

June 29, 2018

**VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



**RE: Aurora Wind Project, LLC's Ten Year Plan for 2018-2028  
Case No. PU-18-\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing are originals of the following documents:

1. Aurora Wind Project, LLC's Ten Year Plan: 2018-2028;
2. Notice of Filing Ten Year Plan: 2018-2028; 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mollie M. Smith".

MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/bd  
Enclosures

cc: Beth M. Innis, Williams County Auditor (w/encls.)  
Stephanie Pappa, Mountrail County Auditor (w/encls.)

64285312.1

Attorneys & Advisors  
main 612.492.7000  
fax 612.492.7077  
fredlaw.com

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.  
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

55402-14 1 PU-18-254 Filed 06/29/2018 Pages: 11  
2018 Ten Year Plan  
Aurora Wind Project, LLC  
Mollie Smith, Fredrikson&Byron, P.A.

**TEN YEAR PLAN: 2018-2028**

**Aurora Wind Project, LLC**

**June 2018**

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Aurora Wind Project, LLC (“Aurora Wind”), submits the following Ten Year Plan for years 2018 through 2028.

- (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.*

Aurora Wind is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota. Aurora Wind is developing an up to 300 megawatt (“MW”) wind energy conversion facility known as the Aurora Wind Project (“Wind Project”) and an associated 345-kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line to connect the Wind Project to the grid (“Transmission Line”). The Wind Project will be located approximately 5.6 miles west-northwest of the City of Tioga in Williams County, North Dakota. The Transmission Line will be approximately 22 miles in length and extend from the Wind Project substation to the point of interconnection to the grid at the existing Basin Electric Power Cooperative Tande 345 kV Substation, located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 157 North, Range 94 West, Mountrail County, North Dakota. On June 25, 2018, the Mountrail County Planning and Zoning Commission approved issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the Transmission Line. Conditional Use Permit applications are currently pending before Williams County for both the Wind Project and the Transmission Line. Aurora Wind plans to commence construction of the Wind Project and Transmission Line as early as Second Quarter 2019 and achieve commercial operation by the end of 2020.

Other than the Wind Project and Transmission Line, Aurora Wind does not have any transmission or generation facilities located in North Dakota, and the projects will have an estimated life of greater than 10 years. As such, Aurora Wind does not have any plans to decommission any transmission or generation facilities within 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.*

As noted above, Aurora Wind is pursuing development of the above-referenced Wind Project and Transmission Line, and proposes to have both projects constructed and in-service by the end of 2020. The proposed Wind Project footprint is located west-northwest of the City of Tioga in Williams County, North Dakota. The anticipated route for the Transmission Line will extend from the Wind Project substation to its planned point of interconnection to the grid at the existing Basin Electric Power Cooperative Tande 345 kV Substation, located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 157 North, Range 94 West, Mountrail County, North Dakota.

Aurora Wind has retained qualified environmental consulting firms to evaluate the proposed Wind Project site and Transmission Line corridor and route so as to ensure compliance with 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 depicting the study areas for the Wind Project and the Transmission Line are attached as **Exhibit A**.

- (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.*

Aurora Wind is in the process of identifying an offtaker for the Wind Project's output. Energy produced by the Wind Project may help local utilities to continue to meet applicable renewable energy standards.

Additionally, Aurora Wind and the Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") have completed studies addressing the potential interconnection of the Wind Project at the interconnection point discussed above, and Aurora Wind is in discussions with both SPP and Basin Electric Power Cooperation regarding execution of an interconnection agreement.

- (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.*

Aurora Wind has engaged the services of qualified environmental consulting firms to study and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the proposed Wind Project site and Transmission Line corridor and route, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. As discussed above, on June 25, 2018, the Mountrail County Planning and Zoning Commission approved issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the Transmission Line, and Conditional Use Permit applications are pending before Williams County. Aurora Wind has consulted with applicable local, state, and federal agencies and entities in connection with siting and development of the Wind Project and Transmission Line, and Aurora Wind will continue to coordinate with agencies and entities, as appropriate, throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Wind Project and Transmission Line.

