

**From:** [eera.admin\\_no\\_reply@state.mn.us](mailto:eera.admin_no_reply@state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment re: Big Bend Wind Project  
**Date:** Sunday, April 4, 2021 1:12:32 PM

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## **Big Bend Wind Project**

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**Submitter Name:** Andrew Hjermstad

**Submitter Email:** andrewhjermstad@gmail.com

**Submitter Telephone:**

**Comment:**

I am in full support of this project. Larger-scale wind and solar projects like this are absolutely essential to meet Minnesota's sustainability goals.

**Submit Date:** 04/04/2021 01:12 PM

**From:** [eera.admin\\_no\\_reply@state.mn.us](mailto:eera.admin_no_reply@state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment re: Big Bend Wind Project  
**Date:** Monday, April 5, 2021 6:34:41 AM

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## **Big Bend Wind Project**

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**Submitter Name:** Jess Landgraf

**Submitter Email:** [landje03@gmail.com](mailto:landje03@gmail.com)

**Submitter Telephone:** (563) 277-7092

**Comment:**

Hello, I just want to put out support for the requests made by the Dakota communities and MNHS for a 8 mile buffer between Jeffers Petroglyphs and the edge of the turbine installations. If indigenous communities are asking for a site to be protected and treated as religious, let's trust that these people know what they need. We wouldn't put turbines next to the St. Paul Cathedral, even tho it stands on a beautifully exposed hill overlooking much of the surrounding land. Minnesota needs renewable energy, and we can make that happen while working with the local residents and indigenous peoples who have lived here far longer. Thank you.

**Submit Date:** 04/05/2021 06:34 AM

**From:** [eera.admin\\_no\\_reply@state.mn.us](mailto:eera.admin_no_reply@state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment re: Big Bend Wind Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:35:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [Environmental Review Letter.pdf](#)

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## **Big Bend Wind Project**

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**Submitter Name:** Brad Hutchison

**Submitter Email:** [bdhutch@yahoo.com](mailto:bdhutch@yahoo.com)

**Submitter Telephone:** (507) 491-9159

**Comment:**

Comments are in attached pdf file

**Submit Date:** 04/21/2021 08:34 AM

Rich Davis  
Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul MN 55101

RE: Big Bend Wind and Red Rock Solar Projects  
IP7013/CN-19-408; IP7013/WS-19-619; IP7013/TL-19-621; IP7014/CN-19-486; IP7014/GS-19-620

Dear Mr. Davis:

Regarding the applications Apex Energy has submitted for the Big Bend Wind Project and the Red Rock Solar Project.

In the Notice of Public Information you have asked for comments regarding a number of issues. I would like to propose changes that would address four of those issues regarding the Big Bend Wind Project. The issues addressed by these changes would be:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental assessment (EA), and/or the draft site permit?
- What are possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the project, for example, a different size project or a different type of facility? If so, what alternatives to the project should be studied in the EA?

**The human and environmental impacts:**

Some of the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project are described quite well in the public comments written by Kevin Maijala of the Minnesota Historical Society. His letter from December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 helped pushed this project into a contested case hearing. The Lower Sioux Indian Community and the Upper Sioux Community are in agreement with him that the viewshed for the Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site will be severely compromised by this project.

I would add that the viewshed changes, along with the noise and shadow flicker, would also compromise the area for everyone else who lives nearby. While our homes, businesses, and houses of worship may not be deemed historical sites or spiritually significant like the Jeffers Petroglyphs, they hold many of those same values to us as local residents. Those who visit our local parks and other attractions would also be negatively affected.

And finally, there are the known dangers that wind turbines pose to the natural inhabitants of our area, including that of the Bald Eagle. Like much of the state, we have seen a significant increase in the Bald Eagle population, and wind turbines are a known danger to this protected species.

**How to mitigate these impacts:**

One simple and beneficial way to minimize these impacts would be to convert the entire project to solar.

Apex Clean Energy has made the case in their site permit that the area is conducive to both wind and solar development, since both are utilized in the proposed project. This unique hybrid system shows that Apex is capable and willing to build either type of system. Since this area is already the home to a large number of wind turbines, building a hybrid system that is mostly powered by wind will do very little to provide a dependable source of energy. A new project based solely on solar would help balance out our current dependence on wind and make for a more stable energy infrastructure.

