

June 30, 2014

**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 2014-2024  
Case No. PU-14-\_\_\_**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

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

1. Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC's Ten Year Plan: 2014-2024;
2. Notice of Filing Ten Year Plan: 2014-2024; and
3. Affidavit of Service.

Electronic copies of the enclosed documents were filed with the Commission today via e-mail. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mollie M. Smith

MS/rg  
Enclosures

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

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**TEN YEAR PLAN: 2014-2024**  
**Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC**

**June 2014**

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 2014 through 2024.

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 will develop and construct an up to 200.5 megawatt (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 November 13, 2013, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) issued Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 36 (Certificate No. 36) to Courtenay for the Courtenay Wind Farm (*see* Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, dated Nov. 13, 2013, in Case No. PU-13-64). On February 22, 2014, Stutsman County issued a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the project. Mechanical completion and site restoration of the project will occur in 4th quarter 2015 and project site restoration and construction completion is anticipated to occur in 2nd quarter 2016.

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 is the only energy conversion facility that Courtenay plans to construct during the next five years. 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 approved site for the Courtenay Wind Farm is provided in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto. As provided in the Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (Order) issuing Certificate No. 36, dated November 13, 2013, the proposed location of the Courtenay Wind Farm will comply with the Commission's siting criteria, including 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 complies 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. As noted above, the Commission issued Certificate No. 36 for the project on November 13, 2013 (*see* Case No. PU-13-64), and Stutsman County issued a CUP for the project on February 22, 2014. Courtenay will continue to work with Stutsman County and the relevant townships to ensure conformance with local land use regulations.

Additional information regarding Courtenay's agency and local governmental unit contacts, and efforts to identify and minimize any potential environmental issues, is provided in Courtenay's filings in Case No. PU-13-64, and in the Commission's Order issuing Certificate No. 36.

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 executed a power purchase agreement with Xcel Energy for the entire output of the Courtenay Wind Farm. Courtenay's project was selected as a result of a competitive Request for Proposals process.

Xcel Energy serves customers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as other states. The Courtenay Wind Farm was selected by Xcel Energy because it is a cost-effective alternative that will provide financial benefits to customers regionally, including in North Dakota, while also providing significant environmental and resource diversification benefits.<sup>1</sup> On February 26, 2014, the Commission approved Xcel Energy's application for an advanced determination of prudence for the addition of the output from the Courtenay Wind Farm to Xcel Energy's system.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, Xcel Energy must acquire thirty percent of the electricity needed by its retail customers in Minnesota from renewable sources by 2020, and at least twenty-four percent of the needed electricity must be from wind powered generation.<sup>3</sup> The output of the Courtenay Wind Farm enables Xcel Energy to meet a need for approximately 900 MW of additional generation from wind resources to satisfy the Minnesota renewable energy standard.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the renewable energy produced by the Courtenay Wind Farm is a reasonable and prudent alternative that will help meet Xcel Energy's regional renewable energy needs.

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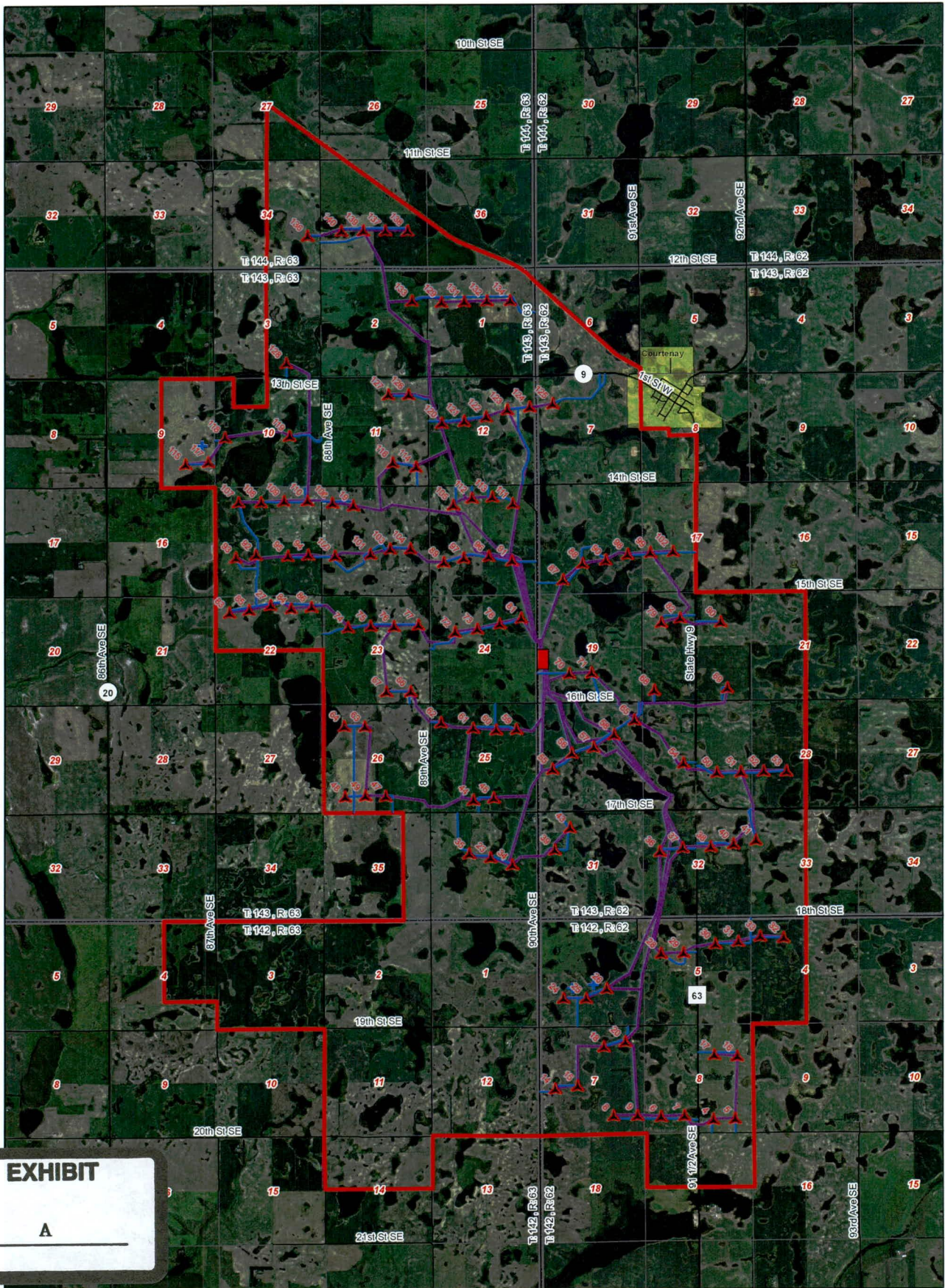
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<sup>1</sup> See Application for an Advanced Determination of Prudence, *In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's Application for an Advanced Determination of Prudence for the Courtenay Wind Project*, Case No. PU-13-706 (Jul. 26, 2013).

