

**KOP 2: BOARDWALK AT JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS.  
PHOTO-SIMULATION OF JULY 2019 PROJECT LAYOUT  
(CLOSEST TURBINE APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES AWAY).**



**July 2019 layout visual dominance.**

- prairie
- sky
- project turbines
- masses of trees
- path
- deck and bench

**KOP 2: BOARDWALK AT JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS. PHOTO-SIMULATION OF JUNE, 2020 PROJECT LAYOUT. (CLOSEST TURBINE 5.25 MILES AWAY).**



**June, 2020 layout visual dominance.**

- prairie
- sky
- masses of trees
- path
- deck and bench
- project turbines

## KOP 3: NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPERTY RIDGETOP EAST OF JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS. EXISTING VIEW.



### Existing visual elements dominance.

- prairie
- sky
- masses of trees
- edge of outcropping
- distant wind turbines

**KOP 3: NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPERTY RIDGETOP EAST OF JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS. PHOTO-SIMULATION OF JULY 2019 PROJECT LAYOUT (CLOSEST TURBINE APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILE AWAY).**



**July 2019 layout visual dominance.**

- prairie
- project turbines
- sky
- masses of trees
- edge of outcropping
- distant turbines

**KOP 3: NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPERTY RIDGETOP EAST OF JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS. PHOTO-SIMULATION OF JUNE, 2020 PROJECT LAYOUT. (CLOSEST TURBINE 3.9 MILES AWAY).**



**June, 2020 layout visual dominance.**

- prairie
- sky
- project turbines
- masses of trees

## KOP 4 (NEW): JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS ASTRONOMICAL EDUCATION FACILITY. EXISTING VIEW.



Existing visual elements dominance.

- prairie
- sky
- silos
- masses of trees

**KOP 4 (NEW): JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS ASTRONOMICAL EDUCATION FACILITY. PHOTO-SIMULATION OF DECEMBER 2019 PROJECT LAYOUT (CLOSEST TURBINE APPROXIMATELY 3.25 MILES AWAY).**



**December 2019 layout visual dominance.**

- prairie
- sky
- project turbines
- masses of trees
- silos

**KOP 4 (NEW): JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS ASTRONOMICAL EDUCATION FACILITY. PHOTO-SIMULATION OF JUNE 2020 PROJECT LAYOUT. (CLOSEST TURBINE APPROXIMATELY 5.4 MILES AWAY).**



**June 2020 layout visual dominance.**

- prairie
- sky
- project turbines
- masses of trees
- silos



## KOP 5 (NEW): JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS HIGHEST POINT. EXISTING VIEW.



### Existing visual elements dominance.

- outcropping
- prairie
- sky
- masses of trees
- snow in fields
- silo

**KOP 5 (NEW): JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS HIGHEST POINT. PHOTO-SIMULATION OF DECEMBER 2019 PROJECT LAYOUT (CLOSEST TURBINE APPROXIMATELY 3.25 MILES AWAY).**



**December 2019 layout visual dominance.**

- outcropping
- prairie
- project turbines
- sky
- masses of trees
- snow in fields
- silo

**KOP 5 (NEW): JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS HIGHEST POINT. PHOTO-SIMULATION OF JUNE 2020 PROJECT LAYOUT. (CLOSEST TURBINE APPROXIMATELY 5.25 MILES AWAY).**



**June 2020 layout visual dominance.**

- prairie
- sky
- project turbines
- masses of trees
- silos

# Visual Impacts Assessment

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## Methodology

- The FHWA methodology used in the report bases its approach on a set of broad criteria that considers the following factors related to a proposed project:
  - The overall landscape character and visual quality of views towards a proposed project and areas near it.
  - The visual and aesthetic experience and expectations of viewers (including residents, users of parks and other public spaces, pedestrians, and motorists) looking at a proposed project site.
  - The scale and contrast between objects seen in an existing view and the proposed project's components.
  - How consistent a proposed project is with the existing landscape character of views towards it and how a proposed project would change the existing visual quality of views towards it.

# Visual Impacts Assessment

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## Content

The analysis was developed to:

- Establish and describe the existing landscape character and visual quality of views towards the proposed project from within the analysis area.
- Select representative key viewpoints, with stakeholder assistance, for describing existing landscape character and visual quality and identifying how the proposed project might change the landscape character and visual quality of views towards the proposed project.
- Assess if the proposed project would be consistent with the existing landscape character of views towards it and if it would impact the visual quality of those views.
- Describe avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures that would prevent or reduce potential impacts.

# Visual Impacts Assessment

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## Findings

- Complete findings and quantitative analysis of each individual KOP will be in the full report which will be included in permit application
- General conclusions were drawn based on the seven KOPs analyzed which found varying impacts in 3 broad “distance zones”
  - Foreground – less than 0.5 miles
  - Middle Ground – 0.5 to 5 miles
  - Background – Beyond 5 miles
- From the Jeffers Petroglyphs site, all turbines fall beyond 5 miles. Turbines will be visible, and in the right lighting and atmospheric conditions their contrast and movement are likely to be noticed. Compared to the other distance zones, turbines viewed in the background distance zone are less likely to contrast with the existing landscape character of the view or change the visual quality of the view.



## Discussion

# Thank You

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Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

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**Drew Christensen**

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**From:** Drew Christensen  
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**Cc:** Max Jabrixio; Lance Rom; Brenna Gunderson; Dylan Ikkala; Jennie Geiger; Ryan Henning  
**Subject:** Big Bend: August Project Update  
**Attachments:** Big Bend-Red Rock DRAFT UDP 2020-04-03 RW Ir.pdf

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Jennie Geiger	Succeeded: 8/12/2020 4:09 PM
Ryan Henning	Succeeded: 8/12/2020 4:09 PM

Greetings THPOs,

We hope this message finds you safe and healthy. A big thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the meeting on June 18 via video conference. We were also able to share the visual simulations in a meeting with EERA, SHPO, and MNHS in late-July. Thanks to all for your involvement and feedback. As we move into August, we have a couple updates and reminders to share with you.

1. **Project Timeline:** Big Bend Wind and Red Rock Solar expect to submit Certificate of Need, Site Permit, and HVTL route permit applications to the MN Public Utilities Commission in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020. While this submission will mark the beginning of the lengthy formal process for project review, we are extremely grateful to all of you who have participated actively in providing feedback over the course of multiple years, going back to our early design phase. Your input has led to numerous significant changes in our project plans, including increasing the distance from Jeffers Petroglyphs and the Red Rock Ridge to reduce visual impacts, which we hope improves the project for all stakeholders involved.
2. **Field Surveys:** As you know, you are invited to send representatives to participate in the remaining cultural resources surveys for the transmission line, new turbine locations, roads, collectors and other facilities this fall. For your planning purposes, these surveys will begin shortly after crops are harvested. As an estimate, given the early spring planting season, we expect crops to be fully harvested in late-September or early-October. If you have questions on the surveys, contact Lance Rom with QSI at [lrom@qualityservices.us.com](mailto:lrom@qualityservices.us.com).
3. **Feedback Reminder:** Thanks to all who have submitted feedback on the Unanticipated Discoveries Plan. We've attached a draft for your convenience. As a reminder, if you wish to give feedback, please contact Lance Rom with QSI at [lrom@qualityservices.us.com](mailto:lrom@qualityservices.us.com) by Friday, September 11.

As always, thank you for your involvement, and please don't hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Drew

DREW CHRISTENSEN  
Public Engagement Manager

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**Drew Christensen**

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**From:** Drew Christensen  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:28 AM  
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**Cc:** Reuben Weston; Lance Rom; Dylan Ikkala; Jennie Geiger; Ryan Henning  
**Subject:** Big Bend: September Project Update

Greetings THPOs,

We hope this message continues to find you safe and healthy.

As summer turns to fall, we wanted to again remind you of our upcoming field surveys. With harvest underway throughout much of the project area, we're now able to predict with greater certainty that surveys will begin the week of October 12. If you have questions on, or would like to participate in, the surveys, please reach out to Reuben Weston with QSI at [rwatson@qualityservices.us.com](mailto:rwatson@qualityservices.us.com). In order to make preparations for participants, **please let Reuben know if you'd like to participate by October 1.**

We would also like to send one last reminder for comments on the Unanticipated Discoveries Plan. In order to accommodate anyone who would like to comment, we will extend the deadline to Wednesday, September 23. Please submit comments to Lance Rom at [lrom@qualityservices.us.com](mailto:lrom@qualityservices.us.com).

As always, thank you for your involvement in this project, and please don't hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Drew

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