

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Glacier Ridge Wind Farm, LLC
Glacier Ridge Wind Farm Project – Barnes County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-16-539

ORDER

September 6, 2017

On July 19, 2016, Glacier Ridge Wind Farm, LLC (Glacier Ridge) filed an application (Application) for a certificate of site compatibility concerning a proposed 300.15 megawatt wind energy conversion facility, to be known as the “Glacier Ridge Wind Farm”. The Project would be located on 34,450 acres in Barnes County, approximately five miles northeast of Valley City, North Dakota.

On August 24, 2016, the Commission deemed the application complete and issued a Notice of Filing and Public Hearing (Notice), scheduling a public hearing on the application for September 27, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at Vangstad Auditorium, Valley City State University, 101 College Street SW, Valley City, North Dakota 58072. The Notice identified the following issues to be considered:

1. Will the location and operation of the proposed facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Are the proposed facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will the proposed facility locations minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?

On September 27, 2016, the public hearing was held as scheduled.

On December 2, 2016, Glacier Ridge filed a motion to amend the Application to bifurcate the proposed Glacier Ridge Wind Farm into two separate phases, to be known as “Phase I” and “Phase II”. The motion further requested that the Commission approve Phase I and hold in abeyance a decision concerning Phase II.

On December 7, 2016, the Commission issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order granting Glacier Ridge’s motion and issuing Certificate of Site Compatibility Number 51 to Glacier Ridge designating a site for Phase I of the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm.

On January 30, 2017, Glacier Ridge filed a Motion to Lift the Stay with Respect to a Decision on Phase II (Motion), requesting that the Commission lift the stay on Phase II and approve Phase II of the Project.

On May 3, 2017, Glacier Ridge filed a Notice of Correction updating and correcting Attachment I to its Motion.

On May 19, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, setting a deadline of June 23, 2017 for receiving written comments and requests for hearing.

On June 22, 2017, Glacier Ridge filed an Updated Attachment I to the Motion reflecting revisions within the Phase II project area that resulted from additional land agreements being executed.

On June 22, 2017, a request for a second hearing was filed Ms. Shirley Starke, 3408 120th Ave. SE, Valley City, North Dakota. Ms. Starke stated concerns related to noise, light pollution of the night skies and visual pollution of the landscape. Ms. Starke stated that she had not been aware of the September 27, 2016 hearing.

On June 29, 2017, Glacier Ridge filed a response to Ms. Starke's request for hearing. Glacier Ridge stated that the September 27, 2016 hearing was duly noticed. Glacier Ridge provided a map showing that Ms. Starke lives about 3 miles southwest of the already-approved phase I project boundary and approximately 10 miles from the proposed phase II boundary currently pending before the Commission. Glacier Ridge asserts that a fully developed hearing record regarding the noise, light and vision effects expected from the project already exists. Glacier Ridge does not believe that Ms. Starke has raised any new material issues or concerns that were not addressed at the original hearing.

On July 26, 2017 the Commission discussed Mr. Starke's request at a working session.

Having considered Ms. Starke's request for hearing, the Commission finds the facts and issues contained in Ms. Starke's request for a hearing dated June 22, 2017, were considered and addressed by the Commission at the properly noticed September 27, 2016 public hearing. A second hearing on facts and issues that were already presented to the Commission at the September 27, 2016, publicly noticed hearing would be duplicative and inefficient.

Therefore, the Commission issues the following:

ORDER

The Commission Orders Ms. Starke's June 22, 2017, request for a second hearing is denied.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Brian Kroshus
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chairman



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner