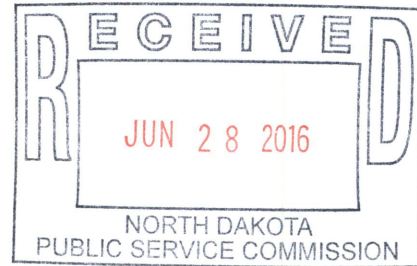


June 28, 2016

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 2016-2026
Case No. PU-16-_____**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing are originals of the following documents:

1. Meadowlark Wind I 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
fax 612.492.7077
www.fredlaw.com

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth 1
Minneapolis, Mi
55402-1425

PU-16-390 Filed 06/28/2016 Pages: 10
Ten Year Plan 2016 – 2026 & Notice of Filing
Meadowlark Wind I LLC
Mollie Smith, Fredrikson&Byron, P.A.

TEN YEAR PLAN: 2016-2026

Meadowlark Wind I LLC

June 2016

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Meadowlark Wind I LLC (“Meadowlark Wind”), submits 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.*

Meadowlark Wind is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota. Meadowlark Wind is developing an up to 102 megawatt (“MW”) wind energy conversion facility known as the New Frontier Wind Project (“Project”) located in McHenry County, North Dakota. On April 25, 2012, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (“Order”) granting Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 29 to Meadowlark Wind for the Project (*see* Case No. PU-11-69). In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-17 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-09, Meadowlark Wind plans to file a certification of continuing suitability with the Commission in the near future. Meadowlark Wind plans to begin construction of the Project in the Second Quarter of 2017, and to complete construction of the Project by the end of 2017.

An approximately 15-mile-long 115 kilovolt (“kV”) generator lead line will be constructed in order to interconnect the Project to the transmission grid at the McHenry Substation, located just west of Voltaire, North Dakota.

Meadowlark Wind does not currently own or operate any transmission or generation facilities, and will not be removing any facilities from service during the next ten years. In addition, with the exception of the Project and associated 115 kV generator lead line, Meadowlark Wind does not plan to own or operate any other facilities within the State of North Dakota during 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.*

At this time, the Project is the only facility Meadowlark Wind plans to construct in the next five years. The Project is located in the southwest corner of McHenry County.

As set forth in the Order, the Project was sited in compliance with the Commission’s siting criteria, including 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 of the Project’s designated site, and

additional detail regarding the Project site, are provided in Case No. PU-11-69. Additional information will also be included in the certification of continuing suitability to be filed in the near future.

- (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.*

Meadowlark Wind will interconnect the Project to Great River Energy's ("GRE") McHenry substation via a to-be-built 15-mile 115 kV transmission line. A Generator Interconnection Agreement was executed with GRE and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") in September 2012. Meadowlark Wind's Interconnection Application was filed per the MISO Business Practice Manual 015 for Generator Interconnection. Meadowlark Wind'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 Wind utilized qualified environmental personnel to study and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the Project site, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. Meadowlark Wind also coordinated with federal, state and local agencies and governmental units regarding the Project, and will obtain all required permits and approvals. Additional information regarding Meadowlark Wind's agency and entity contacts, and efforts to identify and minimize any potential environmental issues, is provided in Case No. PU-11-69, and will also be included in the certification of continuing suitability to be filed in the near future.

- (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 Wind plans to sell the energy produced by its proposed Project to utilities that need additional renewable energy in order to comply with state and/or, if applicable, federal renewable energy standards and objectives, or to commercial and/or industrial corporations that desire renewable energy to support their corporate sustainability goals 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 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 gigawatts (“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 megawatt hours (“MWh”) of wind energy to meet renewable energy mandates and goals through 2028.⁵

Given Meadowlark Wind’s proximity to the MISO market, energy from Meadowlark Wind’s proposed 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 Southwest Power Pool (“SPP”), Western Area Power Administration (“WAPA”), Pennsylvania, Jersey Maryland Power Pool (“PJM”), or Tennessee Valley Authority (“TVA”).

Additionally, corporate and industrial (“C&I”) customers are interested in renewable energy, and corporate procurement is an emerging driver for significant new demand. Consider that 2015 was a record-setting year for corporate renewables: 3.2 GW of utility-scale renewable transactions were signed by corporate buyers, and the capacity of wind power purchase agreements (“PPAs”) signed by corporate customers exceeded that associated with utility purchases.⁶ This trend is expected to continue.

Thus, the up to 102 MW of renewable energy produced by Meadowlark Wind’s Project will help meet a significant 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.

⁶ Greentech Media, June 22, 2016, *Corporate Power-Purchase Agreements: Proceed Carefully When Buying Renewable Energy*, <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Corporate-Power-Purchase-Agreements-Proceed-Carefully-When-Buying-Renewabl> (accessed June 24, 2016).

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. PU-16-_____

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A TEN
YEAR PLAN BY MEADOWLARK WIND I LLC

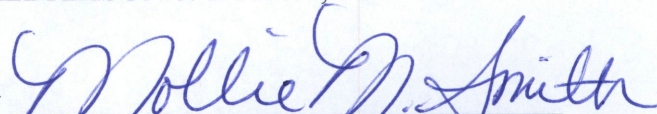
**NOTICE OF FILING TEN YEAR PLAN
2016-2026**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Meadowlark Wind I LLC filed a Ten Year Plan for the years 2016 through 2026 with the North Dakota Public Service Commission on June 28, 2016, and the McHenry County Auditor on June 28, 2016.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2016.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.

By



MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
Attorneys for Meadowlark Wind I 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 28th 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

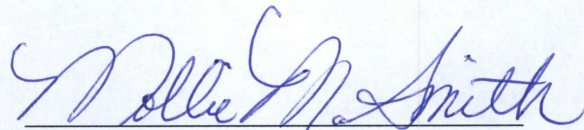
United States Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
1513 South 12th Street
Bismarck, ND 58504

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

McHenry County Commission
c/o Darlene Carpenter, County Auditor
407 Main Street South, Room 201
Towner, ND 58788

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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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. PU-16-___

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A TEN
YEAR PLAN BY MEADOWLARK WIND I LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

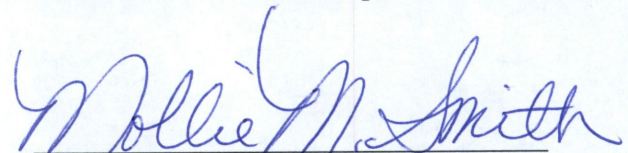
Mollie M. Smith, being first duly sworn, does depose and state that on June 28, 2016, she served the following document:

Ten Year Plan: 2016-2026

by placing a true and correct copy of said document in an envelope addressed as follows:

Ms. Darlene Carpenter
McHenry County Auditor
407 Main Street South, Room 201
Towner, ND 58788

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


MOLLIE M. SMITH