

**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 MERIDIAN WIND PROJECT**

SD PUC DOCKET EL _____

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

April, 16, 2020

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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, NND 58501

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

4 A. I have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in archaeology. I graduated with my Master's degree
5 in 2004 from NDSU. In addition, I also hold a degree in GIS mapping which is utilized in
6 archaeological surveys for projects such as this.

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

8 A. I have been a professional archaeologist for the past 23 years, of which I have owned my own
9 company for the past 16 years. During that time frame I and my staff have worked extensively in
10 the Dakotas.

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 submitted testimony in this proceeding, but I have provided it for the Triple H
16 Wind Project.

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

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

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

23 A. I am responsible for the Cultural Resource Management section (16.4) of this document.

24 **Q. What is the status of the archaeological surveys that have been performed or will be**
25 **performed at the Meridian Wind Project?**

26 A. BCA performed a background literature search conducted through the South Dakota
27 Archaeological Research Center, a division of the South Dakota Historical Society, which shows
28 a total of four known sites within a one-mile radius of the proposed project area(s). Two sites
29 have been recommended as unevaluated for nomination to the National Register of Historic
30 Places (NRHP). These two include site 39HE0039 a native American artifact scatter site as well
31 as site HE00000031 the Harry Bawdon Barn architectural site. The remaining two sites have
32 been recommended as ineligible for the NRHP and are documented as bridges under the
33 following numbers HE00000018 and HE00000035. No avoidance is necessary for the ineligible
34 sites. The turbine plans as provided to BCA from the proponent prior to the literature search
35 show the project as being far greater than 100' from the four aforementioned sites as such no
36 additional avoidance measures or field review of the site locations would be necessary under the
37 current proposed construction plans and locations. This literature search was conducted and
38 submitted to the client due to weather at the time did not permit BCA to enter the field for
39 survey. Since that time BCA has completed half of the field inventory for the turbine locations.
40 We anticipate to finish up in the next four weeks. We also are awaiting the collector line and
41 access road routes to inventory; however, they need to be at 30% design in order for us to start.
42 ENGIE is working towards that goal and we will conduct those surveys as soon as we receive the
43 information.

44
45 ENGIE has been, and continues to be, fully committed to site avoidance of eligible/unevaluated
46 sites by 50-100ft avoidance measures for their project. If the plans get adjusted, or there are any

47 new sites identified which require avoidance, then the construction efforts and all the associated
48 activities will remain at a minimum of 50ft away from the site boundaries. ENGIE NORTH
49 AMERICA is aware of this and has agreed to comply with the aforementioned avoidance
50 measures BCA has recommended.

51 **Q.**

52 **A.**

53 Dated this 16th day of April, 2020.

54  A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Wade Burns", is written over a solid black horizontal line. The signature is cursive and extends slightly to the right of the line.

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