

January 31, 2013

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



**RE: Letter of Intent to Submit Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC's Courtenay Wind Farm Project, and Corporate Documents**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Please find enclosed herewith for filing an original and ten (10) copies of the following documents:

1. Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC's Letter of Intent to submit an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for its Courtenay Wind Farm Project;
2. A certified copy of the Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC's Articles of Organization from the Secretary of State of North Dakota;
3. A Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State of North Dakota for Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC; and
4. Corporation Details for Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC, obtained from the North Dakota Secretary of State website.

Also enclosed herewith is a CD containing the above-referenced documents and this letter in PDF format. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mollie M. Smith".

MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/ms  
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Patrick Smith

5317055\_1.doc

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**Letter of Intent**

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**RE: Letter of Intent to Submit Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC's Courtenay Wind Farm Project, and Request for Waiver of One-Year Notice Period**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC ("CWF"), a North Dakota limited liability company, is filing this Letter of Intent ("LOI") to submit an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for a wind energy conversion facility pursuant to Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and Article 69-06 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. Additionally, CWF is requesting a waiver from Section 69-06-03-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. The proposed wind energy conversion facility will be known as the Courtenay Wind Farm Project ("Project") and will be located in Stutsman County, North Dakota. The sections that follow provide the Project information required pursuant to Section 69-06-03-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code.

**Project Overview: Size, Type, and Study Area**

The Project will be an up to 134 turbine, 200.5 megawatt ("MW") wind energy conversion facility sited within approximately 25,000 acres of northeastern Stutsman County. **Exhibit A**, attached hereto, identifies the proposed Project site, as well as the proposed study area.

Geronimo Wind Energy, CWF's majority owner, began developing the Project in 2009 based on community interest, the strong wind resource, and low environmental impact. The Project's development is based on a community investment model, which includes an option for Project participants to invest in the Project and the creation of a local foundation to share a percentage of the Project's revenue with the community. The Project will invest approximately \$170 million (the cost of the Project) in Stutsman County, and 10 or more full time employees will be required to operate the facility. During construction, the Project will generate over 200 jobs, as well as provide other significant local economic benefits.

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Geronimo Wind Energy, a Minnesota-based renewable energy developer with strong agricultural and investing roots, recently completed construction of the Prairie Rose Wind Farm, a 200 MW facility located in southwestern Minnesota, and has previously developed 40 MW of community-based wind energy.

### **Area to be Served**

CWF has not yet identified the specific area or areas to be served by the Project. However, CWF anticipates that the Project's output will serve the needs of one or more utilities located within the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator ("MISO") service territory, or within a service territory adjacent to the MISO service territory.

The proposed Project will interconnect to the grid at Otter Tail Power Company's 115/345 kilovolt ("kV") substation located north of Jamestown, North Dakota. A 115 kV generator lead line will be constructed to facilitate interconnection of the project. In accordance with Section 49-22-03(12)(a) of the North Dakota Century Code, the proposed generator lead line falls outside of the North Dakota Public Service Commission's ("Commission") siting jurisdiction and will be permitted through Stutsman County.

### **Anticipated Construction and Operation Schedule**

CWF plans for the Project to be operational by the end of 2014 and intends to develop the Project on the following schedule:

- First Quarter 2013 – File an application with the Commission for a Certificate of Site Compatibility, and file an application with Stutsman County for a conditional use permit.
- Third Quarter 2013 – The Commission grants a Certificate of Site Compatibility, and the County grants a conditional use permit.
- Third Quarter 2013 – Begin construction of the Project.
- Third Quarter 2014 – Complete construction of the Project.

### **Estimated Total Cost of Construction**

The total cost of the proposed Project is estimated to be approximately \$170 million.

### **Waiver Request**

CWF requests a waiver from Section 69-06-03-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, which establishes a one-year notice period between filing the LOI and filing an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility. Pursuant to Section 69-06-03-01, the Commission may

approve a shorter notice period, and CWF requests that the one-year notice period be shortened from one year to one month.

During Project development, CWF needs to meet certain milestones, including obtaining required permits, in order to secure financing for the Project, which is essential to being able to obtain turbines and other long lead-time equipment necessary to construct the Project. In addition, CWF needs to begin construction of the Project before the end of 2013 in order to take advantage of the federal Production Tax Credit, and securing a Certificate of Site Compatibility as soon as possible is essential to meeting CWF's proposed construction schedule. For these reasons, CWF requests a waiver of the one-year notice period in order to allow adequate time to receive permits, secure financing, and begin construction of the Project in the third quarter of 2013.

We look forward to working with the Commission on this matter. If you have any questions regarding the proposed Project or this Letter of Intent, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mollie M. Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/mms  
Encl.

**Exhibit A:**  
**Courtenay Wind Farm, Stutsman Co., ND**  
**Project Boundary and Study Area**

**LEGEND**

-  Study Area
-  Wind Farm
-  Counties
-  Townships
-  Sections