While solar would require the use of more prime farmland, it appears that the State of Minnesota and the PUC believe that the solar portion of this project is worth that cost. Since this seems appropriate to do for a 60MW project, there seems to be little reason why the same couldn't be done for a 500MW project. And since the State and our national leaders are pushing for less dependence on fossil fuels, the demand for corn and ethanol will also be diminished.

In converting this project to all solar, Apex and the state could resolve a number of issues.

First and foremost, the issue regarding the Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site would be resolved. The viewshed effect from a solar farm is very limited. In most cases, the effect would be eliminated after a distance of less than one mile – unlike the eight mile or greater distance requested by the Historical Society for wind turbines.

Secondly, the effect on other landowners, as well as visitors and drivers, would be greatly mitigated. A solar project has far less impact on neighbors and others who are not participants in the project.

And finally, the risk that wind turbines pose to wildlife is removed.

Landowners who are currently signed up for the wind project could be given the option to host a solar site instead. In fact, the area available for the project could be expanded, since those landowners who live closer to the Jeffers Site could once again be considered.

These changes would not limit the size of the project in any way. The solar facilities could be expanded to produce even more energy, yet the human and environmental impacts created by the wind turbines would be eliminated. There are more landowners who have already expressed interest in a solar facility, and this conversion would allow others to get involved while diminishing the negative impacts that come with wind turbines.

Sincerely,

Brad Hutchison  
34857 575<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Mountain Lake, MN

**From:** [eera.admin\\_no\\_reply@state.mn.us](mailto:eera.admin_no_reply@state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment re: Big Bend Wind 161 kV Transmission Line  
**Date:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:22:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [PublicComments EA-Scope 19-621.pdf](#)

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## **Big Bend Wind 161 kV Transmission Line**

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**Submitter Name:** Kent Scholl

**Submitter Email:** [kent.scholl@att.net](mailto:kent.scholl@att.net)

**Submitter Telephone:** (720) 201-6608

**Comment:**

**Submit Date:** 04/29/2021 04:21 PM

April 29, 2021

Comments on Environmental Review Scoping for HVTL Route Permit

The Department of Commerce should ignore and set aside the proposed Alternate Peaking Plant Route – Lakefield Junction POI in its EA review. This POI and related alternate transmission route is purely speculative and cannot be relied upon to deliver Big Bend’s wind and solar generation to the 345 kV transmission system. As such, this proposed POI and related alternate transmission route is mischaracterized in Big Bend’s application as a feasible alternate transmission route and POI as compared to its preferred/requested route and route alternatives to the Crandall Switching Station POI.

As Big Bend indicated in its initial Application for Route Permit, in order to interconnect at the Lakefield Junction POI it must:

- Negotiate with each of the current easement holders for the Odell and Trimont Wind Farms in order to construct the 161 kV transmission line (Section 1, Page 1). At the time of filing, Big Bend is unable to reach agreement with these entities.
- Negotiate with each of the impacted landowners on the proposed Alternate Peaking Plant Route (Section 3, Page 9). At the time of filing, Big Bend indicates it was unable to initiate discussions with certain impacted landowners. From personal experience, Big Bend has not reached out to me as a landowner impacted by the Alternate Peaking Plant Route once learning that my land is subject to an easement with the Trimont Wind Farm.
- Negotiate with Great River Energy in order to interconnect to the 345 kV system on a “net-zero” (Surplus Interconnection Service) basis with Great River’s existing natural gas peaking plant. In its application, Big Bend provides no information to indicate whether Great River has any Surplus Interconnection Service available at their Lakefield Junction Peaking Plant or if Great River is interested in making any such Surplus available to Big Bend.

In comparison, Big Bend is in the MISO interconnection queue at the Crandall Switching Station and has obtained all required rights of way through voluntary negotiations with impacted landowners for its preferred/requested route and for alternative routes to the Crandall POI .

Should the Department of Commerce conduct an EA review of the Alternate Peaking Plant Route it should obtain from Big Bend an update on the current status of negotiations with: 1) the easement holders for the Odell and Trimont Wind Farms, 2) the impacted landowners along the proposed transmission route, and 3) Great River Energy as to their ability/willingness to interconnect Big Bend’s wind and solar generation on a net-zero/Surplus Interconnection Service basis. Big Bend’s responses to these and similar questions should be publicly filed in the docket(s) so that a more complete record is obtained.

Best regards,

Kent Scholl

**From:** [Jenna Harder](#)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Jeffers Petroglyphs Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 5:31:43 PM

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Hello Richard,

My name is Jenna Harder and I am writing to you in regards to the Big Bend Wind and Red Rock Solar facilities that are proposed to be built near the Jeffers Petroglyphs.