- (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.*

As discussed above, Aurora Wind is in the process of identifying an offtaker for the Wind Project's output. However, given the Wind Project's location in the heart of the Bakken oil production region, the Wind Project is anticipated to meet area demand for electricity resulting from ongoing oil and gas activities in the Bakken and the region's homes and businesses. In addition, energy produced by the Project may help local utilities to continue to meet applicable renewable energy goals and/or standards.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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 Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") states currently have either mandated or voluntary renewable portfolio standards or policies.<sup>2</sup> Under current state standards, total United States renewable portfolio standard demand will increase from 235 terawatt hours ("TWh") in 2016 to 450 TWh in 2030.<sup>3</sup> Given existing renewable energy capacity, an additional 150 TWh increase in renewable resources will be required to meet demand through 2030.<sup>4</sup> 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 41 million megawatt hours ("MWh") of wind energy per year to meet renewable energy mandates and goals.<sup>5</sup>

In summary, the renewable energy produced by Aurora Wind's proposed Wind Project and transmitted to the grid via Aurora Wind's proposed Transmission Line will help meet the national 25x25 initiative and the regional need for renewable energy.

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<sup>1</sup> See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

<sup>2</sup> *MTEP17 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan*, at 76.

<sup>3</sup> Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, *U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards 2017 Annual Status Report* (July 2017), at 21.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 22.

<sup>5</sup> *MTEP17 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan*, at 193.

