

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,



MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/bd
Enclosures

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

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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, 2025.¹ 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.² Under current state standards, total United States renewable portfolio standard demand will increase from 235 terawatt hours ("TWh") in 2016 to 450 TWh in 2030.³ Given existing renewable energy capacity, an additional 150 TWh increase in renewable resources will be required to meet demand through 2030.⁴ 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.⁵

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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¹ See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

² *MTEP17 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan*, at 76.

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

⁴ *Id.* at 22.

⁵ *MTEP17 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan*, at 193.

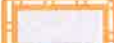






Project Overview Map

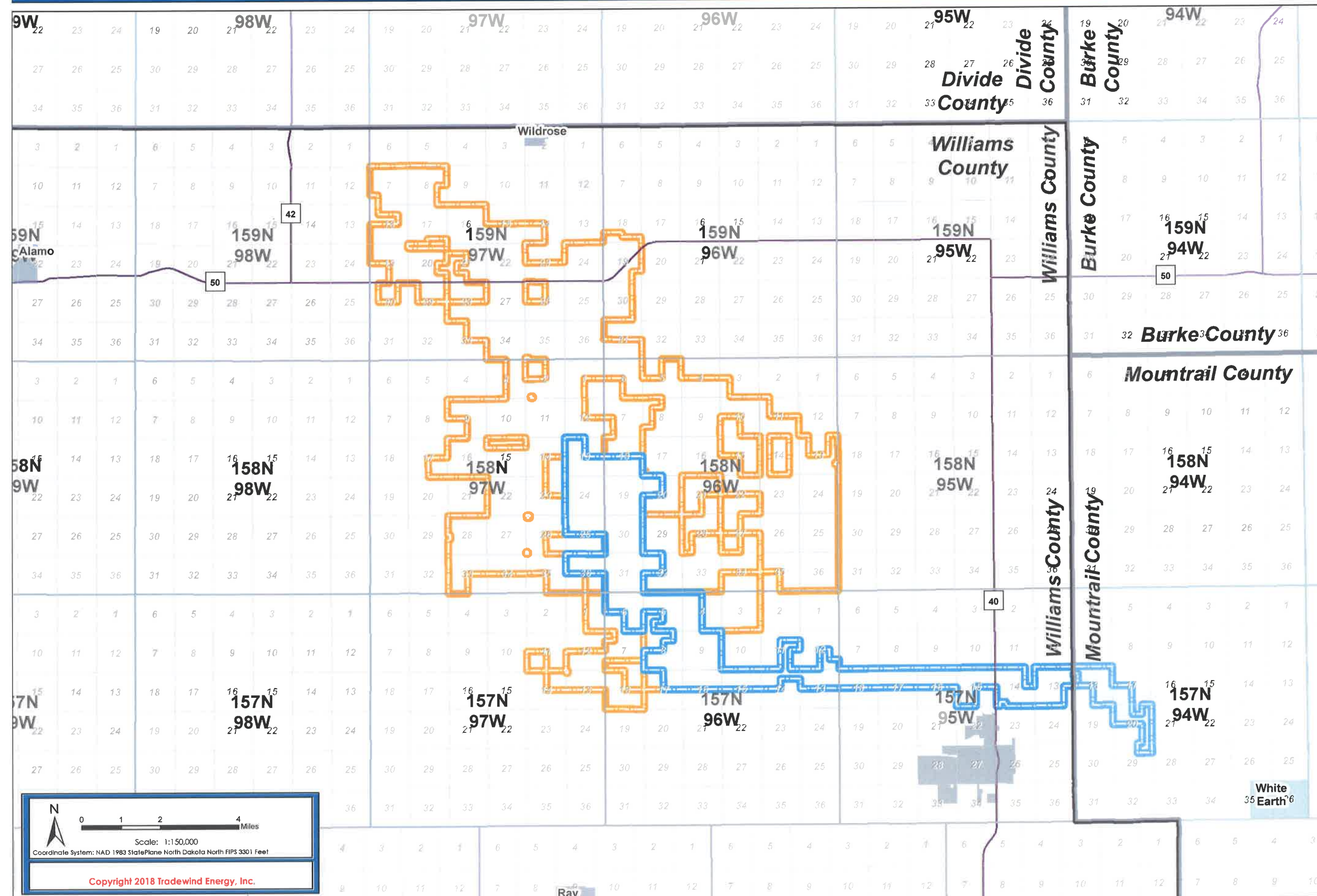




EXHIBIT A

Project Overview Map

Legend

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



 Scale: 1:150,000
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane North Dakota North FIPS 3301 Feet
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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
- Ventyx 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