As a strong proponent of renewable energy, I am extremely concerned and disappointed that wind turbines could be built so close to the Jeffers Petroglyphs. When we ask ourselves, " Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered? ", then we must look into the cultural, spiritual and environmental characteristics that this project will have a direct impact on.

The Petroglyphs and the surrounding landscape have been a sacred site for the loway, Otoe, Cheyenne, and the Dakota tribes for thousands of years. Currently the Dakota and Lakota, loway, Cheyenne, and Ojibwe tribes still use this site for religious prayers and ceremonies. The entire landscape is considered sacred and the presence of especially large wind turbines from 5 miles away will noticeably impact the space. With Minnesota's history of destroying Native people's spiritual spots (e.g Wakan Tipi in Saint Paul) in the name of expansion, it's important that we honor these sites with full integrity.

In regards to the environmental impact, I'm concerned about the placement of the proposed wind turbines. Native prairies are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world, as only 1% of native prairies remain. The expansive amount of agricultural land in southern Minnesota already puts native species at-risk. With the few remaining acres of native prairies, we must do what we can to preserve the land and the birds that currently reside there. Larger wind turbines have a greater negative impact on bird and bat populations, specifically the Long-legged Upland Sandpipers which make their spring appearance in the Red Rock Prairie near the Jeffers site. The Upland Sandpiper is designated as a Species in Greatest Conservation Need by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and a Target Conservation Species by Audubon Minnesota.

My spouse grew up in Cottonwood County, and the first few years of our relationship I dismissed his hometown as being "just farmland". In the past year, I've learned about the sacred sites and the beautiful ecosystems that surround it. To think that tribes from hundreds of miles away would travel to gather just a few miles from his house at Jeffers



puts into perspective how special this land is. Walking through the prairies I've learned about the diverse plants, insects, and birds that reside there. The prairie and the Jeffer's site have been here for thousands of years and add immeasurable value to this specific location. This spot near the Petroglyphs and prairie are incredibly unique and valuable, and we must preserve this landscape as best as we can. I strongly urge you to reconsider the placement of the wind turbines farther than the current 5 miles to reduce harm to this important ecological and culturally significant site.

Sincerely,

Jenna Harder  
Lino Lakes, MN

**From:** [Jenna Harder](#)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** In Addition to my Public Comment of 4/6/21  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 1:53:26 PM

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Hello Rich,

Since my last public comment made on 4/6/21, I have done some additional research on the environmental impacts that Big Bend Wind may have on the current proposed site.

In regards to the unique characteristics of the proposed site, I once again want to emphasize the importance of preserving native prairies as they are refuge to many species that are in need of conservation. Below are endangered, threatened and species classified as "special concern" that reside in Cottonwood and Watonwan counties. Some of the listed species specifically mention wind power development as a threat. All information comes from the MN Department of Natural Resources. Please add this to my public comment.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Harder

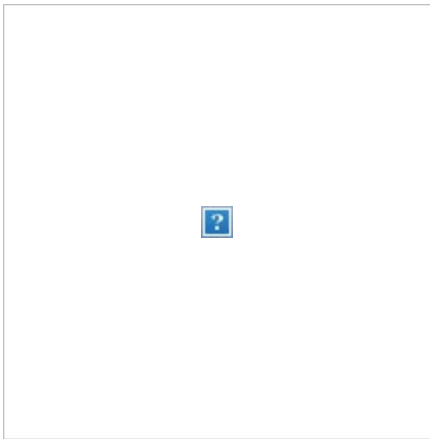
### **Species Impacted by the Big Bend Wind Project**

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#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

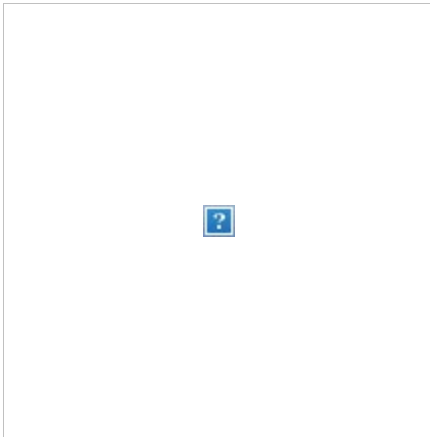
**Dakota Skipper:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=IILEP65140>

- MN Status: Endangered
- Distribution: Cottonwood County
- Conservation: Wind power development has been added as a threat specific to the Dakota Skipper.
- Additional Notes: The skipper has disappeared south and east of Minnesota and has become increasingly rare and local in its remaining range (Cochrane & Delphey, 2002).



