

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY ENGIE NORTH AMERICA, INC. FOR
A PERMIT FOR A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN HYDE COUNTY, SOUTH
DAKOTA, FOR TRIPLE H WIND FARM**

SD PUC DOCKET EL _____

**PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF WADE BURNS, CULTURAL RESOURCES
BEAVER CREEK ARCHAEOLOGY, INC. ON BEHALF OF ENGIE NORTH AMERICAN,
INC.**

February 5, 2019

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1 **Q. Please state your name, employer and business address for the record.**

2 A. Wade Burns, Beaver Creek Archaeology, Inc., 1632 Capitol Way, Bismarck, ND 58501

3 **Q. Briefly describe your educational background.**

4 A. I have a bachelor's and master's degree in archaeology. I graduated in 2004 from NDSU with
5 my master's degree. In addition I also hold a degree in GIS mapping which is utilized in
6 archaeological surveys such as what was performed for this project.

7 **Q. Briefly describe your professional experience.**

8 A. I have been performing cultural resource (archaeology) surveys for the past twenty years. Of
9 that twenty years, I have owned and operated Beaver Creek Archaeology, Inc. since 2004. I and
10 my staff have worked extensively in the Dakotas for several years.

11 **Q. Have you attached a resume or CV.**

12 A. Yes, my resume is attached.

13 **Q. Have you previously submitted or prepared testimony in this proceeding in South
14 Dakota?**

15 A. No, I have not.

16 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

17 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide documentation that ENGIE NORTH AMERICAN,
18 INC. has, is, and will continue to comply with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
19 Standards for cultural resource studies, as well as follow the guideline set out in Section 106 of
20 the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

21 **Q. Which sections of the application are you responsible for?**

22 A. I am responsible for the Cultural Resource Management section (16.4.4) of this document

23 **Q. Did you perform surveys of cultural resources for the project and if so, what did you**

24 learn?

25 A. Yes, members of my staff and I conducted an intensive pedestrian inventory of the proposed
26 Triple H Wind project. The area inventoried encompassed the proposed Triple H Wind turbine
27 location layout plans for which we were provided. The results of the intensive pedestrian
28 inventory include the pre-field research, also known as a background literature review,
29 conducted through the Archaeological Research Center of the South Dakota State Historical
30 Society. The background literature review indicated that two previously recorded historic site
31 barn sites were within a one-mile radius of the proposed project layout (HE00000031 and
32 HE00000033). Both of the unevaluated historic barn sites are currently located far enough away
33 from the proposed project area that construction would not impact them. Subsequently, neither of
34 the previously recorded barn sites were revisited during the field investigation. The Level III
35 Intensive Pedestrian Inventory revealed two pre-historic stone feature sites (BCA18-1329-Site1
36 and BCA18-1329-Site3). Both of these stone feature sites are recommended as unevaluated to
37 the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and as such are to be avoided by all
38 construction activities. Construction and the associated activities should remain a minimum of
39 100' away from the site boundaries of the two stone feature sites. Additionally, the Level III
40 intensive pedestrian inventory revealed a historic dump (BCA18-1329-Site2). The historic dump
41 is recommended as ineligible to the NRHP and as such no avoidance is deemed necessary.
42 Further detail and description of these sites can be found in the application. In communications
43 with the project applicants, I have been informed that four of the five sites will be avoided during
44 construction activities. Due to the ineligible recommendation of BCA18-1329-Site2 (Historic
45 Dump), avoidance measures will not be implemented by the applicant. I have been further
46 informed by the applicant, that additional surveys remain to be completed. The additional

47 surveys would be for ancillary features and should any eligible or potentially eligible sites be
48 located during the background research and/or field investigation they would also be avoided
49 during construction.

50 Dated this 5th day of February, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Burns". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

51

52 Wade Burns-Founder, President, & CEO of Beaver Creek Archaeology, Inc.- Cultural Resources