

215 South Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496
218 739-8200
www.otpc.com



November 30, 2021

Mr. Steve Kahl
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

**Re: Case Nos. PU-08-932 and PU-19-144
Merricourt Wind Energy Conversion Facility**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

This is in response to the November 16, 2021, Request for Information (docketed as #282 in PU-08-932 and #95 in PU-19-144) from Patrick Fahn, Director of the Public Utilities Division.

The company is pleased that the Commission's third-party inspector, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (formerly Wenck Associates, Inc.), noted in its As-Built Inspection Report (docketed as #281 in PU-08-932 and #94 in PU-19-144) that the Merricourt Project appears to have been constructed as planned with efforts to minimize impacts. It is notable that Stantec representatives visited the Project site on October 14, 2021, the morning after a 1.2-inch nightly rainfall event that was the last in a series of rainfall events totaling greater than eight inches in a week's time. Consequently, the issues identified by Stantec representatives appear primarily to have been a result of abnormally high rainfall in early October.

To follow are responses to Mr. Fahn's requests for the status of the following items and our company's intended remediation of the issues:

1. The status of reclamation activities, re-grading of poorly graded areas, maintenance of BMPs, and potential need for additional BMPs until sufficient perennial vegetation is permanently established.

Response: Reclamation activities were completed on July 30, 2021, in accordance with the requirements of the construction stormwater general permit, stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), and best management practices. Subsequently, the early October rainfall event affected conditions at the site. Because the onset of cold weather forecloses additional grading before the end of 2021, the company intends to bring the balance of plant contractor, Wanzek Construction, back to the site this spring to address areas in need of reclamation, regrading, and reseeded. 283 PU-08-932 Filed 11/30/2021 Pages: 2

Response to 16 November letter re Request for Information
Otter Tail Power Company

Mark Bring Dir Public Policy&Gov Affairs

96 PU-19-144 Filed 11/30/2021 Pages: 2

Response to 16 November letter re Request for Information
Otter Tail Power Company

Mark Bring Dir Public Policy&Gov Affairs

Mr. Steve Kahl
Re: Case Nos. PU-08-932 and PU-19-144
November 30, 2021
Page 2

2. The status of recent plowing and/or seeding evidenced by soil disturbance, erosion, and lack of vegetation at T-40.

Response: Approximately one-fourth of the disturbed area at T-40 was reseeded by July 30, 2021. This area was subsequently tilled by the farmer that owns the disturbed area. The remainder of the disturbed area was not reseeded because the farmer intends to plant cropland in the spring. Erosion from the recent rainfall event will be addressed in the spring due to the onset of winter weather conditions.

3. The status of SWPPP related deficiencies.

Response: See response to number 1.

4. Repair of damaged drain crossings inlets and outlets.

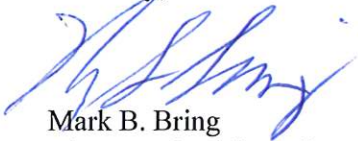
Response: The company intends to bring the balance of plant contractor, Wanzek Construction, back to the site this spring to address any damaged drain crossing inlets and outlets.

5. Additional road stabilization to prevent fill washing into croplands.

Response: The company intends to bring the balance of plant contractor, Wanzek Construction, back to the site this spring to address turbine access road stabilization to prevent fill washing into croplands.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to call me at (218) 739-8922 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Bring
Director of Public Policy & Government Affairs

cc: Patrick Fahn
Brad Tollerson
Harvey McMahon
Chris Harris
Paul Vukonich