

North Dakota Public Service Commission

DE-OE0000151

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Progress Report for January 1, 2012 – March 30, 2012

April 25, 2012

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY State Electricity Regulators Assistance Grant

1. Accomplishments with the Goal and Objectives:

The ARRA Public Utility Analyst submitted the siting rules draft which is in its final stages before it is proposed formally to the Administrative Rules Committee. The ARRA Public Utility Analyst has started working on a spreadsheet and map identifying critical information and locations for all wind projects in North Dakota.

The ARRA Public Utility Analyst has also assisted with case numbers PU-12-24 Otter Tail Power Company's 2012 Renewable Resource Cost Recovery Adjustment Factor, PU-12-70 Northern States Power Company's Advance Determination of Prudence Application for its Manitoba Hydro project, and PU-12-59 Northern States Power Company's Advance Determination of Prudence Application for its Geronimo Wind project.

The ARRA Public Utility Analyst worked closely with Lake Region State College on their waiver request and application for siting approval for a 1.6 MW wind tower to be sited near its in case number PU-11-686.

The ARRA Public Utility Analyst is also working on Otter Tail Power Company's Cost of Energy Adjustment Clause tariff revision, case number PU-12-99. A motion for suspension of the tariff and notice of opportunity for hearing were approved on the March 21, 2012 Commission agenda.

2. Discussion of Accomplishments:

3. Cost Status:

The cost to this point has primarily been wage and benefits, and operating expenses related to the one position. The approximate cost incurred through April 30, 2012 is

4. Schedule Status:

The ND Public Service Commission is on schedule.

5. Significant Changes:

As stated in previous quarterly reports the commission has decided to not fill the two remaining positions authorized under the grant. Given the temporary nature of this grant

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and the unlikelihood that state funding could be procured for extending the positions, there was little reason to fill the positions as initially proposed.

The Commission requested and has been authorized to extend the grant period for one additional year ending December 31, 2012 and reducing the grant amount initially requested.

6. **Problems or Delays:**
See above discussion.

7. **Personnel Updates:**
See above discussion.

8. **Product or Technology Production:**
None