

**Appendix K**  
**Triple H Wind Project Cultural Resources Report**

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# Beaver Creek

## ARCHAEOLOGY

December 21, 2018

Casey Willis  
Triple H Wind Project  
3760 State Street, Suite 200  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

**Regarding:** Triple H Wind Project (BCA18-1329)

**Location:** [REDACTED]

Dear Casey,

A Level III cultural resource survey was conducted at the location of the Triple H Wind Turbines on November 15, 2018 and December 19, 2018. Principal Investigator, Wade Burns, Field Director, Katherine West, and Field Archaeologists Melody Abbott, Paul van Wandelen, Larry Pallozzi, Alexander Atkinson, Dylan Youpee, Russel Red Horn, and Tressa Welch conducted the survey.

The survey area encompassed approximately 534 acres of turbine pads. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) stretches to the west of SD-47 which was used to access the project. The survey area is majority private ownership. Three proposed turbine locations are located on state trust land. The predominant use of the land is currently agriculture, both rangeland and cropland were encountered during the survey. Additional survey is needed for the access roads and collector lines; however, there is greater flexibility to revise those features if cultural resources are identified in the forthcoming surveys.

The landforms in the survey area consisted of rolling hills, small marshes, and flat tablelands. The proposed turbine locations are located southwest of Highmore and south of Holabird South Dakota. The vegetation can be divided into two sections, cropland and rangeland. Cropland makes up the majority of the survey area. Primary crops were wheat and sunflowers. Fields of corn, soybeans, and sorghum were also present. Rangeland consisted of mixed native and non-native grasses, such as blue grama, crested wheatgrass, needle-and-thread, smooth brome, and other shortgrass species. Prickly pear, ball cactus, lines of coniferous shade trees, and other forbs were also noted. At the time of inventory, the ground surface visibility (GSV) was 60% in cropland and 30% in rangeland. Weather conditions were overcast, with temperatures averaging around 45°F. The elevation of the project area ranged from approximately 1,900-2,050' AMSL.

The file search, conducted by Greg Erickson of Beaver Creek Archaeology (BCA), revealed two sites within a one-mile radius of the project area. These sites, HE00000031 and HE00000033, are both unevaluated historic barns. They are located away from the proposed construction areas and will not be affected by construction as currently planned. Three cultural resources were recorded during the course of the inventory. These are BCA18-1329-Site1, BCA18-1329-Site2, and BCA18-1329-Site3. Site BCA18-1329-Site1 is a solitary stone circle that is recommended as unevaluated for the National Register of Historic

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Places (NRHP). Site BCA18-1329-Site2 is a historic dump that is recommended as ineligible for the NRHP. Site BCA18-1329-Site3 consists of two stone circles and two stone cairns that is recommended as unevaluated for the NRHP. As sites BCA18-1329-Site1 and BCA18-1329-Site3 are recommended as unevaluated, BCA recommends that the sites be avoided by a minimum of 100' during construction activities, or the proposed turbine pads these sites are on will be discarded from the windfarm plan if that avoidance is not possible. As site BCA18-1329-Site2 is recommended as ineligible, no avoidance is required.

Consequently, as long as the avoidance recommendations for unevaluated sites are followed, they will not be affected by the proposed construction as it is currently planned. Additionally, the two previously recorded unevaluated sites are located well outside the APE and will not be affected by construction. As such, BCA recommends a finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for the project as mapped.

Please contact Wade Burns if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alexander Atkinson  
Beaver Creek Archaeology

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**Table 1.** Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

SHPO ID	Affiliation	Description	NRHP Status
HE00000031	Historic	Barn	Unevaluated
HE00000033	Historic	Barn	Unevaluated

**Table 2.** Newly Record Cultural Resources and Avoidance Measures

SITS #/Field Code	Affiliation	Description	NRHP Status	Avoidance Recommendation
BCA18-1329 Site 1	Period Unknown	1 Stone	Unevaluated	100' avoidance or remove turbine from project
BCA18-1329 Site 2	Historic	Historic Dump	Ineligible	No avoidance
BCA18-1329 Site 3	Period Unknown	2 Stone Circles, 2 Cairns	Unevaluated	100' avoidance or remove turbine from project

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