

June 29, 2012

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VIA HAND DELIVERY

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Meadowlark Wind I LLC's Ten Year Plan for 2012-2022
Case No. PU-12-___**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

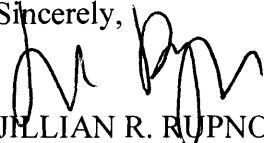
Please find enclosed for filing an original and ten (10) copies of the following:

1. Meadowlark Wind I LLC's Ten Year Plan: 2012-2022.

Also enclosed is a CD containing the above-referenced document and this letter in PDF format.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



JILLIAN R. RUPNOW

JR/ms

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Scott Koziar (w/ encl. – via e-mail)
Ms. Mollie M. Smith (w/ encl. – via e-mail)

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TEN YEAR PLAN: 2012-2022
Meadowlark Wind I LLC

June 2012

In accordance with Section 49-22-04 of the North Dakota Century Code and Chapter 69-06-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, Meadowlark Wind I LLC (Meadowlark I), submits the following Ten Year Plan for years 2012 through 2022.

- (1) *A description of the general location, size, and type of all facilities to be owned or operated by the utility during the ensuing ten years, as well as those facilities to be removed from service during the ten-year period.*

Meadowlark I, a wholly owned subsidiary of Element Power US, LLC, is a renewable energy development company formally organized on November 10, 2009. Meadowlark I is currently developing a wind energy conversion project known as the New Frontier Wind Project, an up to 102 megawatt project that will be located on approximately 13,000 acres of privately-owned property in McHenry County, North Dakota. On April 25, 2012, the North Dakota Public Service Commission issued Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 29 to Meadowlark I for the New Frontier Wind Project (see Case No. PU-11-069). A 15-mile-long 115 kilovolt (kV) generator lead line will be constructed in order to interconnect the New Frontier Wind Project to the transmission grid at the McHenry Substation, located just west of Voltaire, North Dakota.

Meadowlark I does not currently own or operate any facilities. As such, Meadowlark I will not be removing any facilities from service during the next ten years. In addition, with the exception of the New Frontier Wind Project and associated 115 kV generator lead line, Meadowlark I does not plan to own or operate any other facilities within the State of North Dakota during the next ten years.

- (2) *An identification of the location of the tentative preferred site for all energy conversion facilities and the tentative location of all transmission facilities on which construction is intended to be commenced within the ensuing five years and such other information as may be required by the commission. The site and corridor identification shall be made in compliance with the criteria published by the commission pursuant to section 49-22-05.1.*

At this time Meadowlark I is only pursuing the 102 MW New Frontier Wind Project. As part of the permitting process, Meadowlark I utilized both internal and external personnel to evaluate the site selected for the project so as to ensure compliance with the exclusion and avoidance area criteria referenced in Section 49-22-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code and identified in Section 69-06-08-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. A map showing the location of the New Frontier Wind Project was provided as Public Hearing Exhibit 4 in Case No. PU-11-069.

- (3) *A description of the efforts by the utility to coordinate the plan with other utilities so as to provide a coordinated regional plan for meeting the utility needs of the region.*

Since September 10, 2008, Meadowlark I has had an application pending before the Midwest Independent Transmission Systems Operator (MISO) for an interconnection of 99 MW of wind

generation at the McHenry Substation, just west of Voltaire, North Dakota. The point of interconnection (POI) alternatives for pending wind resource development projects in the region are limited and the McHenry Substation offers a strategic POI to potential wind energy markets. Meadowlark I is currently studying its options while the MISO is re-evaluating its estimated original interconnection costs and also its cost allocation formula for new generators in its current cycle of the Definitive Planning Phase (DPP) stage.

Meadowlark I's Interconnection Application was filed per the MISO Business Practice Manual 015 for Generator Interconnection. Meadowlark I's Interconnection Application and MISO's administration of the application are consistent with MISO's Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserves Market Tariff, as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and per the operating policies of the Electric Reliability Organization designed to facilitate the administration of efficient energy markets.

- (4) *A description of the efforts to involve environmental protection and land-use planning agencies in the planning process, as well as other efforts to identify and minimize environmental problems at the earliest possible stage in the planning process.*

Meadowlark I utilized internal and external environmental personnel to conduct studies of and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the New Frontier Wind Project site, in accordance with Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and Chapter 69-06-08 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. Meadowlark I also coordinated with federal, state and local agencies and governmental units regarding the project, and obtained all required permits and approvals.

- (5) A statement of the projected demand for the service rendered by the utility for the ensuing ten years and the underlying assumptions for the projection, with that information being as geographically specific as possible, and a description of the manner and extent to which the utility will meet the projected demands.

Meadowlark I plans to sell the energy produced by its proposed renewable energy projects to utilities that need additional renewable energy in order to comply with state and/or, if applicable, federal renewable energy standards and objectives.

In 2007, the North Dakota Legislature enacted a statutory provision adopting the national "25x25" initiative, which establishes a goal of having not less than twenty-five percent of the total energy consumed within the United States come from renewable resources by January 1, 2025.¹ In addition, a regional need exists for renewable energy produced in North Dakota. According to the MISO's 2011 Transmission Expansion Plan (MTEP 2011), the eleven states in the MISO region are expected to need approximately 23,500 MW of wind to meet existing renewable standards and objectives, yet have only achieved about 12,400 MW to date.² As a further example of the existing need for additional renewable energy, sixteen Minnesota utilities reported to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on

¹ See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

² MISO Transmission Expansion Plan 2011, at 44. Available at: www.midwestiso.org (accessed June 28, 2012).

November 1, 2011 that the utilities collectively need to add an additional 3,200 MW of renewable energy by 2025. Given the geographic proximity of Meadowlark l's proposed project to the Minnesota market and Meadowlark l's existing MISO interconnect request, energy from Meadowlark l's proposed project may be utilized to meet the existing renewable energy needs of one or more Minnesota utilities or other utilities in the MISO region, as well as other Regional utilities located in adjacent Transmission Organizations (RTO)/Independent System Operators (ISO), such as WAPA, PJM, or TVA.

Thus, the up to 102 MW of renewable energy that may be produced by Meadowlark l's proposed wind project will help meet the increasing regional need for renewable energy.

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