Introduction

Wilton Wind IV, LLC, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), proposes to construct the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center (Project), a 99-megawatt (MW) wind energy generation facility in Burleigh County, North Dakota. The Project would connect to a Western Area Power Administration (Western) transmission line. Because of this federal nexus, the Project requires review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A scoping meeting was held for the EIS in July 2011 and a public hearing was held in April 2013. Since the hearing, NextEra has changed the turbine array to accommodate a new turbine model and plans to construct an approximately 13-mile 230-kV transmission line as part of the Project. Western has decided to prepare a Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental effects of the new aspects of the Project.

The scoping process for the Supplemental Draft EIS began on November 12, 2013 when Western published a notice of intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to conduct a public scoping meeting and prepare a Supplemental Draft EIS for the Project in accordance with NEPA. In addition to the NOI, a letter was sent to representatives of agencies, tribes, and interested parties to solicit input on the Project and invite them to the meeting. The public scoping meeting was held near the proposed Project at Wilton Memorial Hall in Wilton, North Dakota, on December 11, 2013. The meeting was held in an open house format from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Several agencies were invited to the meeting (Appendix 1) and postcards with information for the meeting advertisements were placed in the Bismarck Tribune, Indian Country Today, and Washburn Leader-News (Appendix 2). The meeting was also included in the public service announcements for the following stations in the Bismarck area from Wednesday, November 20, 2013 through December 11, 2013: North Dakota Public Radio, Clear Channel, Town Square Media, MidCo Network, which represent at least 12 different radio stations.

Approximately 35 members of the public attending the meeting. Each attendee was asked to sign in, and was given a comment sheet (Appendix 3). Because the meeting was held as an open house format, there was no formal presentation. Attendees were able to review the displays (Appendix 4) and discuss the Project with representatives from Western and NextEra Energy. The two maps on display illustrated the latest Project array dated December 4, 2013 (Appendix 4).

The following people were available to describe the Project and answer questions:

- From Western: Matt Marsh, Tom Atkinson, and Rod O’Sullivan
- From NextEra: Melissa Hochmuth, Allen Wynn, and Deanna Julsen
- From Atwell (land agents): Trina Sobotka and Marco MacBeth
- From Tetra Tech: Anne-Marie Griger
The period to receive written comments was open until December 31, 2013. As a result of the scoping process, 4 comments were received from two agencies and two individuals (Appendix 5). The Burleigh County Soil Conservation District replied that they do not have any comments. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department stated that the Project would not affect state park lands or Land and Water Conservation Fund recreation projects. The agency suggested that efforts be made to avoid impacts to wildlife species and their habitats, particularly birds and bats that nest, feed, and migrate through the area. The agency also recommends that impacted areas be revegetated with native species and that pre- and post-construction avian and bat monitoring be conducted. One individual commented that all of Canfield Township should be included in the Project. The second individual commented that the Project should move forward as quickly as possible.

Appendices
Appendix 1 – Invitations and postcards
Appendix 2 – Newspaper and radio ads
Appendix 3 – Sign in Sheets
Appendix 4 – Project Maps
Appendix 5 – Public Scoping Comments
Appendix 1 - Invitations
November 19, 2013

NAME

ADDRESS

Re: Invitation to Scoping Meeting for Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Supplemental EIS

Dear NAME,

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) announces the scoping period for the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed project is a 99-megawatt (MW) wind energy facility in Burleigh County (see attached figure). The proposed project would interconnect with Western's transmission line. In addition to constructing and operating the proposed project, NextEra has requested to operate its nearby existing Wilton I (also known as Burleigh), Wilton II, and Baldwin Wind Energy Center projects at levels exceeding 50 average annual MW, when wind conditions warrant.

Since a scoping meeting was held in 2011 and a draft EIS was prepared in 2013, the proposed layout has been adjusted to include turbines to the east and southeast of Regan and to include approximately 15 miles of 230-kV overhead transmission line that will connect the Wilton IV substation to the existing Wilton/Baldwin substation. The potential environmental effects of lifting the annual MW cap on the Existing Projects and most of the Wilton IV turbines were addressed in the Draft EIS for the project; therefore, the Supplemental EIS will focus on the environmental effects from the change in the Wilton IV layout.

The proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center will include up to 58 wind turbine generators, an underground power collection system, collector substation, and access roads. Wind turbine towers would be approximately 426 feet tall, from the tip of the blade to the base. The wind turbine rotors would be approximately 328 feet in diameter. Electrical power from the proposed facility would interconnect into Western's existing Hilken Switching Station near Wilton, North Dakota. Construction of the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center is proposed to begin in Spring of 2015.

The scoping period provides an opportunity for the public and federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments to identify issues or alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS. The public scoping period ends on Tuesday, December 31, 2013. One public scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 to provide an opportunity for the public to submit scoping comments on the proposal in person and to talk to staff working on the project and to resource specialists. The scoping meeting will be held between 5:00 and 8:00 pm at the Wilton Memorial Hall, 105 Dakota Avenue, Wilton, North Dakota.

