

Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Upper Sioux Community
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March 26, 2021

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit, and Route Permit for an up to 308 MW Wind Farm and Associated 161 kV Transmission Line in Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota

PUC Docket Numbers: IP7013/CN-19-408, IP7013/WS-19-619, IP7013/TL-19-621

Dear Ms. Seuffert:

The undersigned is the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Upper Sioux Community. The Upper Sioux Community is a federally recognized Indian nation located southeast of Granite Falls, Minnesota. The proposed location of the turbines in the above-referenced applications will have a clear negative effect on the viewshed of the Jeffers Petroglyphs State Historic Site and associated sacred sites located in the area known as Red Rock Ridge. The landform and aforementioned sites are culturally and spiritually significant to the Upper Sioux Community and its members. Based on the foregoing, The Upper Sioux Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office on the behalf of the Upper Sioux Community hereby requests to formally intervene in the above-referenced permitting process for the Big Bend Wind Project.

Sincerely,

Samantha Odegard
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Upper Sioux Community
Phone: 320-564-6334
E-mail: samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov

Cc via email:

David Briese, Site Manager, Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site

Kent Whitworth, Director and CEO, Minnesota Historical Society

Sarah Beimers, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

Brenna Gunderson, Apex Clean Energy, Director of Project Development

Jennie Geiger, Apex Clean Energy, Sr. Environmental Permitting Manager

Cheyenne St. John, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Lower Sioux Indian Community

Leonard Wabasha, Director of Cultural Resources, Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Noah White, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Prairie Island Indian Community