

Ruso Wind Partners, LLC
Ruso Wind Project and Gen-Tie Line Project
Docket Nos. PU-19-28/PU-19-29

**Late-Filed Exhibit No. 51 – Update on Resolution of Potential Concerns Raised by
Department of Defense/Minot Air Force Base**

At the public hearing, a request was made for updates on the resolution of the potential concerns raised by the Minot Air Force Base in the Department of Defense’s June 6, 2019 letter. As testified to at the public hearing, Ruso Wind Partners, LLC (“Ruso Wind”) had committed to engaging in the formal Mitigation Response Team (MRT) process to coordinate with the Department of Defense and the Minot Air Force Base to reach a resolution. Following the hearing, Ruso Wind participated in the MRT with the Department of Defense and the Minot Air Force Base and, in that process, agreed to remove five turbine locations (T12, T13, T14, T26 and ALT-62) to address Minot Air Force Base’s concerns. The Air Force also cited safety and operational concerns with installation of an aircraft detection lighting system near the existing nuclear facilities, and indicated a standard lighting system should be installed on the Project. A copy of an August 9, 2019 letter from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense and minutes from the MRT meetings are attached as **Late-Filed Exhibit No. 51(a)**.

In lieu of primary turbines T12, T13, T14 and T26, Ruso Wind has activated the following turbines (previously alternates): T48, T51, T53 and T54. An updated version of the Project layout is attached as **Late-Filed Exhibit No. 51(b)**.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

SUSTAINMENT

AUG 09 2019

Ms. Rachel Garrett
Southern Power
3535 Colonnade Parkway, BIN S-855-EC
Birmingham, AL 35243

Reference: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Study Number: 2019-WTW-1173-OE and 60 associated structures

Dear Ms. Garrett,

Thank you for your participation in the Mitigation Response Team (MRT) to assess and overcome military impacts from your proposed Southern Power – Ruso wind farm project in Ruso, North Dakota. In a letter dated June 6, 2019, the Department of Defense (DoD) described the potential impacts to military operations for the project.

As a result of discussions between Southern Power and the U.S. Air Force, the construction of the Ruso wind project, as proposed, will not present an adverse impact to military operations.

We have notified the FAA of our finding. Our response to the FAA included a notification that further expansion beyond the current project area may be problematic. We encourage you to engage DoD prior to any proposed expansion.

If you have any further concerns, please contact Mr. Steven Sample, phone (703) 571-0076, or email steven.j.sample4.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RE Tickle", is positioned above the typed name.

Ronald E. Tickle
Executive Director
Military Aviation and Installation
Assurance Siting Clearinghouse



Capitol Airspace Group

5400 Shawnee Road, Suite 304
Alexandria, VA 22312

703-256-2485
capitolairspace.com

August 9th, 2019

Elizabeth Wash
Southern Power Company
3535 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243

Re: Ruso Wind Project

To whom it may concern:

Capitol Airspace Group, along with partners from Southern Power Company, conducted two mitigation response team (MRT) discussions as organized by the DoD Siting Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse). The two MRTs were conducted on July 17 and July 25, 2019. The DoD Clearinghouse organized the calls and the attendees included Air Force representatives from Global Strike Command, as well as the helicopter and security forces from Minot and F.E. Warren (Wyoming) Air Force Bases (AFB).

During the course of the two MRTs, the discussion focused on the Air Force's concerns for six proposed turbine locations that were in the vicinity of launch facilities controlled by Minot AFB. After the first MRT, and hearing the DoD partner's concerns, Southern Power agreed to remove, and terminate through the FAA, five of these proposed turbine locations. Upon commencing the second MRT discussion, the Air Force agreed with Southern Power's five turbine removal/termination, and found this mitigation to be acceptable. The only additional request from the Air Force, which is standard practice for tall structures in the vicinity of military facilities, was to include Night Vision Goggle (NVG) compatible lighting on the turbines. Southern Power agreed to this additional stipulation. The DoD Clearinghouse released the remainder of the proposed wind turbines to the FAA on August 8th, 2019 and responded with a "No Objection, with Provisions" (the provision being the requirement for NVG compatible lighting).