**Henslow's Sparrow:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABPBXA0030>

- MN Status: Endangered
- Distribution: Cottonwood County & Watonwan County



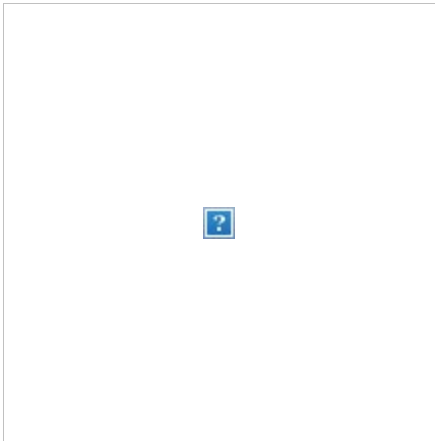
**Burrowing Owl:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNSB10010>

- MN Status: Endangered
- Distribution: Cottonwood County & Watonwan County



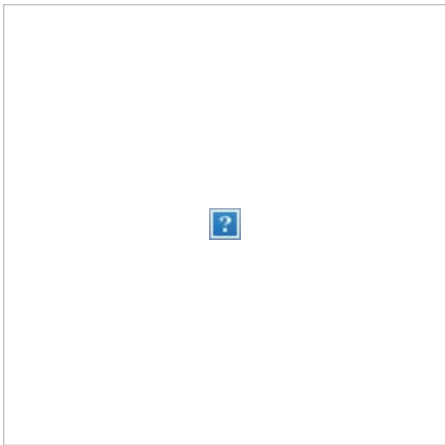
**The Loggerhead Shrike:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABPBR01030>

- MN Status: Endangered
- Distribution: Cottonwood County
- Additional Notes: Impacted by rural residential construction



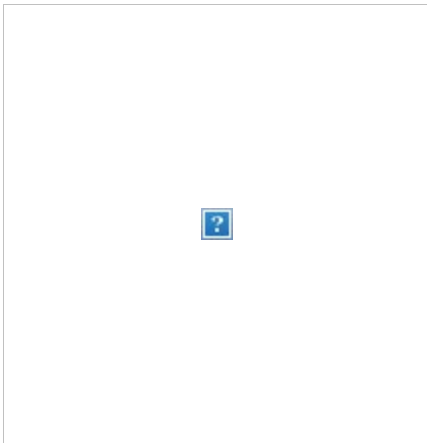
**King Rail:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNME05020>

- MN Status: Endangered
- Distribution: Watonwan County



**Poweshiek Skipperling:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=IILEP57010>

- MN Status: Endangered
- Federal Status: Endangered
- Distribution: Cottonwood County



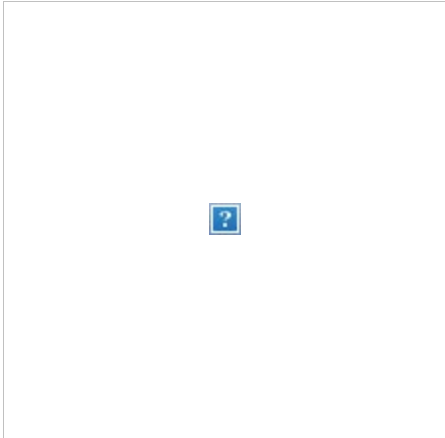
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**THREATENED SPECIES:**

**Wilson's Phalarope:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNNF20010>

- MN Status: Threatened
- Distribution: Cottonwood County

- Additional Notes: Listed as a species in the Wildlife Program's Ten-Year Strategic Plan

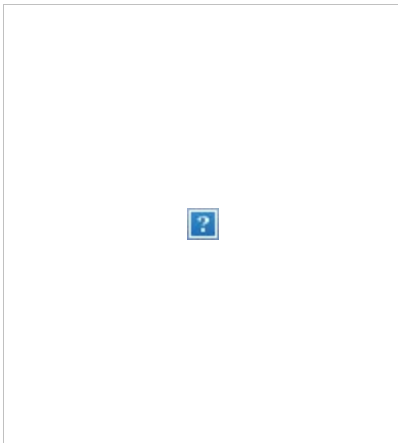


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### **SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN:**

