

**North Dakota Public Service Commission**  
**INFORMAL HEARING**  
**October 24, 2012**

**Wilton Wind IV, LLC**  
**99 MW Wind Energy Center - Burleigh County**  
**Siting Application**

**Case No. PU-11-646**

**Summary of Proposal:** On September 13, 2012, Wilton Wind IV, LLC filed an application for Amendment to Certificate of Site Compatibility No 26 issued for its Wilton Wind IV Wind Energy Center consisting of up to 66 1.6 MW wind turbines and associated facilities in Morton County, North Dakota. Wilton Wind IV 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 Wilton Wind is considering using for 58 of the turbines 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. 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 permitted by the PSC, all but five turbines moved less than 250 feet. Of the 64 originally proposed turbines, 21 turbines did not move and the rest have shifted between 26 and 382 feet. One planned turbine was completely removed, and a new turbine location was added. One former alternate turbine location is now a planned turbine, and one former planned turbine is now an alternate. A map with a table indicating the revised locations compared to the permitted locations was included with the application. Wilton Wind reports it is reviewing the need for an additional five acres at the substation location.

**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, Wilton Wind filed exclusion and avoidance area tables with supporting data and an overall site plan. Wilton 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.

**Prepared by:** Jerry Lein