light-mitigating technology at the Wind**
20 **Project.**

21 A. Oliver Wind IV will install two FAA-approved ADLS at the Wind Project. Oliver Wind
22 IV has submitted site-specific approval requests to the FAA for installation of the ADLS
23 at the Wind Project and expects to receive FAA approval for the ADLS radar before June
24 2024. Oliver Wind IV has procured the ADLS equipment for the Wind Project, and the
25 equipment has been delivered to Oliver Wind IV’s vendor in the U.S. The ADLS will be
26 operational at the time that the Wind Project enters commercial operations.

27 **V. Operations and Maintenance and Project Decommissioning**

28 **Q33. Discuss the personnel that will be involved in operating and maintaining the Projects.**

29 A. Oliver Wind IV will operate and maintain the Projects with five to eight full-time local

O&M employees. The O&M staff will have full responsibility for ensuring that the Projects operate consistent with applicable permits, prudent industry practice, and equipment manufacturer recommendations.

Q34. Explain what monitoring and maintenance are required for the Projects.

A. Oliver Wind IV's on-site O&M staff will be responsible for maintenance of the Projects on a daily basis. O&M field duties include performing all scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, including periodic operational checks and tests, regular preventive maintenance on all turbines, related plant facilities and equipment, safety systems, controls, instruments, and machinery. Oliver Wind IV has designed and will install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition communications system on the Wind Project during construction, which provides continuous data to the O&M staff and NextEra Energy Resources' field production and diagnostics control center located in Juno Beach, Florida, which monitors all NextEra Energy Resources power generating facilities 24 hours a day/seven days a week.

Q35. Please explain what steps Oliver Wind IV will take to ensure the Projects' emergency preparedness.

A. The Projects will have an Emergency Response Plan ("ERP") that governs reporting and response procedures in the event of an emergency. The ERP will be shared with local emergency response teams for review and comment, and training will be coordinated as necessary. Additionally, Oliver Wind IV personnel will be trained annually on emergency equipment use, emergency response, and first aid procedures.

The EPC contractors for the Projects, Blattner and Brink, will coordinate the ERP during construction. During operations, the Projects' O&M Manager will continue coordination of the ERP with local emergency responders. Oliver Wind IV has had preliminary discussions with the County regarding the Projects' ERP.

Q36. What is the estimated life of the Wind Project?

A. The expected life of a wind project is approximately 30 years. As technology continues to evolve, the life of the Wind Project may be extended with future upgrades.

1 **Q37. What are Oliver Wind IV's plans regarding decommissioning of the Wind Project?**

2 A. Oliver Wind IV will develop a decommissioning plan and provide financial assurance in
3 accordance with the Commission's decommissioning rules and regulations (N.D.C.C.
4 § 49-02-27 and N.D. Admin. Code Chapter 69-09-09). Additionally, Oliver Wind IV is
5 contractually obligated to the landowners to remove the wind facilities, including
6 foundations to a depth of four feet below ground, when the wind easement expires and to
7 restore the area to the same physical condition that existed immediately before the
8 construction of the turbines.

9 **VI. Public Outreach**

10 **Q38. Explain Oliver Wind IV's outreach to the public and with local political subdivisions**
11 **regarding the Projects' development.**

12 A. Oliver Wind IV undertook significant outreach with the public, landowners, and agencies
13 throughout the history of the Projects. During the Projects' development, Oliver Wind IV
14 worked closely with Oliver and Mercer County officials and other stakeholders to address
15 feedback and concerns and to ensure the Projects were meeting local requirements,
16 including meeting with county officials and other interested stakeholders on a regular basis
17 to discuss the Projects. Oliver Wind IV also met with landowners in and around the
18 Projects on various occasions and has worked with landowners to avoid or minimize
19 impacts on their property to the extent practicable.

20 **Q39. Explain how Oliver Wind IV has demonstrated its commitment to being involved with**
21 **the local community.**

22 A. Oliver Wind IV is invested in and has been actively contributing to the local communities
23 near the Projects, including providing donations to various organizations such as: local
24 schools, youth organizations, extracurricular programs, sports teams, county sponsored
25 events and programs, and various county departments including local volunteer emergency
26 responders.

27 **Q40. What are some of the economic benefits of the proposed Projects?**

28 A. The proposed Projects will have positive economic impacts for the local communities,
29 including through lease and royalty payments for participating landowners, new

1 employment, and property and sales tax revenue. Oliver Wind IV estimates that the
2 Projects will provide approximately \$37 million in tax revenue to Oliver and Mercer
3 counties over 35 years. The Projects will also provide over \$30 million in payments to
4 participating landowners over 30 years. These revenues will not only benefit the counties
5 and participating landowners, but will also benefit the local economy as that money is
6 reinvested in local goods and services.

7 In addition, the Projects will create approximately 300 temporary construction jobs
8 at the peak of construction activities and five to eight permanent full-time local O&M jobs.
9 The EPC contractors for the Projects (Blattner and Brink) will hire local skilled and non-
10 skilled labor, first from Oliver and Mercer counties, and then from other areas in North
11 Dakota. Additional goods and services will be sourced locally to the extent possible.