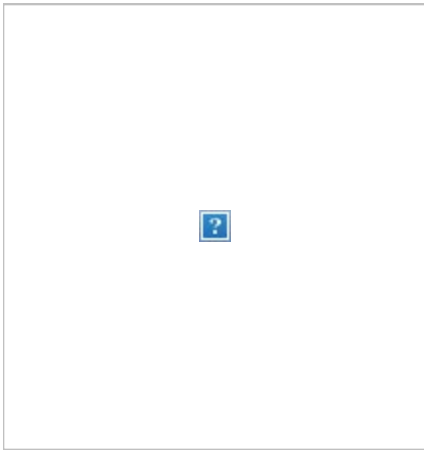
**Trumpeter Swan:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNJB02030>

- MN Status: Special Concern
- Distribution: Cottonwood County & Watonwan County



**Common Gallinule:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNME13030>

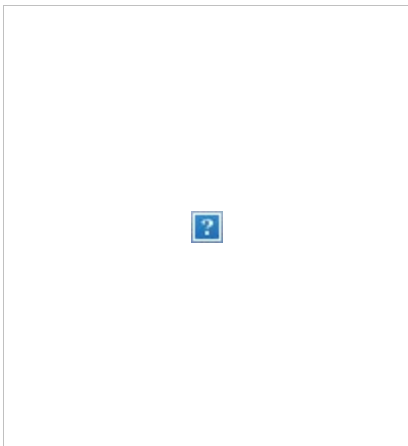
- MN Status: Special Concern
- Distribution: Watonwan County



**Marbled Godwit:**

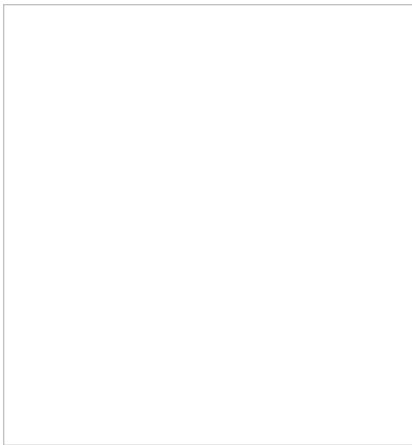
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNNF08040>

- MN Status: Special Concern
- Distribution: Cottonwood County



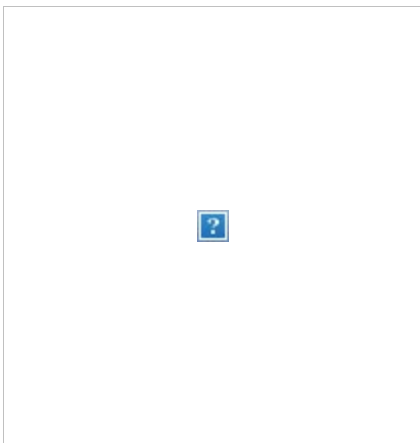
**Bell's Vireo:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABPBW01110>

- MN Status: Special Concern
- Distribution: Watonwan County



**Forster's Tern:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNNM08090>

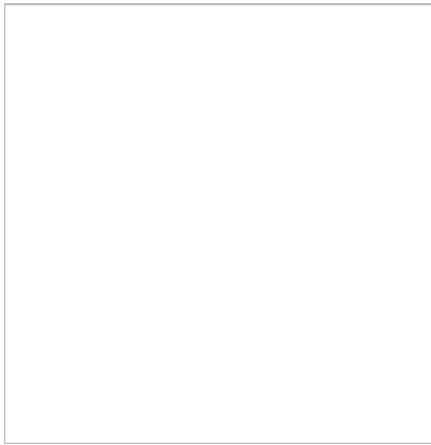
- MN Status: Special Concern
- Distribution: Cottonwood County



**Purple Martin:** <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABPAU01010>

- MN Status: Special Concern
- Distribution: Cottonwood County & Watonwan County





**Sources:**

Cochrane, J. F., and P. Delphey. 2002. Status assessment and conservation guidelines: Dakota Skipper, *Hesperia dacotae* (Skinner) (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae), Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Field Office, Minneapolis, Minnesota. 92 pp

**From:** [KENT SCHOLL](#)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#); [Eknes, Bret \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** 19-621 Public Comments to EA Scope  
**Date:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:29:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [PublicComments EA-Scope 19-621.pdf](#)

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Rich,

I believe I was successful in uploading the attached comments online, but have not yet seen them posted. As backup and to ensure you have copy, I attach them here.

