

## MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Kroshus, Fedorchak, and Christmann

From: Brian Johnson

Date: May 7, 2021

PPM Energy, Inc. PU-05-47  
Rugby Wind Farm – Pierce County  
Siting Application

Re: PPM Energy Inc., Rugby Wind Farm – Pierce County Siting Application, Petition for Extension of Light Mitigation Deadline

On March 22, 2021 PPM Energy submitted a petition for extension of the light mitigation deadline. The petition is based on the assumption that the light intensity dimming system known as LIDS would be approved by the FAA in the near future allowing the technology to be installed on the Rugby Wind Farm.

On April 14, 2021 an informal hearing was held, and PPM Energy Inc made a presentation on their proposed extension.

Multiple attempts to contact the FAA were made to determine where in the approval process LIDS was at. None of these attempts received a response.

I had contacted Tyler Hardy who is a staffer for Senator Hoeven to see if Senator Hoeven's office could obtain an answer from the FAA. On May 6, 2021 I received a phone call from Tyler regarding LIDS and its approval status with the FAA.

Tyler was contacted by the FAA and updated on the LIDS approval status. Tyler relayed to me that the FAA has serious concerns with the safety of the LIDS system in its current configuration. The FAA is working with the manufacturer on a new LIDS configuration to address the concerns about the light output which is the main safety concern with the LIDS as currently configured. The FAA relayed to Tyler that the company is developing an updated system. This system would be installed on the windfarm in Oklahoma for further flight testing. Tyler stated that the LIDS approval would be delayed during this testing. When I enquired if this testing would likely be finished in a year, Tyler stated that it did not appear likely that the testing of the new LIDS system would be completed within a year, as the system would have to be installed and test flights would have to be conducted and the safety of the system evaluated.

Based on the information provided to Senator Hoeven's office by the FAA it does not appear that LIDS will be approved in time for PPM Energy Inc. to install LIDS if given the requested extension.

Based on the above I recommend that the petition for extension submitted by PPM Energy Inc. be denied.