

Hamre, John G.

From: Eberl, Stacy L.
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Hamre, John G.
Subject: FW: Northern Divide Wind Energy Center and 345 kV Transmission Line Project - feedback

Please Docket comments below for PU-19-376 and Pu-19-377. Thanks!

From: Yana Ness <mail@yananess.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:02 AM
To: -Info-Public Service Commission <ndpsc@nd.gov>
Subject: Northern Divide Wind Energy Center and 345 kV Transmission Line Project - feedback

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Dear North Dakota Public Service Commission,

I am a former Planning and Zoning Official and Senior Planner of Williams County, North Dakota, with years of education and experience in this field. I am also certified as LEED Green Associate (United States Green Building Council – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). One of areas of my expertise is sustainable development and planning. I was also a representative of Williams County in the Vision West Project – regional plan for sustainable development in Western North Dakota, and I am familiar with the initiatives for sustainable planning and development in the area.

I am a resident of Columbus, Burke County, North Dakota and I have evaluated the proposed “Northern Divide Wind Project”, and I am writing you to express my support of this project.

During the times of major dependency on fossil fuels we need to consider the shift towards more sustainable sources of energy. As the “peak oil” (maximum extraction of petroleum, followed by decline) is approaching, it is very important to consider developments, which are able to provide alternative energy sources.

Wind turbines produce no environmental pollutants and emit no greenhouse gases. The wind supply of the US, in particular North Dakota and the area in question is abundant and inexhaustible. This will be one of the primary energy sources for the long-term development, when the fossil fuels reserves will decline and eventually will be gone. Wind-based energy extraction offsets the amount of electricity generation from fossil fuels, further reducing this amount, which results in the total reduction of environmental pollution and CO2 emissions.

Wind energy brings diversification to the economy, contributes to the shift towards a more sustainable economic development, creates new job market, addresses the energy needs not only short, but most important, long-term.

While planning wind energy projects, it is important to consider its impact to the existing environment and habitat. I have evaluated the initial project and the concerns regarding the potential negative impacts of the project to the natural

habitat, raised by North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I have further evaluated the proposed alternative project "Northern Divide Wind Energy".

The new project proposes relocation of turbines and the change of project boundaries. The location is now within the cropland areas, and the turbines are moved away from the areas with high concentration of natural habitat, such as pintail ducks. Northern Divide Wind has taken measures to ensure that the project will reduce the negative impact on the environment and habitat, as evident from the proposed project and its consideration of concerns of ND Game and Fish Department.

Northern Divide Wind furthermore voluntarily committed to the restoration of the native area, to mitigate the possible habitat loss and displacement. The company has entered into the agreement with ND Game and Fish Department by establishing Cooperative agreement and Memorandum, which constitutes the responsibility of the developer in regards to the site restoration to offset the possible negative impact, as well as commitment to keep developer's future projects outside of the area of Northern Missouri Coteau.

It is evident that the approach of Northern Divide Wind in development of this project is responsible, serious, committed and considers the development of wind farm in the balance with the environment and its habitat, thus working towards achievement of sustainability.

I am therefore supporting this project, and I am looking forward to see such a sustainable and well-thought development in the area.

I kindly ask you to confirm receipt of this e-mail.

With best regards,

Yana Ness

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