



March 8, 2019

VIA E-MAIL (ndpsc@nd.gov)

Steve Kahl
Interim Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Public Service Commission – Energy Conversion Facility Siting Criteria Rulemaking
Case No. PU-19-36**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Geronimo Energy, LLC (“Geronimo”) provides the following comments regarding the siting criteria changes proposed by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in the above-referenced rulemaking docket. As background, Geronimo is a utility-scale renewable energy development company headquartered in Edina, Minnesota. Geronimo has developed multiple wind farms and solar projects throughout the United States, including in North Dakota. Currently, Geronimo is the parent company of Harmony Solar ND, LLC, which is developing the Harmony Solar Project in Cass County, North Dakota, and Prosperity Wind Farm, LLC and Prosperity Wind Farm 2, LLC, which are developing wind farms, also in Cass County, North Dakota.

With deep roots in agriculture, Geronimo prides itself on developing wind farms that are farmer-friendly, community-driven, and beneficial for rural communities. For this reason in particular, Geronimo supports the Commission’s proposal to remove prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, and irrigated land from the list of exclusion areas in Section 69-06-08-01(1) of the North Dakota Administrative Code. Renewable energy projects, such as wind and solar projects, provide an opportunity for landowners in rural areas to diversify their income. Further, these projects require support from and voluntary agreements with the landowners. As such, the landowners are choosing to participate in such projects because they have determined that is how they want to use their land. Removing prime farmland/farmland of statewide importance and irrigated land as exclusion areas helps facilitate landowner choice when it comes to participation in wind and solar projects.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Engelking".

Elizabeth Engelking,
Vice President

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