

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Aurora Wind Project, LLC
Aurora Wind Project – Williams County
Siting Application

Case No. PU-18-352

CERTIFICATION OF BENJAMIN CONOR BRANCH

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF JOHNSON)

Benjamin Conor Branch, being first duly sworn upon oath, states and alleges as follows:

1. I am an Authorized Representative for the Aurora Wind Project (“Project”), which is owned by Aurora Wind Project, LLC (“Aurora Wind”). I am employed by Enel Green Power, which is assisting Aurora Wind with Project development. I have the authority to bind Aurora Wind with respect to the certifications made herein.

2. I provide this Certification pursuant to Provision No. 38 of the Certification Relating to Order Provisions – Wind Energy Conversion Facility Siting, which is part of the Commission’s Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, dated May 7, 2019 (“Order”), in the above-referenced docket.

3. Since the Order was issued, Aurora Wind has selected turbine models and made minor modifications to the Project layout. A figure comparing the layout as depicted in Hearing Exhibit No. 3 to the current Project layout is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

4. The turbine models selected are the Vestas V110-2.0 (80 meter hub height, 110 meter rotor diameter, and 135 meter tip height) and the Nordex N149-4.8 (108 meter hub height, 149 meter rotor diameter, and 182.5 meter tip height). The final layout consists of 15 Vestas

V110-2.0 turbines and 56 Nordex N149-4.8 turbines. The final layout complies with all applicable setback requirements.

5. The layout modifications include the following:
 - a. Twenty-eight turbine locations were removed, and the primary turbine locations were finalized. No other turbine adjustments were made.
 - b. One of the previously identified alternate temporary laydown yards was selected as the primary laydown yard, and all other potential laydown yard locations were removed.
 - c. Three permanent meteorological tower locations were shifted, three new meteorological tower locations were selected, and five previously identified proposed permanent meteorological tower locations were removed. All adjustments were made to align the permanent meteorological tower locations with the finalized turbine array.
 - d. Minor access road adjustments were made: one to ensure sufficient driveway line-of-sight, and the others to optimize access road routes after selecting primary turbine locations.
 - e. Collection system adjustments were made to optimize the design based on the current turbine array.
 - f. Minor crane path adjustments were made based on further site analysis and optimization for the current turbine array.

6. The Project layout complies with all requirements set forth in the Commission's Order.

7. In accordance with Order Paragraph Nos. 5 and 6, updated noise and shadow flicker analyses were conducted for the final turbine array, and a Sound and Shadow Flicker Addendum Report is attached as **Exhibit B**. As indicated in the report, the Project complies with the Commission's Avoidance Area Sound Requirement and Aurora Wind's shadow flicker goal of 30 hours per year or less at occupied residences.

8. In accordance with Order Paragraph Nos. 3 and 4, Aurora Wind completed Class III cultural resource field surveys and wetland delineations of any previously unsurveyed areas that will be impacted by Project construction activities.

9. An Additional Class III Cultural Resources Inventory Report, dated August 15, 2019, is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. No sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP") were identified, and the Project layout modifications depicted in Exhibit A will not impact any previously identified NRHP eligible, potentially eligible, or unevaluated cultural resource sites. The Additional Class III Cultural Resources Inventory Report has been reviewed by the North Dakota State Historical Society, and a copy of its response is attached as **Exhibit D**.

10. An Updated Wetlands and Waterbodies Technical Memorandum, dated August 20, 2019, is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**, which includes survey results from the initial July 19-26, 2018 field surveys and the July 17-20, 2019 follow-up field surveys. The Project layout modifications depicted in Exhibit A will not result in any permanent impacts to wetlands or waterbodies.

11. The Project layout modifications and associated construction activities will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas within the designated Project site.

12. With respect to the Project, including the layout modifications, Aurora Wind will comply with the Commission's Order, including applicable laws and rules designating the site.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Benjamin Conor Branch

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 14 day of October, 2019.

Melissa A Purdon
Notary Public



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