

**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 HUGHES & HYDE COUNTIES,
SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR NORTH BEND WIND FARM**

SD PUC DOCKET EL _____

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

June 17, 2021

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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
5 degree 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
9 own company for the past 16 years. During that time frame I and my staff have worked
10 extensively in 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.

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

17 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide documentation that ENGIE NORTH
18 AMERICA, INC. has, is, and will continue to comply with the South Dakota Public Utilities
19 Commission Standards for cultural resource studies, as well as follow the guidelines set out in
20 Section 106 of 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) 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, a preliminary field review of the planned development area occurred in 2020, but we
26 have it on our field schedule to undergo archaeological, architectural, and tribal review for
27 Summer of 2021. The background research conducted through the South Dakota Archaeological
28 Research Center, a division of the South Dakota Historical Society, shows a total of six known
29 sites within a one and a half-mile radius of the proposed project area(s). Three of those sites have
30 been recommended as unevaluated/potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of
31 Historic Places (NRHP). These three include sites 39HE70 a prehistoric stone feature site,
32 HE00000009 Bridge No. 35-010-366, and HU00000616 the Chad Husted Farmstead- Barn. The
33 remaining three sites have been recommended as ineligible for the NRHP and are documented as
34 HE00000011 Bridge No. 35-030-363, HE000000032 the Paul Know Farmstead- Barn, and
35 HU00000614 bridge No. 33-440-102. The preliminary field review observed 10 potentially
36 eligible prehistoric stone feature sites and two ineligible historic sites. The plans as provided to
37 BCA from the proponent show the project as being far greater than 100' from all aforementioned
38 unevaluated/potentially eligible sites as such no additional avoidance measures or field review of
39 the site locations would be necessary under the current proposed construction plans and
40 locations. This literature search and preliminary field assessment was conducted and submitted
41 to the client in order to assist them in developing design plans that facilitated avoidance of
42 culturally sensitive areas. If the plans get adjusted, then the construction efforts and all the
43 associated activities will need to remain at a minimum of 100' away from the site boundaries of
44 the unevaluated/potentially eligible sites.

45 BCA anticipates completing the archaeological survey for the project this field season.

46 ENGIE has been, and continues to be, fully committed to site avoidance of

47 eligible/unevaluated sites by 50-100ft avoidance measures for their project. If the plans get
48 adjusted, or there are any new sites identified which require avoidance, then the construction
49 efforts and all the associated activities will remain at a minimum of 50ft away from the site
50 boundaries. ENGIE NORTH AMERICA is aware of this and has agreed to comply with the
51 aforementioned avoidance measures BCA has recommended.

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53

54 Dated this 17th day of June, 2021.

55 _____/S/_____

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