

October 3, 2017

**Hand Delivered**

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
ND Public Service Commission  
600 Boulevard Ave, Suite 1300  
Bismarck, ND 58503

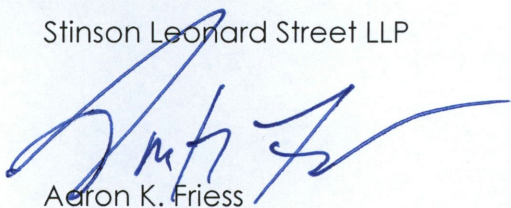
Re: Foxtail Wind, PU-17-284: Ten Year Plan

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. § 69-06-02-02, Foxtail Wind, LLC ("Foxtail") submits ten copies of its Ten Year Plan for the Foxtail Wind facility. Contemporaneously herewith, Foxtail also submits a copy of its Ten Year Plan for this facility to the county auditor of Dickey County, and provides notice of the filing of its Ten Year Plan to the agencies and officers entitled to receive such notice under N.D.A.C. § 69-06-01-05.

Very truly yours,

Stinson Leonard Street LLP

  
Aaron K. Friess

AKF:SLS

Enclosures:



1 **PU-17-367** Filed: 10/3/2017 Pages: 6  
**2017 Ten Year Plan**

Foxtail Wind, LLC

Aaron K. Friess, StinsonLeonardStreet

TEN YEAR PLAN:

2017 THROUGH 2027

**Foxtail Wind, LLC, Case No. PU-17-\_\_\_**

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C § 69-06-02, Foxtail Wind, LLC (“Foxtail”) submits to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) the following Ten Year Plan for years 2017 through 2027 for the proposed Foxtail Wind Farm Project (“Foxtail Wind Farm” or “Project”). Foxtail is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota and a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (“NEER”).

**§ 49-22-04 (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.**

Foxtail is developing a wind generation project with a nameplate capacity of up to 150 MW in Dickey County, North Dakota. The proposed Project will consist of up to 75 wind turbines using Hybrid Vestas V-116 and Vestas V-110 turbine generators. Additional facilities include access roads, underground electrical collection systems and cabling, a collection substation, an operation and maintenance (“O&M”) building, a meteorological evaluation tower, a construction laydown area, a batch plant, and a switchyard.

Following receipt of a Certificate of Site Compatibility (“Certificate”) from the Commission, Foxtail and Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, Inc. (“Xcel”) will seek Commission approval to transfer the Certificate to NSP/Xcel. Subject to that approval, the Project will be constructed and operated by Xcel. Foxtail and Xcel are collaborating on the development of the Project to reflect the engineering and design inputs necessary to transfer ownership of the Project to Xcel at the end of 2017 according to the executed Purchase & Sale Agreement (“PSA”). Xcel currently proposes to construct the Project in two phases between 2018 and 2019.

**§ 49-22-04 (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 with 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.**

The proposed Foxtail Wind Farm will encompass an approximately 20,029 acres of land (31 square miles) in western Dickey County. The amount of land within the Project area participating in the Project is 17,983 acres. Although the turbines will be placed throughout the participating land within Project area, the permanent Project structures will occupy up to 97.74 acres during operation, or less than one percent of the total Project area or approximately 0.06 acres of permanent impacts per turbine. Foxtail Wind Farm will interconnect with the Montana-Dakota Utilities (“MDU”) transmission system at the MDU 230 kV Ellendale-Tatanka

transmission line at a new substation. The Project does not have a transmission line that will require separate permitting, but an overhead wire tap will connect the collection substation to the point of interconnect to the on the same parcel.

Foxtail does not plan to develop any other energy conversion or transmission facilities beyond the Project.

**§ 49-22-04 (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.**

The Project interconnection would occur with the MDU transmission system, connecting to the MDU 230 kV Ellendale-Tatanka transmission line at the new substation and will benefit from the Big Stone – Brookings 345 kV Multi-Value Project line when it goes into service in 2017. The Project was studied under Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.'s ("MISO") August 2014 Definitive Planning Phase ("DPP") Study Cycle. All MISO System Impact Studies and Facility Studies have been completed and are identified in an executed Generator Interconnection Agreement dated August 30, 2016.

Xcel submitted an Application for an Advance Determination of Prudence with the Commission dated March 29, 2017 for a 1,550 MW portfolio of wind generation to be added to the integrated Xcel System in Case No. PU-17-120 ("Wind Portfolio"). The Wind Portfolio consists of seven projects, including the Foxtail Project. As noted above, NEER will transfer ownership of the Project to Xcel at the end of 2017 according to the executed PSA. Pursuant to this agreement, Xcel will construct, own, and operate the proposed Project. The proposed Project will help to increase the renewable portion of Xcel's power generating portfolio and help meet Xcel customers' energy needs while keeping member electricity rates low.