12 **VII. Conclusion**

13 **Q41. In your opinion, will the Projects' location and operation produce minimal adverse**
14 **effects on the environment and on the citizens of North Dakota?**

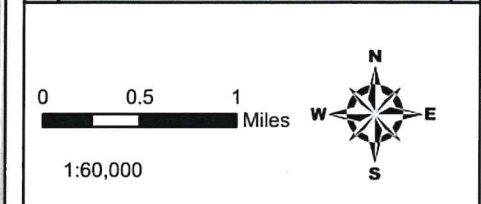
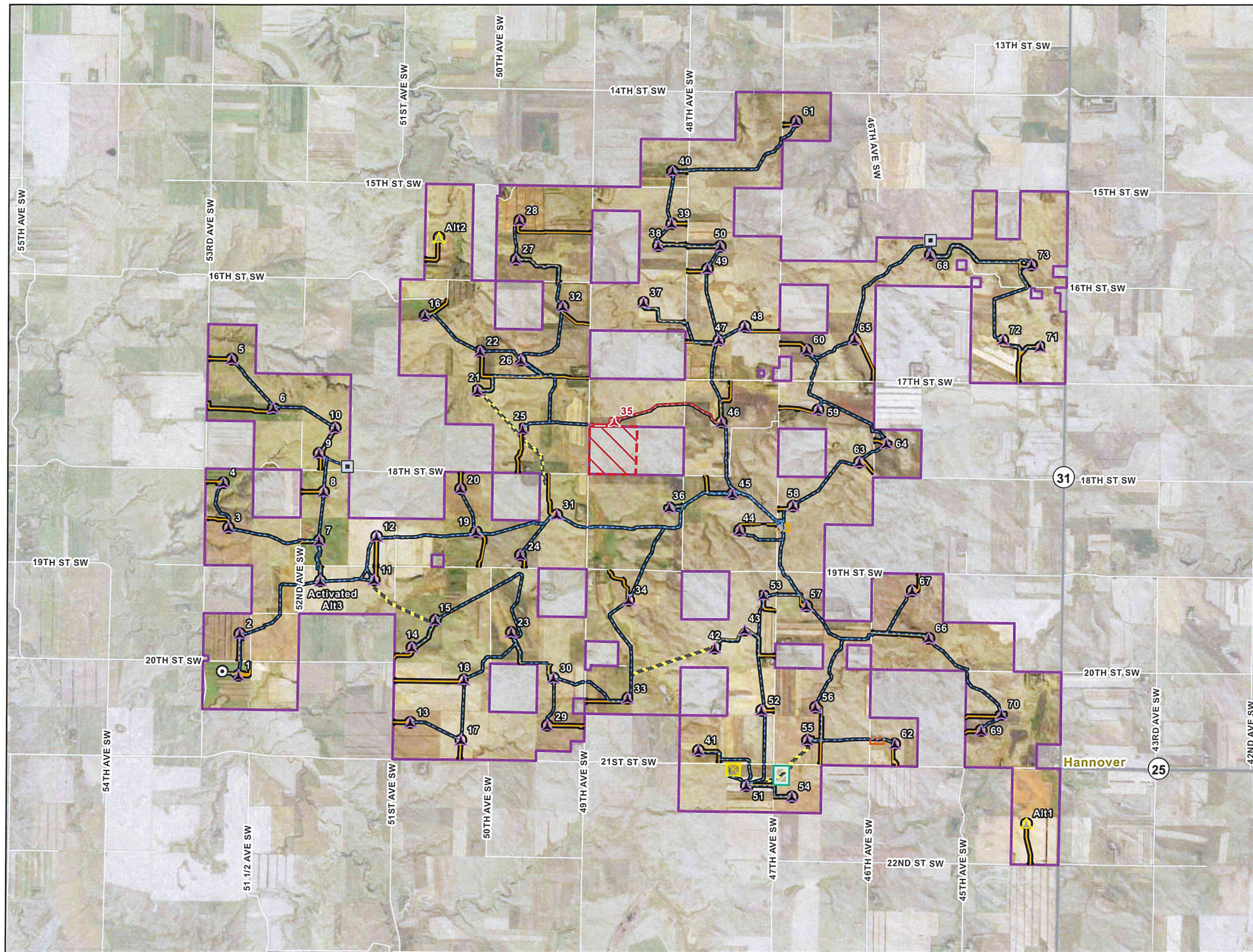
15 A. Yes. The Projects have been sited to comply with Oliver and Mercer County zoning
16 regulations and the Commission's siting criteria, as well as to minimize potential impacts
17 to existing land uses, infrastructure, and environmental resources. Additionally, the
18 Projects will provide significant benefits to the local community and the state. For these
19 reasons, and as demonstrated through the Applications, supporting filings, and my
20 testimony, the Projects will produce minimal adverse effects.

21 **Q42. Will Oliver Wind IV make additional commitments to minimize adverse impacts with**
22 **respect to the Projects?**

23 A. Yes. Oliver Wind IV will comply with the requirements set forth in the Commission's
24 Certification Relating to Order Provisions for the Projects. Oliver Wind IV will submit
25 executed copies of the Commission's Certifications.

26 **Q43. Does this conclude your testimony?**

27 A. Yes.



- Project Area
- Dropped Project Area
- Construction Easement
- Dropped Construction Easement
- Crane Path
- O&M Facility
- Collection Substation
- Concrete Batch Plant
- Construction Laydown Yard
- Primary Turbine
- Alternative Turbine
- Dropped Turbine
- MET Tower
- ADLS Radar Tower
- Collection Line
- Dropped Collection Line
- Access Road
- Dropped Access Road

Attachment 1:
Site Plan Updates
Oliver Wind IV Energy Center
Oliver County, North Dakota

merjent.

For Environmental Review Purposes Only
Contractor Will Bore All Wetlands And Roads