

Appendix F. Scoping Comment-Response Matrix

Silver Queen Wind Farm Project Draft EA
Appendix F – Scoping Comment-Response Matrix

Submittal Number	Entity	Comment Date	Comment Number	Comment	WAPA Response	Relevant EA Section	Comment Topic
1	State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Archaeologist	10/23/2023	1-1	Our office has already provided initial comment, and we reiterate these comments here.	The initial comment from your office in response to WAPA's letter initiating Section 106 consultation with the SHPO was received and processed and is included in the Draft EA Appendix J.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Section 106 Consultation
			1-2	While you are preparing NEPA documentation, please do not overlook your roles/responsibilities for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.	WAPA is committed to undergoing Section 106 consultation in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and initiated consultation in a letter to the SHPO and potentially interested tribes on July 20, 2023 (see response to comment 1-1). The letter is included in the Draft EA Appendix J.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Section 106 Consultation
			1-3	We recommend contacting [redacted] of our office at [redacted] for information regarding existing National Register listed/eligible resources and also consulting with the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and I-Sites - The Office of the State Archaeologist The University of Iowa (uiowa.edu).	WAPA's third-party contractor obtained the necessary information for existing cultural resources as part of their literature review. Results will be presented to the SHPO during the Section 106 consultation process.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Historic properties
			1-4	Regarding the identification of historic resources, these are just the basic steps in the identification process. Please be sure to provide reconnaissance and/or intensive level architectural/historical survey, as appropriate. The Iowa Site Inventory Form (ISIF) can be found here: How to Submit Iowa Arts & Culture (iowaeda.com) Additionally, this region of Iowa has potential for significant archaeological sites with numerous previously recorded sites within the APE. Additionally, there is very little survey work in the area so we are unclear what might exist but has not yet been recorded. We recommend a Phase I archaeological survey of all proposed earthmoving, construction, staging, and access routes in accordance with Association of Iowa Archaeologists guidelines.	WAPA is conducting an archival data review, an architectural reconnaissance-level archival review and watershed analysis, and a Phase I archeological field survey through our third-party contractor to identify historic resources in the Project APE.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Historic properties analysis
2	Carroll County Assessor	11/3/2023	1-5	Questions regarding archaeology should be directed to: [redacted] Questions regarding historical/architectural (above-ground) resources should be directed to: [redacted]	This has been noted. Thank you for the information.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Section 106 consultation
			1-6	We look forward to continued Section 106 consultation on this undertaking. You will not receive a hard copy of this email. It is the submitter's responsibility to maintain the official file of record. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our office. Requests the number of turbines and the estimated acquisition cost per turbine.	WAPA will continue to carry out the Section 106 consultation process with the Iowa SHPO and has saved the email in the Project's Administrative Record. This information was provided as requested on 11/9/2023.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Section 106 consultation
3	US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7	11/7/2023	3-1	Appropriate level of NEPA Analysis: Determining the appropriate level of NEPA analysis is the responsibility of the lead federal agency. While EPA is not requesting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on materials provided to date, pursuant to CEQ NEPA regulation (40 CFR 1501.6), if the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is unable to mitigate impact to less than significant level and reach a defensible mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), then an EIS would be required.	The NEPA analysis for this Project is tiering off the analysis in WAPA's 2015 Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (2015 PEIS) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and Department of Energy NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR §1501.11 and 10 CFR §1021. As such, if the Project would have significant impacts already evaluated in the 2015 PEIS, a tiered EA would be appropriate as long as the Project implemented all appropriate conservation measures identified in the PEIS. Should any new significant impacts be identified not previously addressed in the 2015 PEIS, a project-specific EIS would be required.	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative; 3.11 – Socioeconomics 1.0 – Introduction	Project cost NEPA analysis