Comments will be accepted at the scoping meeting, by letter at the address below, or by e-mailing mmarsh@wapa.gov. Please refer to the Wilton IV Wind Energy Facility in your correspondence. Send all comments by close of business Tuesday, December 31, 2013, to the address below.
Project Information

Email: MMarsh@wapa.gov
Phone: (406) 255-2811
Mail: Mr. Matt Marsh
    Upper Great Plains Regional Office
    Western Area Power Administration
    P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800

Sincerely,

Matthew Blevins
Environment Team Lead

Enclosures (2):
Comment Form
Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Project Map
Wilton IV Wind Energy Center
BURLEIGH COUNTY, ND

Figure 1. Project Location
NOVEMBER 2013

Source: USGS Topo Quads, ESRI
Thank you for your interest in the proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the EIS mailing list and/or to provide comments. Written and oral comments can be submitted at the scoping meeting, faxed to (406) 255-2900, mailed to Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Office, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800 or sent by e-mail to mmmarsh@wapa.gov. To be included in our public comment process, please ensure your comments are received by December 31, 2013. Anonymous comments will not be considered in the final EIS.

Please Print Contact Info Below

Name: __________________________________________ Organization: __________________________________________

E-mail address: __________________________________________ Daytime Phone No. (optional): ______________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________ City / State / Zip Code: ______________________________

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the proposed project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your time and interest.
Mr. Matt Marsh  
Western Area Power Administration  
Upper Great Plains Region  
P.O. Box 35800  
Billings, MT 59107-5800
YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!
WILTON IV WIND ENERGY CENTER

SCOPING MEETING ON DECEMBER 11th, 2013
5 P.M. AT WILTON MEMORIAL HALL
Scoping Meeting on December 11th for the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center

Western Area Power Administration is preparing a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, (NextEra)’s proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center in Burleigh County, North Dakota near the towns of Wilton, Regan, and Baldwin. The proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center will include up to 58 wind turbine generators, an underground power collection system, a collector substation, and access roads. The proposed layout has been adjusted to include turbines to the east and southeast of Regan and to include approximately 15 miles of 230-kV overhead transmission line. Construction of the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center is proposed to begin in Spring 2015.

Western Area Power Administration will host a public scoping meeting to help define the scope of the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 5 p.m. at Wilton Memorial Hall, located at 105 Dakota Avenue, Wilton, ND 58579.

Please submit your comments to Western Area Power Administration by Tuesday, December 31, 2013. Comments can be provided in person at the meeting or by mail, fax, or email, using the contact information below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>MM <a href="mailto:Marsh@wapa.gov">Marsh@wapa.gov</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>(406) 255-2900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>Mr. Matt Marsh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Great Plains Regional Office</td>
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<td>Western Area Power Administration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>(406) 255-2811</td>
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</table>
Appendix 2 – Newspaper and Radio Ads
WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

We need your comments to help us define the scope and alternatives for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal by NextEra Energy Resources to expand its wind energy facilities in Burleigh County, southeast of Wilton, and northeast of Baldwin, North Dakota. The proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center will include up to 58 wind turbine generators, an underground power collection system, access roads, and a collector substation. The proposed layout has been adjusted to include turbines to the east and southeast of Regan and to include approximately 15 miles of 230-kV overhead transmission line. Construction of the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center is proposed to begin in Spring 2015.

Western Area Power Administration will host a public scoping meeting to help define the scope of the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The meeting location is handicapped accessible.

Please join us to learn more about this project and to share your ideas:
5 to 8 pm, Wednesday, December 11, 2013
Wilton Memorial Hall
105 Dakota Avenue, Wilton, ND 58579

Need more info?
For more information or to be added to the project mailing list, contact:
Matt Marsh,
Environmental Protection Specialist
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800
Phone: (406) 255-2811,
Email: mmarsh@wapa.gov
11/25, 28, 12/2 & 5 - 20691401
We Need Your Input!

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Please join us to learn more about this project and to share your ideas:

**5 to 8 pm, Wednesday, December 11, 2013**

Wilton Memorial Hall, 105 Dakota Avenue, Wilton, ND 58579

Need More Info?

For more information or to be added to the project mailing list, contact:

Matt Marsh, Environmental Protection Specialist
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800
Tel: (406) 255-2811 | Email: mmarsh@wapa.gov
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Matt Marsh, Environmental Protection Specialist
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800
Phone: (406) 255-2811, Email: mmarsh@wapa.gov

LN Nov. 28, Dec.5, 2013
Appendix 3 – Sign in Sheets
### Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Open House
December 11, 2013, 5-8 PM Wilton Memorial Hall

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Bernard Allers</td>
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<td>Rod Backman</td>
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<td>Marc Lipsett</td>
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<td>Tony Schmit</td>
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### Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Open House
December 11, 2013, 5-8 PM Wilton Memorial Hall

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<td>Kenny &amp; Glenn Anderson</td>
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<td>Kayz Peters</td>
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<td>Rosemary Moser</td>
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<td>James Saena</td>
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<td>Olivia Zwick</td>
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Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Open House
December 11, 2013, 5-8 PM Wilton Memorial Hall

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Appendix 4 – Project Maps
Appendix 5 – Public Scoping Comments
December 9, 2013

Mr. Matt Marsh  
Upper Great Plains Regional office  
Western Area Power Administration  
P.O. Box 35800  
Billings, MT 59107-5800

Dear Mr. Marsh:

The Burleigh County Soil Conservation District has reviewed the Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Project. We have no issues or alternatives to bring to your attention.