# Project Overview Map



## EXHIBIT A

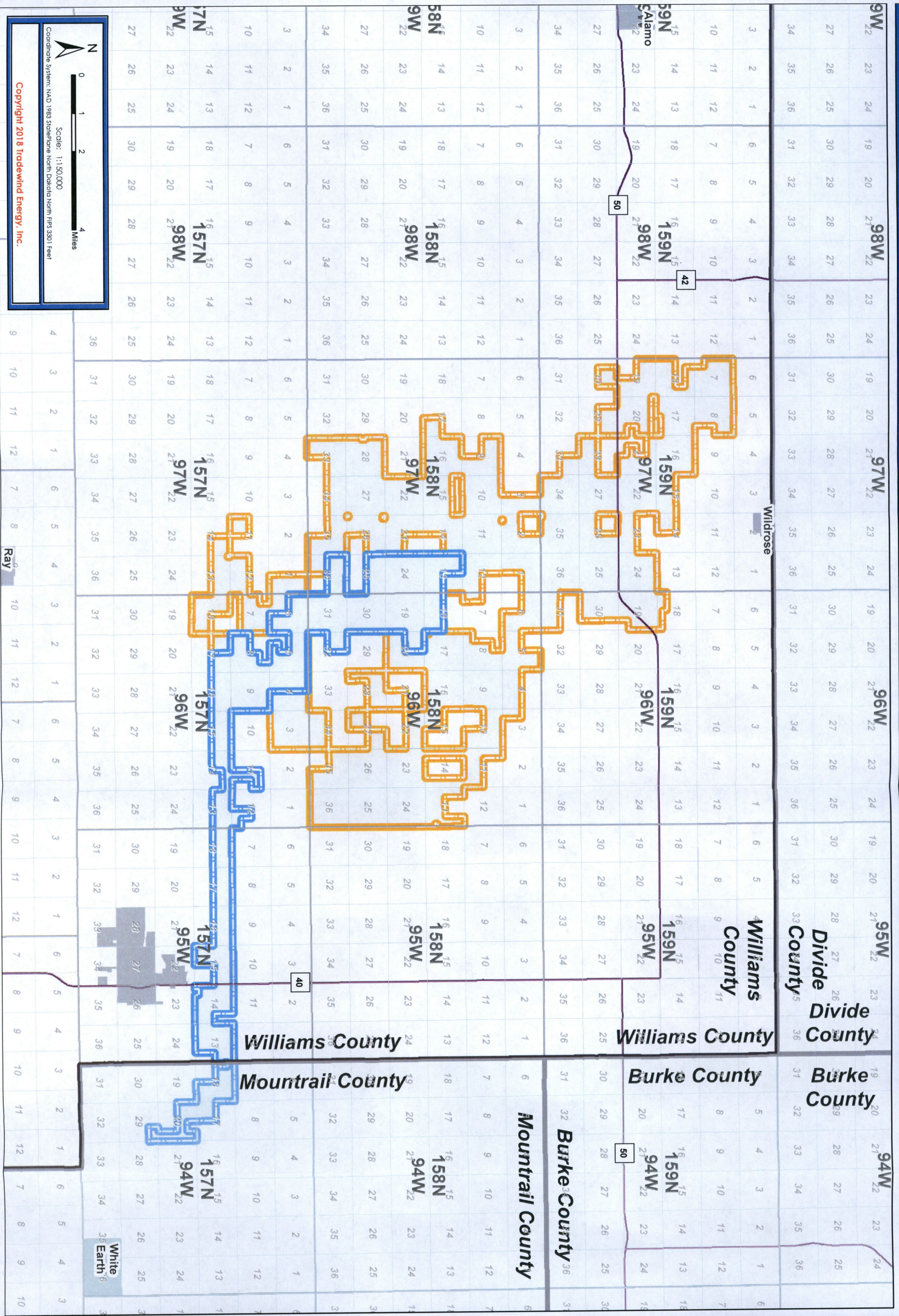
Project Overview Map

### Legend

- Wind Project Boundary
- Transmission Line Corridor
- Municipal Boundary
- Section
- Township
- County
- State Highway

The following companies and organizations provided data that contributed to the production of this map.

- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- WhiteStar Corporation
- CoreLogic
- Ventix Inc.



**N**

0 1 2 4 Miles

Scale: 1:150,000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane North Dakota North FIPS 3301 Feet

Copyright 2018 Tradewind Energy, Inc.

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Case No. PU-18-\_\_\_

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A TEN  
YEAR PLAN BY AURORA WIND PROJECT,  
LLC**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Mollie M. Smith, being first duly sworn, does depose and state that on June 29, 2018, she served the following document:

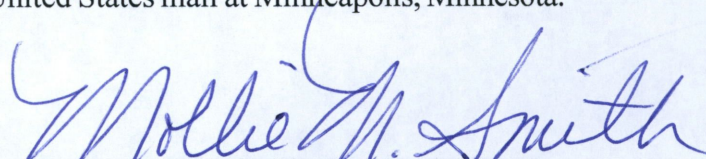
**Ten Year Plan: 2018-2028**

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

Ms. Beth M. Innis  
Williams County Auditor  
Williams County Administration Building, First Floor  
206 E. Broadway  
PO Box 2047  
Williston, ND 58802-2047

Ms. Stephanie Pappa  
Mountrail County Auditor  
PO Box 69  
Stanley ND 58784-0069

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

  
Mollie M. Smith

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. PU-18-\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A TEN  
YEAR PLAN BY AURORA WIND PROJECT,  
LLC

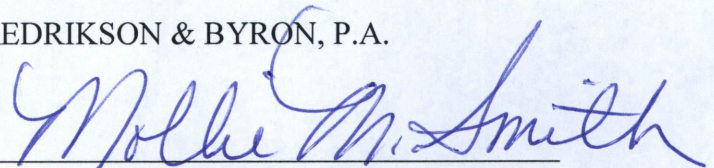
**NOTICE OF FILING TEN YEAR PLAN  
2018-2028**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Aurora Wind Project, LLC, in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, filed a Ten Year Plan for the years 2018 through 2028 with the North Dakota Public Service Commission on June 29, 2018, and the Williams and Mountrail County Auditors on June 29, 2018.

Dated this 29th day of June, 2018.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.

By



MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714  
*Attorney for Aurora Wind Project, 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: 2018-2028**

was served on the 29th day of June, 2018 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  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Dept. 125  
Bismarck, ND 58505

North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Dept. 602  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

North Dakota Department of Health  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0200

North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Dept. 325  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

North Dakota Department of Labor and Human Rights  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Dept. 406  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0340

North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education  
State Capitol, 15th Floor  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 270  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0610

North Dakota Department of Commerce  
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 2  
P.O. Box 2057  
Bismarck, ND 58503

Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office  
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands  
1707 North 9th 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  
State Capitol, 14th Floor  
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Office of Governor Doug Burgum  
State of North Dakota  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

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 Department  
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 304  
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

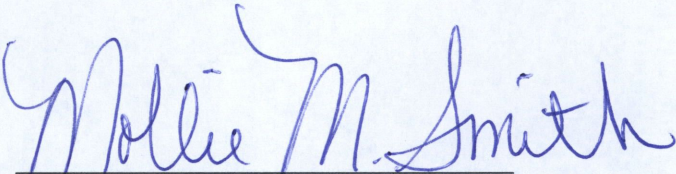
Federal Aviation Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
800 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20591

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

Williams County Commission  
206 East Broadway  
P.O. Box 2047  
Williston, ND 58802-2047

Mountrail County Commission  
c/o Stephanie Pappa, County Auditor  
PO Box 69  
Stanley ND 58784-0069

  
MOLLIE M. SMITH

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