



Oliver Wind IV, LLC

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 or (281) 570-7108 or the Project Principal Investigator, Melinda McCarthy at mmmccarthy@burnsmcd.com or (573) 225-6751.

Sincerely,

Dina Brown

Dina Brown

cc: Melinda McCarthy