Tribal Historic Preservation Office Upper Sioux Community 5722 Travers Lane Post Office Box 147 Granite Falls, MN 56241 320.564.3853 thpo@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov



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
Cheyanne 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