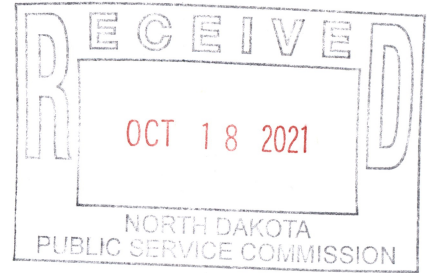


September 23, 2021



Geri Schmaltz
 Administrative Officer
 ND Public Service Commission
 600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept 408
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Project Code: PU-09-151;PU-11-57;PU-11-162;PU-11-662;PU-13-127, Allete Inc Wind Project Light Mitigation Technology Consolidated hearing in Mercer, Morton, Oliver Counties

Dear Ms. Schmaltz:

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the information concerning the above-referenced project received at the department on September 3, 2021 with respect to possible environmental impacts.

This department believes that environmental impacts from the proposed construction will be minor and can be controlled by proper construction methods. With respect to construction, we have the following comments:

1. Care is to be taken during construction activity near any water of the state to minimize adverse effects on a water body. This includes minimal disturbance of stream beds and banks to prevent excess siltation, and the replacement and revegetation of any disturbed area as soon as possible after work has been completed. Caution must also be taken to prevent spills of oil and grease that may reach the receiving water from equipment maintenance, and/or the handling of fuels on the site. Guidelines for minimizing degradation to waterways during construction are attached.
2. All solid waste materials must be managed and transported in accordance with the state's solid and hazardous waste rules. Appropriate efforts to reduce, reuse and/or recycle waste materials are strongly encouraged. As appropriate, segregation of inert waste from non-inert waste can generally reduce the cost of waste management. Further information on waste management and recycling is available from the department's Division of Waste Management at (701) 328-5166.

These comments are based on the information provided about the project in the above-referenced submittal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may require a water quality certification from this department for the project if the project is subject to their Section 404 permitting process. Any additional information which may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the process will be considered by this department in our determination regarding the issuance of such a certification.

160 PU-11-662 Filed 10/18/2021 Pages: 3 Agency Correspondence North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) L. David Glatt, P.E., Director 918 East	146 PU-11-57 Filed 10/18/2021 Pages: 3 Agency Correspondence North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) L. David Glatt, P.E., Director
Director's Office 701-328-5150 Division Air Quali 701-328-5	133 PU-11-162 Filed 10/18/2021 Pages: 3 Agency Correspondence North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) L. David Glatt, P.E., Director
	208 PU-09-151 Filed 10/18/2021 Pages: 3 Agency Correspondence North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) L. David Glatt, P.E., Director

The department owns no land in or adjacent to the proposed improvements, nor does it have any projects scheduled in the area. In addition, we believe the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. David Glatt". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

L. David Glatt, P.E., Director
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

LDG:csc
Attach.

Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements

The following are the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for projects that involve construction and environmental disturbance in or near waters of the State of North Dakota. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect waters of the state. All projects must be constructed to minimize the loss of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site.

Soils

Prevent the erosion and sediment loss using erosion and sediment controls. Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, and land resources must be prohibited against compaction, vegetation loss and unnecessary damage.

Surface Waters

All construction must be managed to minimize impacts to aquatic systems. Follow safe storage and handling procedures to prevent the contamination of water from fuel spills, lubricants, and chemicals. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances must be contained to minimize silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocations, and any physical chemicals, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near surface waters is allowed under the department's pesticide application permit with notification to the department.

Fill Material

Any fill material placed below the ordinary high-water mark must be free of topsoil, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds; including, but not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The department may require testing of fill material. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid waste must be properly disposed or recycled. Impacted areas must be restored to near original condition.