MONTANA-DAKOTA
UTILITIES CO.
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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July 20, 2010

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Subject: Cedar Hills Wind Project Decommissioning Plan

In compliance with North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-09-09-06, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. as owner of the Cedar Hills Wind Project located in Bowman County, North Dakota hereby submits its Decommissioning Plan to the North Dakota Public Service Commission. The attached plan outlines costs to dismantle the wind turbines and reclaim the project site in accordance with North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-09-09-06 and land leases in place between the landowners and Montana-Dakota.

Sincerely,

Andrea Stomberg
Vice President, Electric Supply

cc. Tamie Aberle
Darcy Neigum
Alan Welte

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

Cedar Hills Wind Project, Bowman County, ND

Decommissioning Plan

July 20, 2010

1. Introduction

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) has prepared the following Decommissioning Plan, consistent with the requirements outlined by ND Administrative Code Section 69-09-09-06.

The Cedar Hills Wind Project (Wind Project) is comprised of thirteen 1.5 MW GE wind turbines located on privately owned agricultural sections of land located in Bowman County, North Dakota. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was issued by the North Dakota Public Service Commission for the Wind Project on March 25, 2009 in Case No. PU-08-942. The Wind Project went into commercial operation on June 6, 2010. The wind turbines are expected to have a useful life of 20 years.

A. Decommissioning is to include:

a. Removal of all turbine components and associated transformers from the site.
b. Removal of the collector circuit components from the site to a depth of four feet below grade.
c. Removal of all wind project related substation components from the site.

B. Decommissioning is to include removal of all infrastructures at depths up to four feet below finished grade, including removing turbine foundations to a depth of four feet below finished grade. In the case of infrastructure at depths greater than four feet below finished grade, the top four feet of the infrastructure would be removed and the remainder will be abandoned in place. Appropriate grading and seeding will occur where subsurface infrastructure is removed.

2. Cost of Decommissioning

The Estimated Cost of Decommissioning the Project, exclusive of any salvage value, based on a cost estimate as of July 2010 is as follows:

Cedar Hills Wind Turbine Decommissioning Costs 2010 Dollars (13 Turbines)

	Cost for Each Turbine
Mobilize crane ($250,000 total)	$19,230.77
Crane rental ($75,000 total)	$5,769.23
Turbine Disassembly	$27,600.00
Foundation removal to 4' below grade	$2,900.00
Foundation removal equipment	$4,400.00
Dismantle tower sections	$5,000.00
Trucking ($600 per load)	$6,000.00
Top soil restoration	$3,000.00
	$73,900.00 Each Turbine
	$960,700.00 Total Project

3. Description of Decommissioning Process

Decommissioning and restoration activities will adhere to the requirements of appropriate governing authorities and will be in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local permits, if any are

required and the land leases in place between the land-owners and Montana-Dakota. The decommissioning and restoration process comprises removal of above-ground structures, removal of below-ground structures to a depth of four feet, restoration of topsoil, and seeding. The process of removing structures involves evaluating and categorizing all components and materials into categories of recondition and reuse, salvage, recycling, and disposal. In the interest of increased efficiency and minimal transportation impacts, components and materials may be stored on-site at a land owner approved location until the bulk of similar components or materials are ready for transport. The components and material will be transported to the appropriate facilities for reconditioning, salvage, recycling, or disposal. Above-ground structures include the turbines, transformers, overhead collection or transmission lines, substation(s), and wind farm-owned portions of the interconnection facilities. Below-ground structures include turbine, substation, and building foundations, collection system conduit and cable, fiber optic facilities, and subterranean drainage structures (if any).

Turbine removal: Access roads to turbines will be widened to a sufficient width to accommodate movement of appropriately sized cranes, trucks, and other machinery required for the disassembly and removal of the turbines. Control cabinets, electronic components, and internal cables will be removed. The rotor, nacelle and tower sections will be lowered to the ground where they may be transported whole for reconditioning and reuse, or disassembled/cut into more easily transportable sections for salvageable, recyclable, or disposable components.

Turbine and substation foundation removal: Topsoil will be removed from an area surrounding the foundation and stored for later replacement, as applicable. Turbine foundations will be excavated to a depth sufficient to remove all anchor bolts, rebar, conduits, cable, and concrete to a depth of four feet below grade. The remaining excavation will be filled with clean sub-grade material of quality comparable to the immediate surrounding area. The sub-grade material will be compacted to a density similar to surrounding sub-grade material. All unexcavated areas compacted by equipment used in decommissioning will be de-compacted to adequately restore the topsoil and sub-grade material to the proper density consistent and compatible with the surrounding area.

Underground collection cables: The cables and conduits contain no materials known to be harmful to the environment. As part of the decommissioning, these items will be cut back to a depth of at least four feet. All cable and conduit and other materials buried greater than four feet will be left in place and abandoned.

Overhead collection lines: Overhead collection lines and poles will be removed as needed.

Access roads and construction pads: Access roads and construction pads will be reclaimed to agricultural land suitable for its purpose before the construction of the Wind Project.

4. Description of Site Restoration Activities

Topsoil will be removed prior to the removal of structures from all work areas and stockpiled, clearly designated, and separated from other excavated material. The topsoil will be replaced to original depth. The topsoil will be de-compacted to match the density and consistency of the immediate surrounding area. Any topsoil deficiency and trench settling shall be mitigated with

imported topsoil consistent with the quality of the affected site. Following decommissioning activities, the sub-grade material and topsoil from affected areas will be de-compacted and restored to a density and depth consistent with the surrounding areas to a maximum depth of 18 inches. The affected areas will be inspected, thoroughly cleaned, and all construction-related debris removed. Disturbed areas will be reseeded to promote re-vegetation of the area to a condition reasonably similar to original condition. In all areas restoration shall include, as reasonably required, leveling, terracing, mulching, and other necessary steps to prevent soil erosion, to ensure establishment of suitable grasses and forbs, and to control noxious weeds and pests.

5. Decommissioning period: Montana-Dakota shall begin decommissioning a commercial wind energy conversion facility or wind turbine within eight months after the time the facility or turbine reaches the end of its useful life, as determined in section 69-09-09-03. Decommissioning must be completed within eighteen months after the facility or turbine reaches the end of its useful life.