

June 28, 2013

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

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



**RE: Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC's Ten Year Plan for 2013-2023
Case No. PU-13-___**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Please find enclosed for filing an original and ten (10) copies of Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC's Ten Year Plan: 2013-2023.

An electronic copy of the enclosed document was emailed to the Commission. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mollie M. Smith".

Mollie M. Smith

MS/rg
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Patrick Smith (w/ encl. – *via e-mail*)

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Attorneys & Advisors
main 612.492.7000
fax 612.492.7077
www.fredlaw.com

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, Minnesota
55402-1425

TEN YEAR PLAN: 2013-2023
Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC

June 2013

In accordance with Section 49-22-04 of the North Dakota Century Code and Chapter 69-06-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC (Courtenay), submits the following Ten Year Plan for years 2013 through 2023.

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.*

Courtenay is proposing to develop and construct an up to 200.5 MW wind project known as the Courtenay Wind Farm that will be located in northeastern Stutsman County, North Dakota. The Courtenay Wind Farm will consist of wind turbine generators, access roads, an electrical collection system, a project step-up substation, meteorological towers, and an operation and maintenance facility. On April 12, 2013, Courtenay filed an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Courtenay Wind Farm with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (*see* Case No. PU-13-64), and additional information regarding the proposed project is provided in the application.

Courtenay does not currently have any facilities located in North Dakota and, therefore, has no plans to decommission any facilities. The Courtenay Wind Farm will have an estimated life of greater than 10 years. As such, Courtenay does not have any plans to decommission any proposed facilities within the timeframe of this plan.

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.*

The Courtenay Wind Farm will be located north of Jamestown, North Dakota, and southwest of the city of Courtenay, in northeastern Stutsman County. A map of the proposed site for the Courtenay Wind Farm is provided in Exhibit A, attached hereto. The project will be designed so as to comply with the exclusion and avoidance areas referenced in Section 49-22-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code and identified in Section 69-06-08-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code.

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.*

Throughout development of the Courtenay Wind Farm, Courtenay has engaged and coordinated with the Midcontinent Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO),

the local transmission owner Otter Tail Power Company, and the local electrical cooperatives regarding the Courtenay Wind Farm.

On January 7, 2013, Courtenay moved its request to MISO for interconnection of 200 MW of wind generation at Otter Tail Power Company's Jamestown Substation, just north of Jamestown, North Dakota, into the Definitive Planning Phase. Courtenay's Interconnection Application was filed per the MISO Business Practice Manual 015 for Generator Interconnection. Courtenay'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.*

Courtenay has utilized internal environmental personnel, as well as external environmental consultants, to conduct studies and analyses of the Courtenay Wind Farm site to ensure that the project will comply with the siting criteria set forth in Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, as well as Section 69-06-08-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. Additionally, Courtenay has consulted and will continue to consult with applicable state and federal agencies to further minimize and mitigate any impacts to the environment from the construction and operation of the project. Courtenay has been and will continue to work with Stutsman County and the relevant townships to ensure conformance with local land use regulations.

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.*

Courtenay has bid the Courtenay Wind Farm into a number of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) this year and has been short-listed by three utilities. Courtenay expects to have an executed purchase agreement for the project in the third quarter of 2014.

Any remaining output produced by Courtenay Wind Farm will be sold to one or more 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 North Dakota also has a statutory goal that ten percent of all electricity

¹ See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

sold at retail within the state by the year 2015 be obtained from eligible renewable energy and recycled energy sources.² While many North Dakota utilities are on track to meet their 2015 goals, additional renewable resources will be needed to meet the 25x25 initiative.

In addition, a regional need exists for renewable energy produced in North Dakota. Eleven of the MISO states currently have renewable portfolio standards. MISO estimates that an additional nearly 48 million megawatt hours (MWh) of renewables will need to be added by 2021 and approximately 55 million MWh will be needed by 2026 to meet the collective requirements of these standards.³ Given Courtenay's proximity to the MISO market, output from the Courtenay Wind Farm that exceeds the contracted output may be utilized to meet the existing renewable energy needs of one or more other utilities in the MISO region, as well as utilities located in adjacent Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO)/Independent System Operators (ISO), such as Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Pennsylvania, Jersey Maryland Power Pool (PJM), or Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

Thus, the renewable energy produced by Courtenay's proposed wind project will help meet the renewable energy needs of local utilities, as well as the region.






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² See N.D.C.C. § 49-02-28.

³ MISO, "Multi Value Project Portfolio Results and Analysis," January 10, 2012, at 19.

Exhibit A: Courtenay Wind Farm, Stutsman Co., ND Project Boundary and Study Area

LEGEND

-  Study Area
-  Wind Farm
-  Counties
-  Townships
-  Sections

