

Ashtabula Wind III, LLC

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May 23, 2011

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Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
Director of Administration
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0408

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

UPS Overnight Mail

RE: Ashtabula Wind III, LLC
62.4 MW Wind Energy Center near Valley City, ND

Dear Executive Secretary Nitschke:

Enclosed in the above-referenced matter are an original and seven (7) copies of a Decommissioning Plan with a cost estimate for the 62.4 MW Ashtabula Wind III, LLC wind energy center near Valley City, ND.

If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please contact Richard Levin at (561) 304-6041.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Tindell
Vice President
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Decommissioning plan and cost estimate

Ashtabula Wind III, LLC

Cynthia A. Tindell

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Case No. _____

**Ashtabula Wind III, LLC
62.4 MW Project - Wind**

DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

Pursuant to ND Administrative Code § 69-09-09-06 and § 69-09-09-07, please accept this filing as the decommissioning plan for the 62.4 MW Ashtabula Wind III, LLC wind energy center near Valley City, North Dakota. The decommissioning plan is presumed on a scenario in which the salvage value of the components is recouped at the end of the project's life.

Salvage and Resale Value. The resale value of a wind turbine refers to the potential salvage value at the end of its useful life. The estimate for salvage value included in the decommissioning cost calculation is based on an estimated tonnage of scrap metals and pricing from the London Metal Exchange.

Decommission Activities. Decommission of turbines and towers for this estimate includes dismantling of turbine components and transporting offsite. The costs and activities for the removal of the tower and wind turbine components, the meteorological tower, access roads, and the collection system have been evaluated, as follows:

Tower and Wind Turbine Components. The turbines are GE 1.6 MW on 80 meter steel towers. Activities have been estimated for dismantling the turbines, the tower sections and wind turbine blades. Removal of the tower wiring and transformer is also included. All components would be removed from the property.

Tower and Transformer Foundations. Tower and transformer foundations, conduits and connections will be removed to a depth of three (3) feet below existing grade. The foundation sites would be graded to match surrounding contours and be restored to conditions that will support surrounding vegetation.

Tower Access Roads. Aggregate base roads will be scarified, loaded and removed from site to an appropriate location. Remaining subgrade will be decompacted and graded into the adjacent soils to the approximate existing topography. This area will be covered with topsoil from the site and vegetation re-established.

Collection System. The collection system terminations near the transformer will be removed to a depth of three (3) feet below existing ground line. The underground collection system cabling is assumed to be left in place at its current depth of approximately two (2) feet.

Disturbed areas would be restored and reclaimed to the same general. Topsoil will be spread over the disturbed area at a depth similar to that in existence prior to the disturbance. The disturbed areas would be graded, top-soiled and reseeded according to National Resource Conservation Service guidelines, unless the landowner requests, in writing, that the access roads or other land surface areas be retained.

Within eight (8) months after the facility or turbine reaches the end of its useful life (after no electricity generation for a continuing period of 24 months), decommissioning shall begin and will be completed within eighteen (18) months after the facility or turbine reaches the end of its useful life.

The cost of the decommissioning would be paid for using funds obtained from internally generated cash flows.

If ordered by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, after the tenth (10th) year of operation, the owner/operator will secure a performance or surety bond, letter of credit, corporate guarantee, or other form of financial assurance acceptable to the Commission to cover the anticipated costs of decommissioning.

The total cost of decommissioning and restoration, less salvage value, is estimated to be approximately \$18.4 per kW. For the Ashtabula Wind III, LLC site, this equates to \$1,150,376. The asset retirement obligation, which includes decommissioning and restoration, is reviewed on an annual basis in compliance with the company's internal Sarbanes-Oxley 404 policy.