



December 12, 2014

Attn: Darrell Nitschke  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dept. 408  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Submittal via email to [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov)

**Re: Notice of Intent to Start Construction and Pre-Construction Conference Call Notes – PU-14-105**

Dear Mr. Nitschke

This letter is intended to provide notification to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“PSC”) that Sunflower Wind Project, LLC (“Sunflower”) intends to start limited construction activities on the Sunflower Wind Project located in Morton and Stark County, North Dakota. Construction of limited activities is intended to commence as early as Tuesday, December 16, 2014 in accordance with the Certificate of Site Compatibility that was issued for the Project on June 20, 2014 by the PSC.

In addition, this letter includes relevant points that were discussed in the Pre-Construction Conference Call that occurred on Thursday, December 11, 2014 with PSC staff.

**Limited Notice of Construction.** Sunflower is intending to commence with limited construction for the Sunflower Project. The scope of work will include the survey and construction of approximately 5,280 linear feet of 16 foot width roadways that will provide access to the turbine pads for the Project. Upon completion of the limited construction activities, equipment will be de-mobilized and removed from the site until the spring of 2015. In the spring of 2015, full construction will commence on the Project. PSC staff will be notified in advance of full construction and a second pre-construction meeting will be scheduled. The purpose of the limited construction activities that are proposed to be initiated is to meet Internal Revenue Service guidance for the continued qualification of the federal Production Tax Credit (“PTC”) for the Project.

**Compliance with PU-14-105 Certificate of Site Compatibility Conditions.** The PSC’s Certificate of Site Compatibility includes a number of conditions that Sunflower is obligated to comply with for the construction and operation of the Sunflower Wind Project. While Sunflower recognizes that all of the conditions included the PSC’s order are applicable to the Project, a number of the conditions either do not require specific responses or are not applicable based on the limited activities that are proposed to occur at this time. The following are conditions in which the PSC staff requested specific responses to in the December 11, 2014 preconstruction call.

**Commission Order Items.**

**Order No. 4.** Enclosed with this Letter is Western Area Power Authority’s Finding of No Significant Impact (“FONSI”) and Final Environmental Assessment for the Sunflower Wind Project in accordance

with the National Environmental Policy Act. Also enclosed is the concurrence letter that was issued by the State Historic Preservation Office.

**Order No. 5.** Sunflower is in the process of selecting the final turbine model that will be utilized for the Sunflower Wind Project. As noted above, it is our intent to notify the PSC of the turbine model that will be utilized for the Project prior to full construction occurring.

#### **Certification Relation to Order Provision – Energy Conversion Facility Siting**

**Item No. 2.** A preconstruction conference call occurred for the limited construction that is proposed this year on Thursday, December 11, 2014. The conference call participants included Casey Willis (Sunflower), Eli Bosco (Sunflower), Ryan Krapp (Contract PSC Construction Inspector-Carlson McCain, Inc.), Cy Adams (Blattner Energy), Brady Oelke (Blattner Energy), and Darin Neuschwander (Blattner Energy). Blattner Energy is the construction contractor for the Project.

**Item No. 5.** Limited construction activities pursuant to what is described in this letter will commence on or after Tuesday, December 16, 2014. Weekly progress reports will be provided to the PSC after the start of construction.

**Item No. 33.** Enclosed with this submittal is a map that identifies the area that is proposed to be graded for a road associated in conjunction with this notification of limited construction activities. Also enclosed is a section detail for the proposed roadway.

**Item No. 39.** Blattner Energy has initiated a one-call for the limited construction activities that are proposed at this time.

#### **Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan**

At this time, the limited construction activities that are proposed will not involve the removal of any trees or shrubs that are covered under the PSC's required tree and shrub mitigation plan.

We look forward to working with the PSC on this project moving forward and seeing the Sunflower Wind Project become operational in North Dakota. If there are any questions or concerns regarding this filing, I can be reached at 805-569-6185 or via email at [cwillis@infinitywind.com](mailto:cwillis@infinitywind.com).

Sincerely,



Casey Willis  
Senior Project Manager.

#### **Enclosures**

- Final Environmental Assessment for the Sunflower Wind Project
- Finding of No Significant Impact for the Sunflower Wind Project
- State Historic Preservation Office Concurrence Letter
- Limited Construction Area Map
- Typical Road Section Detail