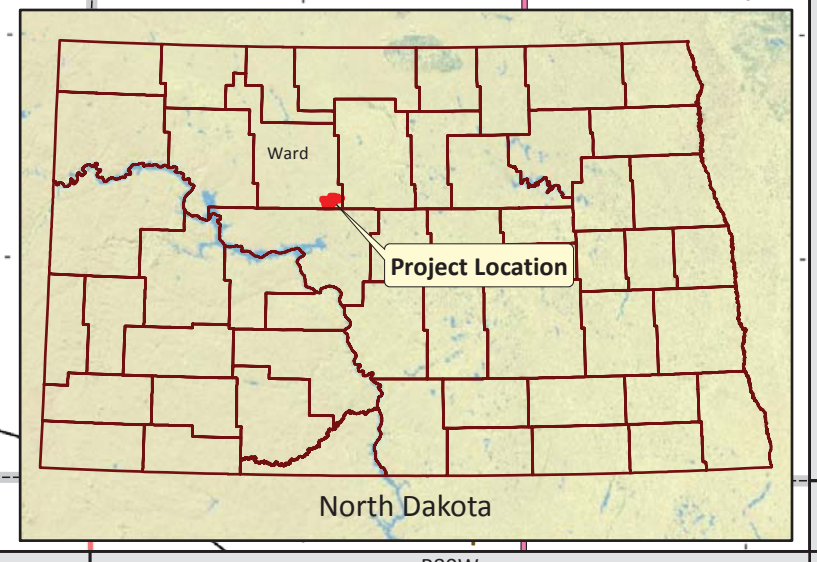
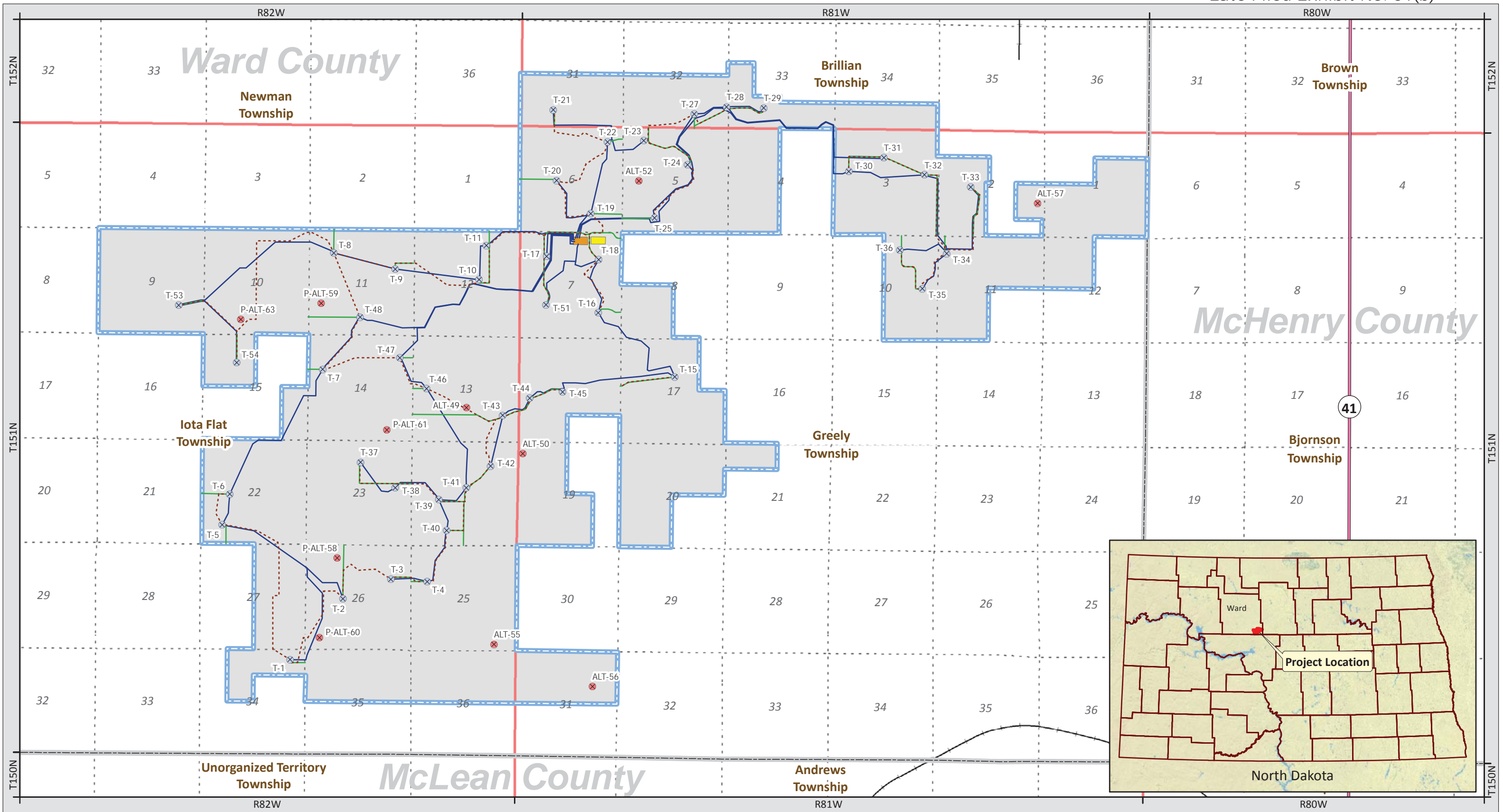
Additionally, the Air Force, through the 582nd Helicopter Group and 37th Helicopter Squadron Operations Group, has determined that full-time lighting should be required when in proximity to nuclear facilities for safety and operational concerns. This Air Force assessment, based on the Air Force's safety and operational concerns, should result in the FAA requiring installation of standard lighting, rather than an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS), on the Project.

If you have any questions regarding the results of these discussions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (703) 256-2485 or Dan.Underwood@capitolairspace.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Underwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Dan Underwood
Project Manager / Military Lead
Capitol Airspace Group



KLJ **Southern Power**

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KLJ Project Number: 1809-00886
 Date Created: 8/9/2019 Created By: JDP

Final Wind Project Layout
Ruso Wind Project
 Ward County, ND

- Project Area
- Primary Turbine (Layout 27)
- Alternate Turbine (Layout 27)
- Cranewalk
- Collector Line
- Access Road
- O&M Facility
- Substation
- State Highway
- Railroad
- Section
- Township
- County Boundary