Best regards,

Kent Scholl  
720-201-6608

April 29, 2021

Comments on Environmental Review Scoping for HVTL Route Permit

The Department of Commerce should ignore and set aside the proposed Alternate Peaking Plant Route – Lakefield Junction POI in its EA review. This POI and related alternate transmission route is purely speculative and cannot be relied upon to deliver Big Bend’s wind and solar generation to the 345 kV transmission system. As such, this proposed POI and related alternate transmission route is mischaracterized in Big Bend’s application as a feasible alternate transmission route and POI as compared to its preferred/requested route and route alternatives to the Crandall Switching Station POI.

As Big Bend indicated in its initial Application for Route Permit, in order to interconnect at the Lakefield Junction POI it must:

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- Negotiate with each of the impacted landowners on the proposed Alternate Peaking Plant Route (Section 3, Page 9). At the time of filing, Big Bend indicates it was unable to initiate discussions with certain impacted landowners. From personal experience, Big Bend has not reached out to me as a landowner impacted by the Alternate Peaking Plant Route once learning that my land is subject to an easement with the Trimont Wind Farm.
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In comparison, Big Bend is in the MISO interconnection queue at the Crandall Switching Station and has obtained all required rights of way through voluntary negotiations with impacted landowners for its preferred/requested route and for alternative routes to the Crandall POI .

Should the Department of Commerce conduct an EA review of the Alternate Peaking Plant Route it should obtain from Big Bend an update on the current status of negotiations with: 1) the easement holders for the Odell and Trimont Wind Farms, 2) the impacted landowners along the proposed transmission route, and 3) Great River Energy as to their ability/willingness to interconnect Big Bend’s wind and solar generation on a net-zero/Surplus Interconnection Service basis. Big Bend’s responses to these and similar questions should be publicly filed in the docket(s) so that a more complete record is obtained.

Best regards,

Kent Scholl

**From:** [Mikalah Harder](#)  
**To:** [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment on the Matter of Big Bend Project, Cottonwood County, MN  
**Date:** Friday, April 30, 2021 1:58:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [Harder Mikalah Big Bend Wind Public Comment.docx](#)

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Hello,

Please see attached document for comment.

Thank you,  
Mikalah Harder

Mikalah Harder  
Mountain Lake, MN 56159  
[Harder.mikalah@gmail.com](mailto:Harder.mikalah@gmail.com)

April 22, 2021

Richard Davis  
[richard.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.davis@state.mn.us)  
507-380-6859

Re: Citizen Comment on the Matter of Big Bend Project, Cottonwood County, MN

In the matter of Big Bend Wind Project Big Bend Wind IP7013/WS-19-619

Dear Mr. Davis.

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed Big Bend Project. This project has the potential to negatively impact current habitat, through wildlife endangerment, the spreading of invasive species during the build, and a negative impact on the health of the river/watershed. It will also greatly reduce the possibility of future conservation projects, which is a critical need for the local community and its wildlife. Furthermore, it will negatively impact the Jeffers Petroglyph site, a sacred space that should be respected and preserved. These concerns must be satisfactorily addressed for the project to move forward.

The Red Rock Ridge is an exceptional habitat as acknowledged by the DNR whose prairie plan designates it as significant, since it contains some of the highest concentration of prairie remnants in this portion of the state. Impacts would be detrimental to the ecological components of the prairie. Continued preservation of this site is important as less than 1% of prairie remains in Minnesota with even less of that being high quality and expansive. Preserving such large quality prairies is critical to wildlife that often require specific plants and an expansive enough of an area in order to thrive and keep the prairie habitat in balance(MnDNR).

Another habitat that would be impacted is the Watonwan River, which is one of the few major natural features left in the region. Impacts to this should be avoided, there are two turbines that closely encroach on this major feature (T49 and T16). Due to this proximity, it may have a more significant impact of the wildlife that use it including, ducks, heron, bald eagles, osprey, turkeys, and other raptors and birds. Living close to the Watonwan River, we see these raptors and birds every day and it's important we protect their home.

In addition to the turbines impact on the Watonwan River, the Red Rock Solar project also closely encroaches this habitat and adds more impervious surface to the watershed that would negatively impact the health of the river. With the current work of the Watonwan River One Water One Plan, many resources have already been spent on trying to figure out the best means to restore the rivers health. This effort should be supported, not hindered by more industrialization. Such mitigation measures could include the restoration of wetland basins that will create habitat and benefit the river.