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3	EPA Region 7 (continued)	11/7/2023	3-2	NEPAAssist: EPA Recommends using NEPAAssist as the first step to identify any potential environmental and human health concerns. NEPAAssist may be accessed at: https://www.epa.gov/hepa/nepassist	NEPAAssist was reviewed and relevant information incorporated into the EA.	3.0 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	Affected resources
			3-3	Water Quality: EPA recommends the forthcoming NEPA document describe how the proposed actions may affect water bodies listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and their listing status as impaired. A list of impaired waterbodies is found at: https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/impaired-waters-and-tmdls-region-7	The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) impaired waters were identified and analyzed for the Proposed Project Area (PPA).	3.2 – Water Resources	Clean Water Act Section 303(d)
			3-4	Wetlands and Aquatic Resources: EPA recommends the forthcoming NEPA document explain how the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) guidelines have been applied to both stream and wetland impacts. The Section 404(b)(1) guidelines call for the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative to be selected to address impacts to wetlands, streams, and other waters of the United States. The guidelines also require the sequence of first avoiding, then minimizing, and finally mitigating for any impacts to aquatic resources. The forthcoming NEPA document should discuss proposed mitigation for unavoidable, minimized stream and wetland impacts (if applicable).	Based on the preliminary analysis in the Draft EA, the Project is anticipated to qualify for a nationwide permit under the Clean Water Act. The Project will comply with all general and regional conditions of the applicable permit and implement appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, as identified in the EA.	3.2 – Water Resources	Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1)
			3-5	Air Quality Strategies: Temporary fugitive dust and diesel exhaust emissions from construction activities, such as use of heavy machinery and material hauling, would occur. In 2002, EPA classified diesel emissions as a likely human carcinogen, and in 2012 the International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded that diesel exhaust is carcinogenic to humans. Diesel exhaust can also lead to other serious health conditions and can worsen heart and lung disease. EPA recommends implementing air quality best management practices and mitigation measures for this project. Examples include: use vehicles that are equipped with zero-emission technologies or the most advanced emission control systems available, establish an anti-idling policy for internal combustion vehicles, use onsite renewable electricity generation and/or grid-based electricity rather than diesel-powered generators or other equipment, where appropriate retrofit older-tier or Tier 0 nonroad engines with an exhaust filtration device before it enters the construction site to capture diesel particulate matter, stabilize open storage piles and disturbed areas by covered and/or applying water or chemical/organic dust palliative, where appropriate install wind fencing, use enclosed, climate-controlled cabs pressurized and equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters to reduce operator exposure to diesel exhaust.	A discussion of these health concerns has been included in the EA. The 2015 PEIS includes mitigation measures that address fugitive dust and diesel exhaust emissions from construction activities. These measures are included in the EA and would be implemented by the Project.	3.3 – Air Quality and Climate 3.13 – Health and Safety	Health impacts

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3	EPA Region 7 (continued)	11/7/2023	3-6	Climate Change Resiliency: The Fourth National Climate Assessment (https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/) finds that in the Midwest and Great Plains, extreme heat, drought, severe weather, heavy downpours, and flooding will affect infrastructure, health, air, and water quality. Acute storm events are occurring with increasing frequency and intensity. EPA recommends that the forthcoming NEPA document account for increased storm frequency and intensity in the design of any proposed mitigation to help ensure the health and safety of the public by installing "green" stormwater management features such as stormwater retention/detention basins, permeable pavement, rain gardens, rainwater cisterns, and/or over-sized culverts and bridges (see: https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure). Information on adapting to (and/or mitigating for) the effects of climate change is available at the EPA's Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation Resource Center https://www.epa.gov/aic-x/planning-climate-change-adaptation . Climate change summaries and adaptation and mitigation strategies area also available for individual states, regions, impact types, and sectors at: https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts	Thank you for the information. A discussion of these climate change concerns, along with potential conservation measures to account for the predicted increase in storm frequency and intensity, are being analyzed and considered in relation to the Project.	3.2 – Water Resources 3.3 – Air Quality and Climate 4.0 – Cumulative Impacts	Climate change
			3-7	Environmental Justice and Children's Health: EPA recommends using EIScreen (https://www.epa.gov/eiscreen) as the first step to identify communities living with Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns near the project area. EPA recommends that any affected communities living with EJ concerns be identified and given an opportunity to provide input into the remainder of the NEPA process, including proposed mitigation, if applicable. The forthcoming NEPA document should include information describing what was or will be done to inform these communities about the project and the potential impacts it may have on their communities, what input has been received to date from the communities, and how that input was or will be used in decision-making. If you have any questions about EJ or would like EPA's help reaching out to the communities that may be affected by this project, please contact [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED].	The EIScreen was reviewed for potential impacts to EJ communities, and the findings presented in the EA.	3.12 – Environmental Justice	Environmental Justice analysis
			3-8	Demolition Debris and Contamination: EPA recommends testing structures to be demolished for lead paint, asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCB), Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and organic petroleum compounds. We also recommend testing the soil beneath those structures, and remediate, if necessary. Any contaminated material that cannot be remediated should be disposed of in accordance with federal and state regulations before planning vegetation in the affected area. We also recommend reuse and/or recycling of demolition debris to the maximum extent possible. For more information, see: https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-management-construction-and-demolition-materials	Silver Queen Wind Project, LLC (Silver Queen) does not anticipate needing to demolish any existing structures for the Project. Silver Queen plans to conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment to ensure the Project avoids affecting areas of potential contamination.	3-1 – Soils, Geological, and Paleontological Resources 3.13 – Health and Safety	Health impacts
			3-9	Energy Efficiency: For new structures associated with the proposed project, EPA recommends the use of energy-efficient and/or sustainable building materials, where appropriate, such as south-facing skylights and windows, motion-sensor lighting, and Energy Star certified windows, doors, and appliances. We also recommend installation of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels. See https://www.epa.gov/energy/reduce-environmental-impact-your-energy-use-and-sec-on-438-of-the-energy-independence-and-security-act (EISA) for examples of how to integrate energy efficiency into Federal projects.	Silver Queen will take these recommendations into consideration for the construction of the O&M Facility.	3.3 – Air Quality and Climate	Energy efficiency