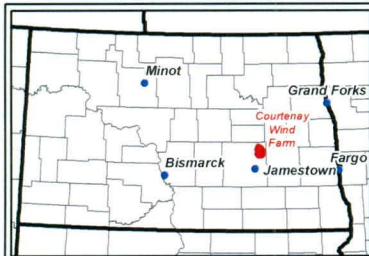
<sup>2</sup> See Order Adopting Settlement, *In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's Application for an Advanced Determination of Prudence for the Courtenay Wind Project*, Case No. PU-13-706 (Feb. 26, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691.

<sup>4</sup> See Petition, *In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of the Acquisition of 600 MW of Wind Generation*, MPUC Docket No. E-002/M-13-603 (Jul. 16, 2013), at 10; see also Order Approving Acquisitions with Conditions, *In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of the Acquisition of 600 MW of Wind Generation*, MPUC Docket No. E-002/M-13-603 (Dec. 13, 2013).



**EXHIBIT**  
A



- Current Access Roads
- Current Collector Lines
- ▲ Turbine Layout
- + Permanent Met Towers
- Substation
- Project Area



Source: Geronimo Energy, NAIP/NRCS, Ventyx,

**Final Turbine,  
Access Road and  
Collector Line  
Locations**



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. PU-14-\_\_\_

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A TEN  
YEAR PLAN BY COURTENAY WIND FARM,  
LLC

**NOTICE OF FILING TEN YEAR PLAN  
2014-2024**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC, in accordance with Section 49-22-04 of the North Dakota Century Code and Chapter 69-06-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, filed a Ten Year Plan for the years 2014 through 2024 with the North Dakota Public Service Commission and with the Stutsman County Auditor on June 30, 2014, which discusses its proposed Courtenay Wind Farm to be located in Stutsman County, North Dakota.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

By



MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714  
*Attorneys for Meadowlark Wind I LLC*  
200 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 4000  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 492-7270

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the following document:

**NOTICE OF FILING TEN-YEAR PLAN: 2014-2024**

was on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014 served by placing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, properly addressed to the following:

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission  
P.O. Box 5020  
Bismarck, ND 58502-5020

North Dakota Office of Attorney General  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Department 125  
Bismarck, ND 58505

North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Department 602  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

North Dakota Department of Health  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0200

Department of Human Services  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Department 325  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

North Dakota Department of Labor  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Department 406  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0340

Department of Vocational Education  
c/o Career and Technical Education  
State Capitol, 15th Floor  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 270  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0610

North Dakota Department of Commerce  
P.O. Box 2057  
Bismarck, ND 58502-2057

Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office  
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands  
1707 North Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 5523  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523

North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
100 North Bismarck Expressway  
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

North Dakota Industrial Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 405  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Office of Governor Jack Dalrymple  
State of North Dakota  
600 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0100

North Dakota Department of Transportation  
608 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700

State Historical Society of North Dakota  
612 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission  
State Capitol Building  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
1st Floor, Judicial Wing - Room #117  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Job Service North Dakota  
P.O. Box 5507  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5507

North Dakota Department of Trust Lands  
1707 North Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 5523  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department  
1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee  
c/o NDSU Extension Service  
2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 104  
Bismarck, ND 58503

North Dakota State Water Commission  
900 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 770  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0850

United States Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
North Dakota Field Office  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

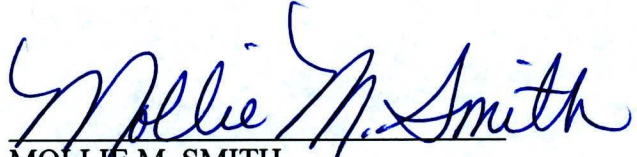
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
North Dakota Regulatory Office  
1513 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58504

United States Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Stutsman County Commissioners  
c/o Casey Bradley  
Stutsman County Auditor  
Stutsman County Courthouse  
511 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S.E.  
Jamestown, ND 58401

North Dakota Transmission Authority  
1016 East Owens Avenue  
P.O. Box 2277  
Bismarck, ND 58502-2277

North Dakota Pipeline Authority  
State Capitol 14th Floor  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 405  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

  
MOLLIE M. SMITH

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