Key issues that impact the rivers health is outlined in the watershed management plan and include, land use change that results in loss of vegetation cover, lack of recreational access and connectivity, and terrestrial invasive species. All these concerns could be an issue with the proposed project. For example, many of the townships in the project area deal with many types of invasive species, including wild parsnip and leafy spurge. There has not been any mention of how spreading these destructive invasive species will be avoided, as equipment could easily spread them while trenching within ROWs. Just management after the fact is mentioned.

Not only could this project impact current habitat health, but it could also greatly impact the possibility of future conservation efforts. Adding more development along the river has the potential to stop future projects as competing easement interests will negatively impact long term conservation efforts for the river and therefore, the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. It could also stop future conservation efforts for surrounding wetlands, lakes, and prairies. This conservation is important as it will better server the environment and wildlife, as well as our climate by storing carbon within large wetlands and prairies. Furthermore, it will serve the community with land use outside of agriculture or industrialization.

Cottonwood county is dominated by over 90% row crops—must we take more of this land and continue to industrialize it? While agricultural land is important and crucial to the community's identity, so is conservation land that provides beauty and recreational opportunities. Continued industrialization will limit recreational access to the land, which is already limited. Access to natural recreation can provide the community with opportunities to exercise, bird watch, botanize, and find a connection to a land that only enriches the community's identity and pride in this region.

Because so much of the land is agricultural, conservation is not only about preservation, but about restoration. Restoration can be expensive thus thorough planning to choose a successful site is critical. We must consider areas in the region that would be prime locations for conservation projects, one such area is the Mountain Lake. This area would greatly contribute to the area ecologically. Restoring this large shallow lake would reestablish one of the many lakes that used to cover this region. These shallow lakes are essential to migratory waterfowl, and this was once one of the largest in the region, it would be great to restore this area to maintain a historic Minnesota habitat.

The Red Rock Ridge is perfect example of a current habitat that provides a beautiful space for the community. The prairie once dominated Minnesota's landscape and the Red Rock Ridge is one of the only places left that is expansive enough to allow people to fully experience the grandeur of this landscape. This only further solidifies the need to protect this habitat as it serves not only wildlife but the community as well.

Furthermore, the Red Rock Ridge and Jeffers Petroglyphs site are sacred spaces and are crucial for understanding the deep history of this region. Jeffers Petroglyphs has been used by indigenous people for thousands of years, it has been and continues to be a sacred space and must be protected. There has been enough change to the space and surrounding area and any further change must be resisted to honor and respect the importance of this site. It is also crucial to maintain the integrity of the site so others can visit and learn about the extensive history of North America—a story not often known by the general population.

While I oppose this project, that does not mean I am against renewable energy. I believe wind and solar energy is important in fighting the looming threat of climate change. However, we must address the

damage these projects have on the immediate surrounding area. We know wildlife and conservation projects will be negatively impacted thus, these projects must not go through until these concerns are adequately addressed. The negative impacts must be balanced out with more restoration of the surrounding area so that we can be sure what is being taken out of our community is consciously being put back in.

In the matter of Big Bend Wind 161 kV Transmission Line Docket Number IP7013/TL-19-621

Big Bend Wind IP7013/WS-19-619

Red Rock Solar #GS-19-620

Citations:

MnDNR. 2018. Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. Retrieved from <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan/index.html>

Watonwan 1W1P. (2020). Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Retrieved from <https://www.co.watonwan.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/4203/Watonwan-River-Comprehensive-Watershed-Management-Plan?bidId=>

## My Concern, Windmills

I live in section 19 Butterfield township. I farm and have a private airport on my farm and is licensed in the state of Minnesota.

I have used this airstrip since 1960 and still use it today, there are 2 windmills in my flying pattern

number: T44 and T43

T43 is on Joel Penners property and can be moved north (see Map) still on his property.

T44 is on Duwayn Falk property and can be moved north west in another section and still be on his property, (see Map.)

To verify my concern on my importance you call - Rick from State of Minnesota FAA

612-219-8574

If these 2 towers aren't moved I can't stress it enough, could be fatal to me or my family and friends.

Please call me on this matter any time.

