

June 21, 2016

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

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



**RE: Red Butte Wind, LLC and Red Butte Transmission Line, LLC's Ten Year Plan
for 2016-2026
Case No. PU-16-_____**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing are originals of the following documents:

1. Red Butte Wind, LLC and Red Butte Transmission Line, LLC Ten Year Plan: 2016-2026;
2. Notice of Filing Ten Year Plan: 2016-2026; and
3. Certificate 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

MMS/kas
Enclosures

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Attorneys & Advisors
main 612.492.7000
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Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth
Minneapolis, Minn 55402-1425

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PU-16-346 Filed: 6/21/2016 Pages: 12
Ten Year Plan 2016 – 2026 & Notice of Filing

TEN YEAR PLAN: 2016-2026
Red Butte Wind, LLC
Red Butte Transmission Line, LLC

June 2016

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Red Butte Transmission Line, LLC and Red Butte Wind, LLC ("Red Butte"), submit the following Ten Year Plan for years 2016 through 2026.

- (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.

Red Butte Wind, LLC and Red Butte Transmission Line, LLC ("Red Butte") are North Dakota limited liability companies planning to develop an energy conversion facility that will be known as the Red Butte Windfarm Project ("Wind Project") and an associated transmission line to connect the Wind Project to the grid ("Transmission Line"). The Wind Project will be located in Oliver County, North Dakota, west-northwest of Center, North Dakota. The planned maximum potential wind energy capacity for the Wind Project is estimated to be approximately 200 megawatts ("MW"). The final output will depend upon the ultimate selection of the turbines to be sited. Red Butte anticipates the in-service date for the Wind Project to be in the Fourth Quarter of 2018.

The proposed Wind Project would interconnect to the grid via the Transmission Line. The Transmission Line would extend between the Wind Project's substation in Oliver County and one of three potential interconnection points in either Mercer County or Oliver County: 1) connecting directly to the Great River Energy substation located approximately 3.3 miles southeast of Stanton, North Dakota, in Mercer County; 2) connecting directly to the Basin Electric Power Cooperative substation located approximately 3.9 miles southeast of Stanton, North Dakota in Mercer County; or 3) tapping directly into the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") transmission line located approximately 3.2 miles northeast of Center, North Dakota, in Oliver County. The Transmission Line is anticipated to be 230 kilovolt ("kV") and between approximately 11 and 17 miles in length, depending on the final route selected. Red Butte anticipates that the in-service date for the Transmission Line will also be in the Fourth Quarter of 2018.

Red Butte does not have any plans to construct, own or operate any generation or transmission facilities in North Dakota other than the Wind Project and the Transmission Line at this time. Red Butte does not currently own or operate any facilities in North Dakota. As such, Red Butte does not own or operate any facilities that will be removed from service 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.

As noted above, Red Butte plans to pursue development of the above-referenced Wind Project and Transmission Line, and proposes to have both projects constructed and in-service by the Fourth Quarter of 2018. The proposed Wind Project footprint is located west-northwest of Center, North Dakota, in Oliver County. The anticipated route for the Transmission Line would extend either northeast or east from the Wind Project footprint to one of the potential interconnection points in Mercer County or Oliver County.

Red Butte has retained a qualified environmental consulting firm to evaluate the proposed Wind Project site and Transmission Line corridor and route so as to ensure compliance with the exclusion and avoidance area criteria referenced in N.D.C.C. § 49-22-05.1 and identified in N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. Maps depicting the study areas for the Wind Project and the Transmission Line are attached as **Exhibit A**.

- (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.

Red Butte is studying which regional utilities may have a need for the wind energy capacity produced by the Wind Project, and to identify various options for transmitting the Wind Project's output from the Wind Project site to the identified utilities' respective loads. The study will assist Red Butte in identifying potential off-takers, as well as in its efforts to coordinate selection of the best option(s) for delivering the Project's output to the destination(s) designated by the ultimate off-taker(s).

Red Butte has also initiated discussions with other parties who may potentially benefit from the Project, depending upon the ultimate transmission interconnection selection. In any of the scenarios currently under consideration, a transmission line would be required between the Wind Project's collection substation and the point of interconnection to the electric grid. Red Butte has begun studies with both the MISO and the Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") for potential interconnection of the Wind Project at the potential interconnection points discussed above.

- (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.

As noted above, Red Butte has employed a qualified environmental consulting firm to conduct a study of and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the proposed Wind Project site and Transmission Line corridor and route, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. In addition, the consultant is to identify any areas of concern that would need special attention during siting and/or facility construction. To date, no environmental or siting concerns have been identified that would preclude development within the study areas.

Red Butte has been in contact with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), North Dakota Game and Fish Department ("NDG&F") and officials in Oliver and Mercer Counties, among others, regarding the proposed Project. Once Red Butte's initial environmental studies have been completed, Red Butte will contact the USFWS, Oliver County, and Mercer County, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and governmental units, to discuss and seek additional input regarding the proposed Project.

- (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.

Red Butte plans to sell the energy produced by its proposed Wind Project to one or more utilities or other off-takers that are looking for renewable energy.

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 Additional renewable resources will be needed to meet the 25x25 initiative.

A need also exists for renewable energy produced in North Dakota to meet state renewable portfolio standards. Eleven of the MISO states currently have renewable portfolio standards, and utilities subject to the Minnesota renewable energy standard estimate that they will require additional renewable generation to meet renewable energy requirements in Minnesota and other states.² Under current state standards, total United States renewable portfolio standard demand will increase from 215 terawatt hours ("TWh") in 2015 to 431 TWh in 2030.³ Given existing renewable energy capacity, renewable portfolio standard demand growth will require an additional 22 GW of capacity by 2020 and 60 GW by 2030.⁴ In addition, the regional transmission grid is being expanded to deliver wind generation in a cost-effective manner; specifically, MISO's Multi-Value Project ("MVP") Portfolio enables 43 million MWh of wind energy to meet renewable energy mandates and goals through 2028.⁵

In summary, the renewable energy produced by Red Butte's proposed Wind Project and transmitted to the grid via Red Butte's proposed Transmission Line will help meet the national 25x25 initiative and the significant regional need for renewable energy.

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¹ See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

² *2015 Biennial Transmission Projects Report*, MPUC Docket No. E999/M-15-439 (Oct. 30, 2015), at 138-39.

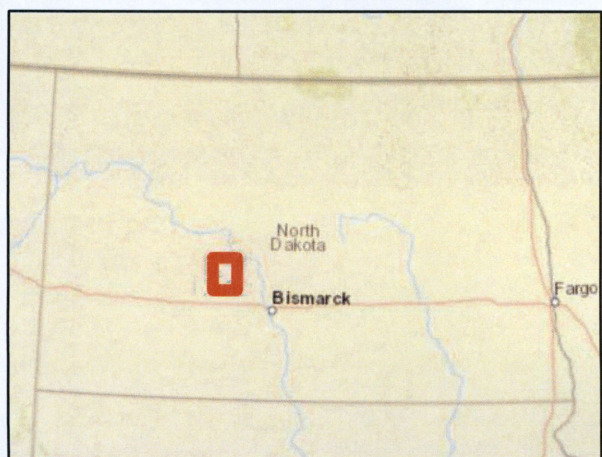
³ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, *U.S. Renewables Portfolio Standards: 2016 Annual Status Report* (April 2016), at 17.

⁴ *Id.* at 20.

⁵ *MTEP14 MVP Triennial Review* (Sept. 2014), at 1-2.



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 Source: ArcGIS USA Topos (1:100k) and Project information provided by PRC Wind (5/11/2016)



 Study Area

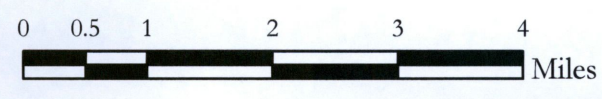
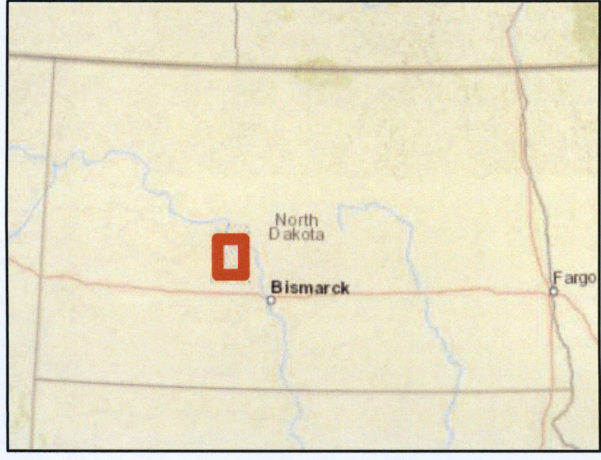


