

TO: North Dakota Public Service Commission

FROM: Georg Becker-Birck, AURORA WIND PROJECT, LLC

DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY

The Aurora Wind Project is located in Williams County, North Dakota, northwest of Tioga. U.S. Highway 2 passes a few miles south of the site providing excellent transportation access.

The site is located in a rural setting dominated by crop fields.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN PRIOR MONTH

- ✦ Energization of 4 of 11 collection feeders.
- ✦ Move in of crews and parts into the operation & maintenance building.
- ✦ Ongoing COVID-19 response tracking and work adjustments- face covering usage mandatory on site and increased social distancing.
- ✦ Ongoing Nordex mechanical completion work – 43/71 WTG completed.
- ✦ Topout completed for 70/71 turbines, with blade installation completed on 39/71 turbines. Six blades suffered minor damage during lifting. Root cause analysis identified the cause as the lifting procedure and lifting slings. Process was revised and side protector is being used. Blades are being repaired prior to installation.
- ✦ Added 4th crane to assist with blade installation.
- ✦ Added crews to assist with mechanical completion and commissioning.
- ✦ Commissioning of 15/15 Vestas turbines.
- ✦ Ongoing commissioning work on Nordex turbines.
- ✦ Ongoing SCADA and plant automation system testing and commissioning.

FORECAST OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

- ✦ Final testing work on collection system.
- ✦ Ongoing energization of collection feeders.
- ✦ Focus on blade installation with target to complete blade installations in December.
- ✦ Ongoing mechanical completion work.

- ✦ Target mechanical completion of 90% or more of project – 6 WTG will be completed in January due to long lead spare parts replacement.
- ✦ Ongoing Commissioning of Nordex Turbines – target 80% of project for December. The remaining turbines will be commissioned in January 2021, except for turbines F4 & F5.
- ✦ ADLS system remote connection testing and commissioning.
- ✦ Ongoing SWPPP compliance inspections.
- ✦ Finalization of SCADA and plant automation installation work.
- ✦ Continued and evolving COVID-19 response planning. Work is continuing on site, but by following social distancing, remote meetings, mandatory face covering usage and enhanced cleaning and separation of crews to limit exposure and risks.

Notable events - updates

- ✦ On October 30, 2020 Wind turbine F-4 had an incident during mechanical completion, resulting in no injuries, but in damage of 2 blades and to the exterior of the nacelle. The incident occurred during blade tensioning at one of the project's wind turbine generators. Based on Aurora's root cause investigation, it has been determined that the project contractor's assembly crew did not properly follow the required installation method when tensioning the blades. As a result, the rotor went into overspeed, and touched the tower, damaging two blades.
- ✦ Aurora has largely finalized the root cause analysis, which confirms the preliminary root cause. The project is currently developing a turbine removal plan with the help of an industry expert on safe removal of damaged components. The removal is planned for January 2021. Replacement components will be shipped to site and the turbine will be repaired. The turbine is planned to be put into service in the spring of 2021 – pending arrival of replacement components.
- ✦ Aurora plans to declare a partial GIA COD (commercial operation date) in December 2020 with 90MW or more in parallel with the first PPA COD. The project plans to declare a second partial GIA COD in January 2021 with 97% production (all but F4 and F5 online). A full GIA COD will be declared after the F-4 replacement (which will allow both F4 and F5 to be placed in service).
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