Thank you for allowing us to comment.

Sincerely,

Linn Berg, Chairman  
Burleigh County SCD

---

District Supervisors

David Bauer  
Regan  

Linn Berg  
Sterling  

Todd McPeak  
Driscoll  

Marilyn Richter  
Menoken  

Seth Williams  
Wing

All programs and services of the Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age or handicap.
December 6, 2013

Mr. Matthew Blevins
Upper Great Plains Regional Office
PO Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

Re: Wilton IV Wind Energy Center Supplemental EIS

Dear Mr. Blevins,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (the Department) has reviewed the above referenced proposed for a 99-megawatt wind energy facility in Burleigh County.

Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare plants and ecological communities). The project as defined does not affect state park lands that we manage or Land and Water Conservation Fund recreation projects that we coordinate.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, several ecological communities has been documented within and adjacent to project boundary. Because this information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources.

Given the potential for not only habitat disturbance and disruption but the threat to nesting, feeding and migratory bird and bats in the area we suggest that all efforts be made to avoid impacts to wildlife species and their habitats. In an effort to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats we encourage proper evaluation of all potential wind energy sites. To identify and assess adverse impacts to wildlife we suggest pre and post construction avian and bat monitoring studies be conducted.

Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal and ecological community conservation, management and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact Kathy Duttenhefner (701-328-5370 or kgduttenhefner@nd.gov) of our staff. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Jesse Hanson, Manager
Planning and Natural Resources Division


*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*..
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North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory Biological and Conservation Data Disclaimer

The quantity and quality of data collected by the North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in North Dakota have never been thoroughly surveyed, and new species are still being discovered. For these reasons, the Natural Heritage Inventory cannot provide a definite statement on the presence, absence, or condition of biological elements in any part of North Dakota. Natural Heritage data summarize the existing information known at the time of the request. Our data are continually upgraded and information is continually being added to the database. This data should never be regarded as final statements on the elements or areas that are being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys.

Estimated Representation Accuracy

Value that indicates the approximate percentage of the Element Occurrence Representation (EO Rep) that was observed to be occupied by the species or community (versus buffer area added for locational uncertainty). Use of estimated representation accuracy provides a common index for the consistent comparison of EO reps, thus helping to ensure that aggregated data are correctly analyzed and interpreted.

- Very high (>95%)
- High (>= 95%, <= 90%)
- Medium (>= 20%, <= 80%)
- Low (>= 0%, <= 20%)
- Unknown
- (null) - Not assessed

Precision

A single-letter code for the precision used to map the Element Occurrence (EO) on a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5’ (or 15’) topographic quadrangle map, based on the previous Heritage methodology in which EOs were located on paper maps using dots.

- S - Seconds: accuracy of locality mappable within a three-second radius; 100 meters from the centerpoint
- M - Minute: accuracy of locality mappable within a one-minute radius; 2 km from the centerpoint
- G - General: accuracy of locality mappable to map or place name precision only; 8 km from centerpoint
- U - Unmappable
Wilton IV Wind Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

December 11, 2013, 5-8 PM Wilton Memorial Hall

Thank you for your interest in the proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the EIS mailing list and/or to provide comments. Written and oral comments can be submitted at the scoping meeting, faxed to (406) 255-2900, mailed to Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Office, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800 or sent by e-mail to mmash@wapa.gov. To be included in our public comment process, please ensure your comments are received by December 31, 2013. Anonymous comments will not be considered in the final EIS.

Please Print Contact Info Below

Name: GARNEY STRAND
E-mail address: 
Street Address: 36401 184th St. N.E.

Organization: CANFIELD TOWNSHIP
Daytime Phone No. (optional): 1-701-286-7511
City / State / Zip Code: REGAN, ND 58477

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the proposed project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

It would be nice if you included all of Canfield Township, Range 143 - 77.

Thank you,
Garney Strand

Thank you for your time and interest.
Thank you for your interest in the proposed Wilton IV Wind Energy Center. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the EIS mailing list and/or to provide comments. Written and oral comments can be submitted at the scoping meeting, faxed to (406) 255-2900, mailed to Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Office, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800 or sent by e-mail to mmash@wapa.gov. To be included in our public comment process, please ensure your comments are received by December 31, 2013. Anonymous comments will not be considered in the final EIS.

Please Print Contact Info Below

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<tr>
<td>Craig Kling</td>
<td>Participating Landowner</td>
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<tr>
<th>E-mail address:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Street Address:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1080 Shadow Ridge Road</td>
<td>LaPorte, CO 80535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the proposed project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

Please conduct the environmental review and authorize the project as expeditiously as possible. Please include me on the mailing list. Thank you.

Thank you for your time and interest.
Mr. Matt Marsh
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Region
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800