

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 ON CERTIFICATE OF SITE COMPATIBILITY

February 2, 2022

Preliminary Statement

On December 7, 2016, the Commission adopted its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in Case No. PU-16-539 issuing Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 51 to Glacier Ridge Wind Farm, LLC (Glacier Ridge) for the location of Phase I of the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm with locations for up to 52 turbines plus three alternate turbine locations totaling up to 179.4 MW of generating capacity.

On March 16, 2017, Glacier Ridge filed with the Commission a construction progress report.

On September 6, 2017, the Commission adopted its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order issuing First Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 51 to Glacier Ridge to add Phase II of the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm with locations for up to 35 turbines plus nine alternate turbine locations totaling up to 120.75 MW of generating capacity.

On September 27, 2021, Commission staff requested by letter to Glacier Ridge a written update of the construction that has occurred on the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm since the March 16, 2017, Glacier Ridge construction progress report.

On October 4, 2021, Glacier Ridge filed a response to Commission staff's September 27, 2021, request for information.

On December 2, 2021, Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) filed a Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection Report.

On December 15, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certificate of Site Compatibility (Notice). The Notice provided until January 19, 2022, for comments and requests for hearing. No comments were received.

The Notice stated that the Commission intends to revoke First Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 51 issued to Glacier Ridge. The Notice stated that the Commission can determine the matter without a hearing.

Discussion

Construction of the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm Project began on December 14, 2016.

Glacier Ridge's March 16, 2017, construction progress report indicated that, at 19 turbine locations, foundations were excavated.

Glacier Ridge's October 4, 2021, response reported that the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm project has been cancelled and construction will not resume. Glacier Ridge has decommissioned the project by backfilling all turbine foundation excavations and restoring the site to the condition that existed prior to the beginning of construction.

Keitu's Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection Report states that the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm site was visually inspected on November 22, 2021, by Keitu staff and reports that the 19 turbine sites appear to have been restored to as near as practical to preconstruction conditions. No further action was recommended.

Based on the information enumerated above, the Commission finds that First Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 51 for the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm should be revoked.

Order

The Commission revokes First Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 51 issued to Glacier Ridge Wind Farm, LLC for the location of Phase I and Phase II of the Glacier Ridge Wind Farm.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Randy Christmann
Commissioner


Julie Fedorchak
Chair

Vacant