

CONEFLOWER ENERGY, LLC  
APPLICATION FOR SITE PERMIT  
DOCKET No. IP7132/GS-24-215

# **Appendix J**

## **Sensitive Cultural Resource Information**

In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 7829.0500, and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Coneflower Solar has designated portions of Appendix J as **NONPUBLIC DATA–NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE** because it contains sensitive cultural resource information. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota provides for restricted access to sensitive cultural resource information. Given the need to include nonpublic information, Coneflower Solar has prepared and is electronically filing both **NONPUBLIC** and public versions of Appendix J.

*[this page is intentionally blank]*

# Coneflower Energy, LLC

Lyon County, Minnesota

June 24, 2024

Upper Sioux Community  
5722 Travers Lane  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
THPO Samantha Odegard

RE: Results of Tribal Resource Survey at Coneflower Energy, a proposed 235-megawatt Solar Project in Lyon County, Minnesota

Dear Samantha Odegard,

Coneflower Energy, LLC (Coneflower), an indirect subsidiary of Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC (Apex) has proposed the Coneflower Solar Project (Project), an up to 235-megawatt solar project in Lyon County, Minnesota. The Project is situated on approximately 2,299 acres of privately owned land north of the town of Garvin and east of the town of Balaton (Project Area). As you may recall, we reached out to you in September of 2023 to introduce the Project and request comments as part of the Site Permit Application process for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

We received responses to our outreach from you, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, and Shakopee Mdewakanton Indian Community, as well as the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). We were delighted that you responded and joined us to take part in the field survey for the Project!

As you are aware, Coneflower hired an independent cultural consultant, Impact 7G, Inc. (Impact 7G), to coordinate with your tribal cultural specialists (TCSs) and perform the field surveys. Between November 2023 and January 2024, Impact 7G principal archeologist Kurt Lanno, archeologists Reuben Weston, Haidyn Weber, Adam Sax, and Victor Ponte and archaeological technician Laura Clark, with Upper Sioux Community tribal cultural specialists (TCS) Drew Brockman and Cameron Stennes, completed a Phase I cultural resource survey for the Project. Four areas of cultural interest in two discrete sites, identified as TIS 1 and TIS 2, were identified by your Upper Sioux Community TCSs.

# Coneflower Energy, LLC

Lyon County, Minnesota

We have notified the 10 Minnesota tribes that the survey occurred and that your TCSs identified two sites. Additionally, we shared more detailed information about the sites with the MIAC as follows:

**[NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED...]**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**...NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED]**

In the outreach to the 10 tribes, we indicated that if they had questions regarding the sites to please reach out to the MIAC. We also asked the MIAC to reach out to you directly, should they have questions or need further information than what we provided to them. We asked the tribes to communicate directly with the MIAC as we understand these are sensitive resources and we are not at liberty to disclose site details. Please know that Coneflower will not share the details of these sites publicly and will direct any inquiries to the MIAC and to you directly. Thank you for participating in this process, we are sincerely grateful for your input and for the TCS folks who collaboratively worked with our contractor to complete the field work.

We welcome any comments you and your community may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact either Sarah Cromie at (434) 270-3131

# Coneflower Energy, LLC

Lyon County, Minnesota

or [sarah.cromie@apexcleanenergy.com](mailto:sarah.cromie@apexcleanenergy.com) or Brie Anderson at 612-501-2801 or [brie.anderson@apexcleanenergy.com](mailto:brie.anderson@apexcleanenergy.com).

Sincerely,



Sarah Cromie  
Senior Environmental Permitting Manager



Brie Anderson  
Director of Project Permitting

# Coneflower Energy, LLC

Lyon County, Minnesota

June 21, 2024

Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC)  
161 St. Anthony Ave  
Ste. 919  
St. Paul, MN 55103

RE: Results of Tribal Resource Survey at Coneflower Energy, a proposed 235-megawatt Solar Project in Lyon County, Minnesota

Dear John Reynolds, Melissa Cerda and Members of the MIAC,

Coneflower Energy, LLC (Coneflower), an indirect subsidiary of Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC (Apex) has proposed the Coneflower Solar Project (Project), an up to 235-megawatt solar project in Lyon County, Minnesota. The Project is situated on approximately 2,299 acres of privately owned land north of the town of Garvin and east of the town of Balaton (Project Area). As you may recall, we reached out to you in September of 2023 to introduce the Project and request comments as part of the Site Permit Application process for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

In September 2023, and prior to the MIAC's recommendations in the October 17, 2023 email, consistent with Minn. Stat. §10.65, Coneflower also reached out (via email and the U.S. Postal Service) to 11 Minnesota Tribal Nation<sup>1</sup> Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) for their comments on the Project and to invite their respective communities to assist with the field survey of the Project area. We received responses from four of the tribes: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Shakopee Mdewakanton Indian Community, and Upper Sioux Community. We were delighted that the Upper Sioux Community responded that they would like to take part in the field survey for the Project.

Coneflower hired an independent cultural consultant, Impact 7G, Inc. (Impact 7G), to coordinate with the tribal cultural specialists (TCSs) and perform the field surveys. The

---

<sup>1</sup> Tribal Nations included: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Shakopee Mdewakanton Indian Community, Upper Sioux Community, and White Earth Band of Chippewa.

# Coneflower Energy, LLC

Lyon County, Minnesota

Phase 1 cultural resource surveys were completed between November 2023 and January 2024, by Impact 7G principal archeologist Kurt Lanno, archeologists Reuben Weston, Haidyn Weber, Adam Sax, and Victor Ponte and archaeological technician Laura Clark; and Upper Sioux Community TCS Drew Brockman and Cameron Stennes. Four areas of cultural interest in two discrete sites, identified as TIS 1 and TIS 2, were identified by the Upper Sioux Community TCSs within the Project Area.

**[NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED...]**



**...NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED]**

For additional information and sketch maps for either of the identified sites, please contact the Upper Sioux Community THPO, Samantha Odegard. Concurrent with this letter, we are contacting the 10 THPOs that did not participate in the survey to inform them that the sites were found, and to please contact your office for further information, as we understand these are sensitive resources and we are not at liberty to disclose site details. We appreciate your assistance in communicating with the THPOs, should they require additional information. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit process. If you require further information or have

# Coneflower Energy, LLC

Lyon County, Minnesota

questions regarding this matter, please contact either Sarah Cromie at (434) 270-3131 or [sarah.cromie@apexcleanenergy.com](mailto:sarah.cromie@apexcleanenergy.com) or Brie Anderson at 612-501-2801 or [brie.anderson@apexcleanenergy.com](mailto:brie.anderson@apexcleanenergy.com).

Sincerely,



Sarah Cromie  
Senior Environmental Permitting Manager



Brie Anderson  
Director of Project Permitting