**§ 49-22-04 (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.**

Foxtail used qualified environmental consultants, including AECOM, to study and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the Project area, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Chapter 49-22 and N.D.A.C. § 69.06.08. Foxtail is continuing to working with a variety of stakeholders and local, state and federal government agencies to avoid and mitigate environmental impacts from the Project. Foxtail is also working closely with landowners and is seeking input from local, state, and federal agencies regarding locations of wind turbines and access roads that would minimize land use disruptions and impacts on environmentally sensitive areas. Setbacks specified in the design of the Project are equal to or more restrictive than state or local requirements.

Foxtail will also continue to coordinate with federal, state and local agencies and governmental units regarding the Foxtail Wind Farm, and it or Xcel will obtain all required permits and approvals. Additional information on Foxtail's efforts to identify, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts from the Project is available in Case No. PU-17-284 related to

Foxtail's Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility and will continue to be provided in that docket. Foxtail has taken special care to avoid impacts to wildlife in designing the Project and is committed to environmental stewardship throughout the construction and operation of the Project.

**§ 49-22-04 (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 project, 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.**

Due partly to high heating demand in winter, North Dakota's per capita energy consumption is among the highest in the nation (U.S. Energy Information Administration 2016). Nearly 40 percent of North Dakota households use electricity as their primary energy source for home heating. Many public utilities have publicly announced a future demand for wind energy, either via press releases or through formal resources planning processes. Xcel proposes to continue transitioning from coal to renewables and natural gas (including 35 percent renewable energy from wind and solar by 2030) in its Upper Midwest 2016-2030 Resource Plan (Xcel Energy 2016). Thus, demand for wind energy in the region is expected to remain strong in coming years.

As noted above, Xcel submitted an Application for an Advance Determination of Prudence dated March 29, 2017 for a 1,550 MW portfolio of wind generation to be added to the integrated Xcel System in Case No. PU-17-120. The Wind Portfolio includes the Foxtail Wind Project. The Wind Portfolio represents a prudent opportunity for Xcel to drive down overall system costs by capturing low cost wind projects due, in part, to the ability to fully capture the PTCs. Over the life of the Wind Portfolio, Xcel anticipates savings on a present value of revenue requirements basis (exclusive of externality costs) of approximately \$1.6 billion for the entire Xcel System or approximately \$85 million for North Dakota customers.

Additionally, according to the Comprehensive State Energy Policy report for 2010-2025 prepared by the EmPower ND Commission, one of the state's energy goals is to increase installed wind energy capacity to 5,000 MW by 2020 (EmPower ND 2010). North Dakota's energy-related goals include the following:

- General economic development and help the nation achieve greater energy independence
- Derive 25 percent of all energy produced in America from renewable sources by 2025
- Provide a fair and responsible regulatory environment that promotes energy development

Additionally, in its latest report, the EmPower ND Commission recommended removing the sunset provision on the sales tax exemption provided for the construction of wind powered electrical generating facilities (EmPower ND 2016). Other previous reports promote research and development into cost-effective wind projects, recommend tax certainty for wind projects to encourage future investment in renewable wind resources, and recognize the strategic role wind

will play in continuing to enhance North Dakota's diverse energy portfolio (EmPower ND 2012, 2014).

A regional need exists for renewable energy produced in North Dakota. Nearly every state in the MISO west, central, and east regions currently has renewable portfolio standards or a voluntary renewable energy standard or target (MISO 2016). According to the MISO Transmission Expansion Plan for 2016, the MISO region needs to add between 11,400 and 79,900 MW to maintain planning reliability targets through 2030. From 2016 onward, 11,900 to 37,300 MW of retirements of mostly fossil-fueled power plants are assumed to occur. Additionally, depending on the projection scenario, MISO assumes anywhere from 3,600 to 25,800 MW of incremental wind penetration during this period.

NEER will transfer ownership of the Project to Xcel at the end of 2017 according to the executed PSA. Pursuant to this agreement, Xcel will own and operate the proposed Project. The proposed Project will help to increase the renewable portion of NSP/Xcel's power generating portfolio and help meet Xcel members' energy needs while keeping member electricity rates low.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Public Service Commission  
Foxtail Wind, LLC  
Foxtail Wind Energy Center – Dickey County  
Siting Application

Case No. PU-17-284

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the following:

Ten Year Plan

was served on October 3, 2017 by mail to the following:

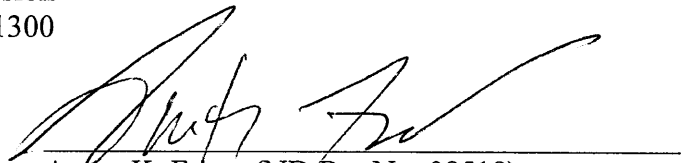
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Wanda Sheppard,  
County Auditor, Dickey County  
PO Box 215  
Ellendale, ND 58436

And on October 3, 2017 hand-delivered ten (10) copies to the following:

ND Public Service Commission  
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Bismarck, ND 58503



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