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4	Private Citizen	10/24/2023	3-10	Pollinators and Native Plant Species: Pollinators are critical contributors to our nation's economy, food system, and environmental health. Vegetation within the project area can provide vital habitat for pollinators, providing food, shelter, and connections to other patches of habitat. Where feasible, EPA recommends planning native species and pollinator-friendly plants within the project footprint. For more information, https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/find-best-management-practices-protect-pollinators see: https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/find-best-management-practices-protect-pollinators and https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/m405	The Project would restore areas disturbed by construction with native grasses, forbs, and shrubs, in accordance with the 2015 PEIS best management practices and mitigation measures.	3.2 – Water Resources 3.5 – Vegetation	Revegetation
			3-11	Consultation Records: EPA recommends attaching to the forthcoming NEPA document inter-agency consultation documents regarding historic and cultural resources (Iowa State Historic Preservation Office), wetlands and streams (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and Federal and state threatened and endangered species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Iowa Department of Natural Resources), and any affected Tribes.	WAPA will attach the inter-agency consultation documents referred to in the comment as appendices to the Draft and Final EAs as they are submitted and received. Information will be redacted when necessary to protect sensitive resources.	3.2 – Water Resources 3.7 – State- and Federally Listed Species 3.9 – Cultural Resources	Inter-agency consultation
			3-12	Electronic Recordkeeping: In order to comply with the National Archives' electronic records regulations, the EPA Region 7 NEPA Program has set up an inbox to receive future projects. Our email address is: [REDACTED]	Thank you for the information. WAPA will submit the EA to the email referenced in the comment.	N/A	Federal record keeping
			4-1	Thank you for reaching out regarding the Wind Turbine project in our area. My husband and I own just over 6 acres on [REDACTED] and I do have a strong position on wind turbines near our home. I am pretty adamant that I do not want, at any time, turbine noise or shadows from the structures on our property. I am requesting the proposed boundary be moved at least one mile to the west so that it ends on [REDACTED]. since this is right on the very edge of the map, I feel this a very reasonable request to make.	The Wind Farm Boundary does not define the properties upon which Silver Queen will cite turbines, but rather the area Silver Queen has considered. Silver Queen has cited turbines on lands with lease and/or easement agreements in place with landowners, and in accordance with siting restrictions established in the Project's development agreements with the county (also see responses to comments 4-2 and 4-7).	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative 3.4 – Noise 3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities 3.8 – Visual Resources Appendices A, G, and K	Turbine locations
			4-2	While I understand that these are a source of energy, I still don't want any near our property. I spend a great deal of time outside and I don't want the quality of my or my family's life decreased by these wind turbines constructed near our property line. I am familiar with the noise, shadows, and flashing light that they produce, I am not interested in having any of these issues when I am enjoying my time at home on my acreage.	Silver Queen has designed the Project to minimize noise and shadow-flicker impacts by locating turbines such that noise from operating turbines is no more than 45 A-weighted decibels (dBA) at occupied residences, and shadow-flicker effect would occur no more than 30 hours per year in adherence to the Project's development agreements with the counties. Based on setback commitments, Silver Queen has sited turbines at least 1,750 feet from occupied residences. Silver Queen plans to install an ADLS at the Project that would substantially minimize the effects of turbine marker lights.	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative 3.4 – Noise 3.8 – Visual Resources Appendices A, G, and K	Noise, Lights, and shadow-flicker, quality of life
4-3	We have no financial gain from these going up in our area...	While direct financial benefits may not be experienced by non-participating landowners in the Project vicinity, increased county tax revenues from Project operations are expected to be an indirect benefit experienced by members of the community through improved public services.	3.11 – Socioeconomics	Economic benefits			
4-4	...and only see our property value decreasing.	The EA analyzes potential impacts on property values.	3.11 – Socioeconomics	Property values			
4-5	At a minimum, I don't want any constructed within a mile of our property.	See response to comment 4-1.	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative	Turbine locations			



