

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Thunder Spirit Wind Project
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-17-192

ORDER ON MOTION FOR EXTENSION

February 17, 2021

Preliminary Statement

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) is the owner of and holds First Reissued Second Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 35, issued pursuant to North Dakota Century Code chapter 49-22, for the Thunder Spirit Wind Project. Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 35 was first issued by the Commission's October 9, 2013, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in Case PU-11-601.

On October 5, 2020, MDU filed a request for extension of time to install light mitigating technology for Thunder Spirit from.

On October 21, 2020 an informal hearing was held on the extension request.

Discussion

MDU makes its request for an extension of the light mitigation technology based on economic considerations, and to allow for Light Intensity Dimming Solution (LIDS) technology to be approved by the FAA under North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) 49-22-16.4(3), and North Dakota Administrative Code 69-06-11-02(2), which allow for an extension based on technical or economic feasibility considerations.

The cost to install an aircraft detection lighting system (ADLS) at Thunder Spirit ranges from just over 3 million dollars to just over 3.3 million, not including the cost of annual manufacturer maintenance.

The cost to install and maintain LIDS at Thunder Spirit is approximately \$672,000 and no annual manufacturer maintenance is required.

This extension allows for the opportunity to expand the available technology that can be used to meet light mitigation requirements.

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. The request for an extension to install light mitigation for Thunder Spirit is granted.
2. LIDS must be installed at Thunder Spirit by the earlier of (a) one year following the FAA's decision to approve or deny LIDS, or (b) December 31, 2022.
3. ADLS or another system approved by the FAA must be installed and operational at Thunder Spirit by December 31, 2022 if the LIDS system is not approved or is not approved in time to meet the December 31, 2022 deadline.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Randy Christmann
Commissioner



Julie Fedorchak
Chair



Brian Kroshus
Commissioner