EXHIBIT A
 Wind Project Study Area
 Red Butte Wind Project
 Oliver County, ND

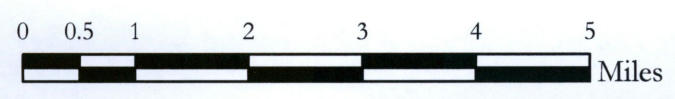




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 Source: ArcGIS USA Topos (1:100k) and Project information provided by PRC Wind (5/11/2016)



 Study Area



Transmission Line Study Area
 Red Butte Transmission Line
 Oliver and Mercer Counties, ND



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. PU-16-___

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A TEN
YEAR PLAN BY RED BUTTE WIND, LLC AND
RED BUTTE TRANSMISSION LINE, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Mollie Smith, being first duly sworn, does depose and state that on June 21, 2016, she served the following document:

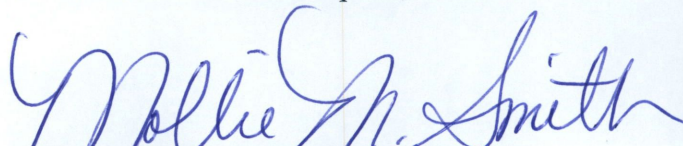
Ten Year Plan: 2016-2026

by placing true and correct copies of said document in envelopes addressed as follows:

Ms. Shana Brost
Mercer County Auditor
PO Box 39
Stanton, ND 58571

Ms. Judith Hintz
Oliver County Auditor
PO Box 188
Center, ND 58530-0188

and depositing the same, with postage prepaid, in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.


MOLLIE M. SMITH

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. PU-16-_____

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A TEN
YEAR PLAN BY RED BUTTE WIND, LLC AND
RED BUTTE TRANSMISSION LINE, LLC

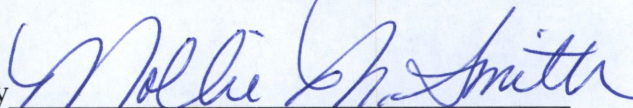
**NOTICE OF FILING TEN YEAR PLAN
2016-2026**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Red Butte Wind, LLC and Red Butte Transmission Line, LLC filed a Ten Year Plan for the years 2016 through 2026 with the North Dakota Public Service Commission on June 21, 2016, and the Mercer and Oliver County Auditors on June 21, 2016.

Dated this 21st day of June, 2016.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.

By



MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
*Attorneys for Red Butte Wind, LLC and Red
Butte Transmission Line, LLC*
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425
(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: 2016-2026

was served on the 21st day of June, 2016 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 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 125
Bismarck, ND 58505

North Dakota Dept. of Agriculture
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

North Dakota Dept. of Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0200

Dept. of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 325
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

North Dakota Dept. of Labor
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 406
Bismarck, ND 58505-0340

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

North Dakota Dept. of Commerce
P.O. Box 2057
Bismarck, ND 58503

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 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

North Dakota Industrial Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

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

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

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

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
State Capitol Building
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
1st Floor - Judicial Wing, Rm. 117
Bismarck, ND 58505-0300

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

North Dakota Department of Trust Lands
1707 North 9th Street
P.O. Box 5523
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Dept.
Century Center
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

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

North Dakota State Water Commission
900 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 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 12th Street
Bismarck, ND 58504

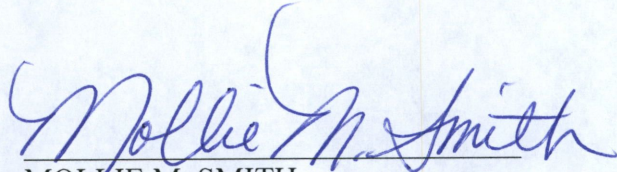
United States Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Mercer County Commission
c/o Shana Brost, County Auditor
PO Box 39
Stanton, ND 58571

Oliver County Commission
c/o Judith Hintz, County Auditor
PO Box 188
Center, ND 58530-0188

North Dakota Transmission Authority
c/o North Dakota Industrial Commission
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

North Dakota Pipeline Authority
c/o North Dakota Industrial Commission
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840


MOLLIE M. SMITH

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