507-830 2145 - Elin Thiessen

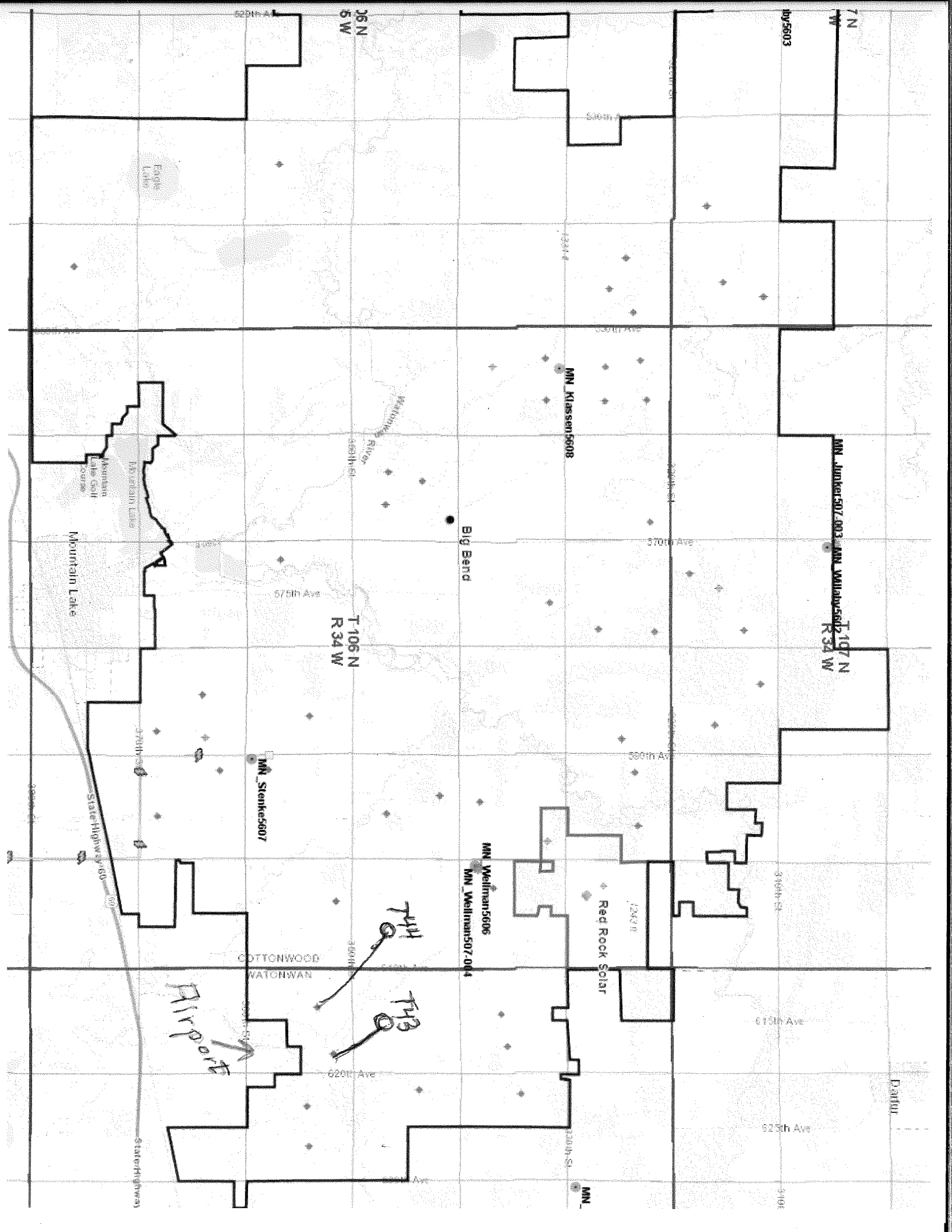
62030 360th St

Butterfield MN 56120

(My airport see Map)

 Elin Thiessen  
62030 360th St.  
Butterfield, MN 56120





T 107 N  
R 34 W  
MN Junker507\_003  
MN Williams5607

MN\_Klassen5608

Big Bend

T 106 N  
R 34 W

MN\_Stankes5607

MN\_Wellman5606  
MN\_Wellman507\_004

Red Rock Solar

COTTONWOOD  
WATONWAN

PHI part

FH4

FH3

Mountain Lake

Engle Lake

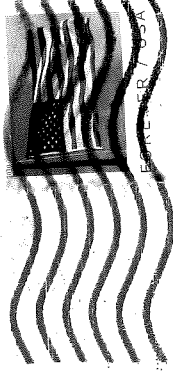
Mountain Lake Golf Course

State Highway 27

State Highway 50

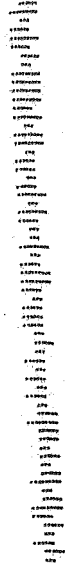
Parish

Elvin Thiessen  
62030 360th St.  
Butterfield, MN. 56120



MINNEAPOLIS MN 553  
27 MAR 2021 PM 5 L

Rich Davis, Environmental Review Manager  
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