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4-6			4-6	The majority of our neighbors along [REDACTED] also own acreages and not the farm ground that these would be constructed on so would receive no value from this project.	See response to comment 4-3.	3.11 – Socioeconomics	Economic benefits
			4-7	Please respond if you will consider moving the boundary line.	We appreciate your concern. The Project is compliant with all the requisite permits and setbacks and has gone through numerous revisions to minimize potential impacts (see responses to comments 4-1 and 4-2). We welcome any additional comments if the commentator still has concerns after reviewing the proposed layout and Draft EA.	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative	Turbine locations
5	Private Citizen	10/25/2023	5-1	I own land within the project area. I fully support the project and look forward to its completion.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A	N/A
6	Private Citizen	10/31/2023	6-1	We are writing to request a live stream to be made available for the 11/1/23 Silver Queen Wind Farm Project public meeting. Our farm is on the border of the proposed project. We are interested in hearing your presentation however cannot attend as we both live a distance away. Can you kindly provide a live stream to benefit those unable to attend in person?	WAPA informed the commentator on 10/31/2023 that the meeting would consist of a series of informal stations and would not be a structured meeting. Several stations would be interacting with the public simultaneously and would not be conducive to live streaming. WAPA further provided the commentator with electronic versions of the posters that would be displayed at the meeting, and noted that additional information could be found on WAPA's project website: https://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/urp/environment/silver-queen-wind-farm/	N/A	Public Scoping
7	Private Citizen	11/12/2023	7-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA invited the commentator to respond if they had questions or comments after reviewing the posters and website. WAPA has included this commentator on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
8	Hayes Township Scheutzen Verein (5-Mile House)	11/9/2023	8-1	Our organization has no real concerns with this project concerning our land where our facility is located. Our tract of land is too small to locate a wind turbine on it, so it will not directly affect us.	Thank you for your comment and the information regarding 5-Mile House; a discussion is included in the EA.	3.4 – Noise 3.8 – Visual Resources 3.9 – Cultural Resources 3.11 – Socioeconomics	Community resource impacts
9	Private Citizen	10/26/2023	9-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this commentator on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
10	Private Citizen	10/30/2023	10-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this commentator on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA

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11	Private Business	10/31/2023	11-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
12	Private Citizen	11/9/2023	12-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
13	Private Citizen	11/9/2023	13-1	When is the applicant going to make its proposed development plan available to view? (i.e. where the turbines would be located, where access roads, electric lines, etc. would be located).	The proposed development plan, including the locations of Project infrastructure, will be described in the Draft EA, anticipated to be released for public review and comment in March 2024.	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative	Project design
13	Private Citizen	11/9/2023	13-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card....Note change of address [REDACTED]	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list with the updated address and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
13	Private Citizen	11/9/2023	13-2	We are looking forward to hearing more as to what has been happening in the area.	Thank you for your comment.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Project information
14	Private Citizen	11/1/2023	14-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
14	Private Citizen	11/1/2023	14-2	Our son lives on farm just north of Westside [REDACTED] To get to the north side of Hwy 30 the lines would need to go under Hwy 30 under railroad and through wide creek to get turbines north of Arcadia, is that possible?	At the current time, the Project does not plan to construct any turbines north of Highway 30.	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative 3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities	Routing
15	Private Citizen	11/9/2023	15-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
16	Private Citizen	11/7/2023	16-1	1. How close to city limits will turbines be? 2. Having been in our rural areas near turbines we know the noise is a constant thump, thud! if you live close enough to hear them they destroy any quality of life outdoors, no peace + quiet, can't enjoy an open window + they agitate animals + scare birds. 3. The noise when they reverse is clang, clang, clang!	The nearest turbine to Westside, Iowa, will be approximately 0.87 mile away. The next closest turbine will be approximately 2.5 miles away. The remaining turbines will be over 3.0 miles away. The next closest communities, Arcadia and Halbur, Iowa, are approximately 1.0 and 1.5 miles from the nearest turbines. The Draft EA provides an analysis of potential noise impacts on people and wildlife (also see response in Comment 4-2).	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative 3.8 – Visual Resources 3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities	Turbine locations
16	Private Citizen	11/7/2023	16-2			3.4 – Noise 3.6 – Wildlife	Noise impacts on people and wildlife

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17	Private Business	11/2/2023	16-3	4. No amount of revenue to Any entity is worth the impact wind turbines will have on the population of Westside, Iowa, a small community that is currently peaceful + quiet.	The Draft EA provides an analysis of potential noise impacts based on the distance of noise receptors, including Westside, from wind turbines (also see response in Comment 4-2). While direct financial benefits may not be experienced by non-participating landowners in the Project vicinity, increased county tax revenues from Project operations are expected to be an indirect benefit experienced by members of the community through improved public services.	3.4 – Noise 3.11 – Socioeconomics Appendix G	Noise impacts on community of Westside, Iowa Economic Benefits	
			17-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA	
			17-2	1. What is the consideration that will be offered in return for granting the right to construct, operate and maintain a wind farm generating facility on a tract or land? 2. Will a construction easement be required and if so, what is the extent and duration of this easement? 3. What is the consideration for the easement referred to in 2. A above?	As described in Section 3.11.2 of the Draft EA, participating private landowners receive easement and/or lease payments during development, construction, and operations. The development, construction, and operation terms are defined in the lease and easement agreements. Construction is expected to take up to 2 years.	3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities	Lease and easement terms	
	17	Private Business (continued)	11/2/2023	17-3	4. In the event this facility is no longer used, obsolete or abandoned, who pays for its removal, cleanup and land restoration and who does this?	Participating private landowners would receive easement and/or lease payments during development, construction, and operations. Decommissioning responsibilities and requirements are based on landowner and county agreements. Decommissioning activities are also addressed in the EA as well as WAPA's 2015 Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (2015 PEIS), to which this EA is tying. Silver Queen would be responsible financially for decommissioning activities.	3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities	Construction easement
				17-4	5. What entity insures that the payment and work referred to in 4. Above is satisfactory completed and further, how is the landowner assured that this will happen if Silver Queen Wind Farm, LLC is no longer in existence or becomes insolvent or bankrupt?	See response to comment 17-5.	3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities	Easement terms
				17-5	6. Will the landowner be held harmless in the event legal action is successfully brought against it for damages resulting from the operation or improper operation of the facility and who provides and pay for the landowner's defense to such an action?	Liability is based on landowner and county agreements with Silver Queen. This would be outside the scope of WAPA's decision addressed in this EA.	3.0 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	Decommissioning
				17-6	I have not signed on as of yet. Will give complete consideration of what is going to be where.	Thank you for the comment. WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities Appendix A	Project performance
18	Private Citizen	11/2/2023	18-1			3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities	Landowner liability	

