

North Dakota Public Service Commission
INFORMAL HEARING
October 24, 2012

Oliver Wind III, LLC
48 MW Wind Energy Center – Morton County
Siting Application

Case No. PU-11-561

Summary of Proposal: On September 19, 2012, Oliver Wind III, LLC filed an application for Amendment to Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 27 issued for its Oliver Wind III Wind Energy Center consisting of up to 30 1.6 MW wind turbines and associated facilities in Morton County, North Dakota. Oliver Wind III requests to amend its site permit to accommodate larger more efficient turbines with a 100 meter blade diameter instead of the previously authorized 82.5 meter diameters and with a generating capacity of up to 1.7 MW per turbine which Oliver Wind is considering using instead of the permitted 1.6 MW turbines. A construction start date still has not been established.

In order to accommodate the larger blade diameters, Oliver Wind requests approval of a revised site plan with increased distances between turbines and increased setbacks. Morton County requires setbacks of 1.5 times rotor diameter from the project area perimeter and 1.25 times total height or 1,320 feet from residences, commercial buildings, publicly used structures and state/county parks. With the larger blades, 1.5 times the new rotor diameter increases from 406 feet to 492 feet and 1.25 times structure height increases from 496 feet to 533 feet. The Commission's requirement of 1.1 times turbine height from existing transmission lines, improved road right-of-ways, railroads and property boundaries increases from 440 to 469 feet.

Comparing the new turbine layout to what was previously permitted, 6 of the 34 originally proposed turbine locations did not move and one planned turbine was completely removed. The other turbines moved between 6 and 450 feet. All but three turbines moved less than 250 feet. Three of the former alternates are now planned turbines, and two of the previous planned turbines are now alternates. A map with a table indicating the revised locations compared to the permitted locations was included with the application.

Discussion: On September 27, 2012 the Commission issued a Notice of Informal Hearing and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until November 6, 2012 for receiving written comments or hearing requests. No response has yet been received.

On October 22, 2012, Oliver Wind filed exclusion and avoidance area tables with supporting data and an overall site plan. Oliver Wind included a summary of noise and shadow flicker results in its supporting data, but explains that the final reports are still pending along with SHPO concurrence for the additional cultural resource surveys.

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