

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 completed for all 11 collection feeders.
- ✦ Ongoing COVID-19 response tracking and work adjustments- face covering usage mandatory on site and increased social distancing.
- ✦ Ongoing Nordex mechanical completion work – 58/71 WTG completed.
- ✦ All repairs of bypassed blades completed.
- ✦ Topout completed for 70/71 turbines, thereof 69/71 completed with blades.
- ✦ 2 of 4 cranes completed installation work and were released. 2 cranes remain on site for remaining work.
- ✦ Continuing with additional crews for mechanical completion and commissioning to speed up progress.
- ✦ Ongoing mechanical completion of turbines.
- ✦ Commissioning completed for 15/15 Vestas turbines and 27/56 Nordex turbines.
- ✦ Completion of SCADA and Plant Automation system testing and commissioning. Ongoing addition of further turbines to the system.
- ✦ Energization and commissioning of the ADLS Radar system. System is active and all permanent FAA warning lights are on; the system will undergo finetuning in January.

FORECAST OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

- ✦ Completion of remaining blade installation and turbine topout (with exception of WTG F-4).

- ✦ Disassembly of damaged WTG F-4 with support of a specialist salvage expert. Placing of replacement order for new turbine, to be installed in June 2021.
- ✦ Ongoing mechanical completion work, some pending arrival of delayed spare parts
- ✦ Partial COD declaration under the Interconnection agreement for 120+ MW.
- ✦ COD declaration for 90MW under the GAP PPA. Due to commissioning delays and parts delays this moved into January.
- ✦ Mechanical completion of remaining WTG on project (with exception of WTG F-4).
- ✦ Ongoing Commissioning of remaining Nordex Turbines – target 97% of project for Mid-February – except for WTG F-4 and F-5.
- ✦ ADLS system finetuning for better target recognition and building of exclusion zones (for example road traffic need to be excluded).
- ✦ Ongoing monthly SWPPP compliance inspections during winter.
- ✦ Continued COVID-19 response. Work is continuing on site, but 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 finalized the root cause analysis, which confirms the preliminary root cause. The project is still developing a turbine removal plan for safe removal of damaged components. The removal is planned for January 2021. Replacement components will be ordered in January – a complete turbine will be shipped as a replacement and is planned to be installed in June 2021.
- ✦ Aurora plans to declare a partial GIA COD (commercial operation date) in January 2021 with 120 MW or more in parallel with the first PPA COD of 90 MW. The project plans to declare a second GIA COD in January 2021 with 97% production (all but F4 and F5 online)..