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19	Private Citizen	11/2/2023	19-1	How is siting + location of individual wind turbines determined for each location.	To site Project turbines, Silver Queen has analyzed the environmental conditions in the PPA to identify areas that would be suitable for wind energy production, worked with landowners to develop lease and/or easement agreements for Project construction and operation, and analyzed the natural and human resources to minimize impacts in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable county, state, and federal laws and regulations. Should additional resources be identified during the NEPA process, Silver Queen will modify its Project design to further minimize impacts where applicable and to the extent feasible.	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative 3.0 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	Turbine locations
			19-2	Can the location be moved to accommodate landowner?	Silver Queen will continue to work with individual landowners that contact them to address their concerns and minimize Project impacts to the extent possible. As noted, Project construction and operation would only occur on lands with lease and/or easement agreements in place with the landowners and based on development agreements with the counties (also see responses to comments 4-1, 4-2, and 19-1). General Silver Queen contact information can be found at scoutcleanenergy.com .	2.2 – Proposed Action Alternative	Project location
20	Private Citizen	11/2/2023	20-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
21	Private Citizen	11/2/2023	21-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
22	Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Regional Office, Regional Director	11/21/2023	22-1	This is in response to your letter of October 16, 2023, concerning the Project No.: Silver Queen Wind Farm Project Carroll and Crawford Counties, Iowa. We have considered the potential for both environmental damage and impacts to archaeological and Native American religious sites on lands held by the United States of America in trust on behalf of the Tribe and within the administrative jurisdiction of the Great Plains Region. We have no environmental objections to the actions as long as the projects comply with all applicable laws and regulations.	Thank you for the information. WAPA and Silver Queen are committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations, as discussed in the associated resource sections of the EA.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
			22-2	You should be aware; however, that Tribes or Tribal members may have lands in fee status near the sites of interest. These lands would not necessarily be in our databases, and the Tribes should be contacted directly to ensure all concerns are recognized. The actions considered have the following project names: October 16, 2023 Project No.: Silver Queen Wind Farm Project Carroll and Crawford Counties, Iowa.	WAPA invited regional tribal governments that may have an interest in the Project to comment and participate in the public scoping meeting. WAPA received no comments or other information from the tribes. In addition, Silver Queen has contacted and provided Project details to all landowners within the PPA. Landowners adjacent to the Wind Farm Boundary were also invited to participate in the scoping process. Project development would only occur on properties where landowners have agreed to participate in the Project through signed lease agreements. No tribal trust or restricted fee-owned properties requiring federal oversight or with lease/easement restrictions related to tribal interests were identified during Silver Queen's land negotiations.	3.10 – Land Use and Public Facilities	Tribal or tribal member land ownership



Silver Queen Wind Farm Project Draft EA
Appendix F – Scoping Comment-Response Matrix

Submittal Number	Entity	Comment Date	Comment Number	Comment	WAPA Response	Relevant EA Section	Comment Topic
			22-3	We also find that the listed action will not affect cultural resources on Tribal or individual landholdings for which we are responsible.	Noted, thank you for the information.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Cultural resource impacts
			22-4	Methodologies for the treatment of cultural resources now known or yet to be discovered – particularly human remains – must nevertheless utilize the best available science in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (as amended), and all other pertinent legislation and implementing regulations.	NAGPRA and ARPA only apply to federal and tribal lands. NAGPRA applies to Native American human remains and ARPA applies to archaeological resources that are 100 years or older. The Project is located on private lands, and in the event that human remains are discovered, Silver Queen will contact the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) who is the proper authority concerning such discoveries within the State (Iowa Code, Chapter 263B). Consultation with the SHPO, interested Tribes, and consulting parties would also take place.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Cultural resource conservation measures
			22-5	Questions regarding environmental opinions and conditions can be addressed to [REDACTED] Environmental Protection Specialist and Archaeological concerns can be addressed to [REDACTED] Regional Archaeologist, at [REDACTED].	Noted, thank you for the information.	3.9 – Cultural Resources	Section 106 Consultation
23	Private Citizen	11/20/2023	23-1	Requested an email of the web link to the NEPA document when it becomes available via the WAPA Public Scoping Comment mailing list card.	WAPA has included this comment on its mailing list and will send them a notice of availability of the Draft EA (including a link for the online document) and an invitation to provide comments during the public comment period.	5.0 – Consultation and Coordination	Access to the Draft EA
24	Private Citizen	12/19/2023	24-1	Rising interest rates and inflation continue to devastate the wind industry. This has the potential to result in some billion dollar failures and the abandonment of used equipment and facilities across the landscape.	Considerations regarding the Project's financial standing are outside the scope of this EA.	N/A	Project finance