

Wind Farms

Midwest & Northern Plains States

As the United States develops more sustainable energy sources, the need for cost-effective approaches to studying the possible consequences to cultural resources grows as well. The 106 Group has conducted numerous cultural resources projects for wind energy companies throughout the Midwest and northern plains, and our staff has experience in other regions of the nation.

Recently, the 106 Group was called upon to conduct a cultural resources literature review and Phase 1 archaeological survey for the Nobles County Wind Farm project. This project involved the proposed construction of 134 wind turbines and associated access roads and utility corridors in central Nobles County, Minnesota. Working in partnership with the energy client, we were able to provide quick turn-around reporting and consultation, producing a more efficient and less costly survey. Using the latest technology and a streamlined reporting process, we provided real time updates for our clients, and timely submittal of

our reports for approval by the applicable agencies. Our years of field experience mean we can quickly assemble a large field crew, work closely with right-of-way agents and land owners to coordinate land access, and complete all survey work on time, within budget, and with no down time or delays.

Although there is currently no formal federal or state environmental review process for wind farms, most wind farm projects do require either federal or state permits and, therefore, must comply with federal or state cultural resources regulations. All energy-related survey projects conducted by the 106 Group include a background records review and an intensive pedestrian survey to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws, such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This analysis provides baseline cultural resources data to inform future survey work, if needed, often reducing the amount of additional work and associated costs.

