

**Public Service Archaeology
& Architecture Program**

Department of Anthropology
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05 June 2014

Ms. JoAnne Blank
Stantec
1165 Scheuring Road
De Pere, Wisconsin 54115-1001

Dear Ms. Blank:

Thank you for selecting the Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program to conduct archival investigations for the proposed Pleasant Ridge Wind Farm in Livingston County in Illinois. The background investigation included a review of archaeological sites, cultural resource surveys, and structures that occur within the boundary of the wind farm project plus a 1-mile buffer. This letter provides a summary of our findings.

The proposed study area extends over portions of 181 sections surrounding Forrest, Illinois. The project area has been the subject of very limited cultural resource investigations in the past. All or portions of nine cultural resource investigations have occurred within the study limits. The studies have been limited to road improvements and cellular communication facilities (Barr 2004; Simon 1990, 1991; Zehr 2004). Fourteen archaeological sites (11LI4, 11LI5, 11LI18, 11LI22, 11LI55, 11LI103, 11LI104, 11LI105, 11LI114, 11LI115, 11LI116, 11LI125, 11LI168, and 11LI277) have been recorded within the limits of the study area. The sites include one Early Archaic, two Late Archaic, one generalized Archaic, two Mississippian, and one Historic component locations. All 14 sites are listed as undetermined for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). There are no recorded historic structures within the study area that have been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP. Overall, no known NRHP eligible archaeological sites and no known eligible architectural resources present in the project area, but most of the project area has not been surveyed for cultural resources. There are 10 known cemeteries (Avoca, Five Mile, Forrest, Houder, North Apostolic Christian, Pleasant Ridge, South Apostolic Christian, St. Patrick's Catholic, Strawn, and an Unnamed Cemetery). All of these locations should be avoided by the proposed project. Government Land Office maps of the area show portions of the project area as historically timber covered but most of the area had prairie vegetation. Given the geographic location, project size, proximity to water, and topography of the project area, cultural resources are likely to be present within the project area and should be anticipated as a result of a Phase I inventory survey. The best potential for significant archaeological sites will be near water sources, historical transportation routes, and along the old timber/prairie border. Please do not hesitate to call me for points of clarification. I can be reached at (847) 548-7961 [Office phone/fax] or (847) 287-9045 [cell].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin McGowan".

Kevin McGowan

Chicagoland Office:

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