

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: Meadowlark Wind I 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 Meadowlark Wind I 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. Scott Koziar (w/ encl. – *via e-mail*)  
Ms. Mollie M. 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

1 PU-13-504 Filed 06/28/2013 Pages: 4  
2013 - 2023 Ten year plan  
Meadowlark Wind I LLC

**TEN YEAR PLAN: 2013-2023**

**Meadowlark Wind I 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, Meadowlark Wind I LLC (Meadowlark I), 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.*

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 Midcontinent 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 project 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.<sup>1</sup> North Dakota also has a statutory goal that ten percent of all electricity sold at retail within the state by the year 2015 be obtained from eligible renewable energy and recycled energy sources.<sup>2</sup> While many North Dakota utilities are on track to meet their 2015 goals, additional renewable resources will be needed to meet the 25x25 initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

<sup>2</sup> See N.D.C.C. § 49-02-28.

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.<sup>3</sup> Given Meadowlark I's proximity to the MISO market, energy from Meadowlark I's proposed wind project may be utilized to meet the existing renewable energy needs of one or more utilities in the MISO region, as well as other 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 up to 102 MW of renewable energy that may be produced by Meadowlark I's proposed wind project will help meet the significant regional need for renewable energy.

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