

NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NORTHERN DIVIDE WIND, LLC
NORTHERN DIVIDE WIND ENERGY CENTER
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE COMPATIBILITY
AND
NORTHERN DIVIDE 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE CONSOLIDATED
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CORRIDOR COMPATIBILITY AND
ROUTE PERMIT

CASE NOS. PU-19-376 AND PU-19-377

APRIL 1, 2020

PART I

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF
CLAY CAMERON

1 **I. Introduction and Background**

2 **Q1. Please state your name, by whom you are employed, and your business address.**

3 A. My name is Clay Cameron. I am employed by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
4 (“NextEra”). My business address is 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach, Florida 33408.

5 **Q2. What is your position with NextEra?**

6 A. I am the Senior Project Manager, Renewable Business Development for NextEra.
7 Northern Divide Wind, LLC (“Northern Divide Wind”) is an indirect, wholly-owned
8 subsidiary of NextEra. NextEra is the largest generator of wind-powered electricity in
9 North America, with over 15,000 megawatts (“MW”) of generating capacity in 19 states
10 in the United States and in Canada. In North Dakota, through its affiliates, NextEra owns
11 and/or operates 15 wind generation facilities with approximately 1,450 MW of generating
12 capacity.

13 **Q3. Briefly describe your educational background and professional experience.**

14 A. I studied business management at Louisiana State University. I hold a State of Florida
15 General Contractors license and a State of California General Engineering license. I have
16 over 20 years of experience in project management including development, federal, state

1 and local permitting of large construction projects across the country. I have spent the last
2 ten years at NextEra in various roles of increasing responsibility including project
3 development, and engineering and construction oversight. I have overseen the
4 development of over 500 MW of wind projects and managed construction of over 1,000
5 MW of wind energy projects located in the U.S. and Canada.

6 **Q4. What is your role with respect to the Northern Divide Wind Energy Center (“Wind
7 Project”) and the Northern Divide 345 kilovolt (“kV”) Transmission Line
8 (“Transmission Project”) (collectively, the “Projects”)?**

9 A. I am the Project Manager and oversee all aspects of the Projects’ development.

10 **Q5. Are you familiar with the contents of Northern Divide Wind’s Application for a
11 Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Wind Project, which marked as Exhibit No. 1,
12 and the Consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and
13 Route Permit for the Transmission Project, which is marked as Exhibit No. 2
14 (collectively, the “Applications”)?**

15 A. Yes. I am familiar with the contents of the Applications.

16 **Q6. Do these Applications accurately describe the Projects?**

17 A. Yes, along with the supplemental and supporting information Northern Divide Wind has
18 filed with the Commission.

19 **II. Description of the Projects**

20 **Q7. Please describe the Wind Project and its general location.**

21 A. The Wind Project is a planned wind generation project with a nameplate capacity of up to
22 200 MW to be located in Burke County in northwestern North Dakota, approximately 23
23 miles west of the city of Bowbells. The Wind Project is primarily rural and agricultural
24 based and encompasses approximately 10,912 acres (17.05 square miles). The Wind
25 Project will be constructed, owned, and operated by Northern Divide Wind.

26 The Wind Project consists of up to 74 turbines. Northern Divide Wind expects to
27 use up to 66 General Electric (“GE”) 2.72 MW wind turbines (GE 2.72) and up to eight
28 GE 2.32 MW wind turbines (GE 2.32). The GE 2.72 turbines have a 295.3-foot (90 meter)

1 hub height and will measure 485.6 feet (148 meters) from the base of the tower to the tip
2 of the upright blade. The GE 2.32 turbines will have a 262.5-foot (80 meter) hub height
3 and will measure 452.7 feet (131.5-meters) from the base of the tower to the tip of the
4 upright blade. The permanent Wind Project structures will occupy up to 57.2 acres during
5 operation or less than one percent of the total participating land. Each turbine has a
6 permanent impact of approximately 0.06 acres.

7 Additional facilities associated with the Wind Project include access roads,
8 underground electrical collection systems, one (1) collection substation, one (1) Operations
9 and Maintenance (“O&M”) building, one (1) permanent meteorological tower (“MET”),
10 two (2) temporary power performance METs, one (1) permanent Aircraft Detection
11 Lighting System (“ADLS”) radar system tower, a construction laydown area, and a batch
12 plant. In addition, the Wind Project layout includes four alternate turbine locations and
13 one alternate MET location to provide siting flexibility.

14 **Q9. Describe the associated Transmission Project and its general location.**

15 A. In addition to the Wind Project, Northern Divide Wind is also seeking a Certificate of
16 Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the associated Transmission Project located
17 in Burke and Mountrail Counties. The Transmission Project is an approximately 41-mile
18 long, 345 kV overhead transmission line, of which approximately 23 miles are located in
19 Burke County and 18 miles located in Mountrail County. The Transmission Project’s
20 corridor is 150 feet wide and consists of primarily rural and agricultural land types and
21 encompasses 25,776 acres. The Transmission Project will convey 200 MW from the Wind
22 Project’s turbines to the point of interconnection at the existing Basin Electric Power
23 Cooperative’s (“Basin Electric”) 345 kV Tande Substation in Mountrail County. Similar
24 to the Wind Project, Northern Divide Wind will construct, own, and operate the
25 Transmission Project.

26 The Transmission Project will be constructed using 279 steel monopole structures.
27 The average height of a single pole structure is 120 feet and will range from 90 to 180 feet
28 depending on final engineering design. Structure foundation types include 265 direct
29 embed and 14 drilled shaft, with both types ranging from 15 to 50 feet deep. Structure
30 spans will range from 350 to 1,350 feet (775-foot average). Of the 279 structures, 55 are

1 turning structures: 26 dead-end with eight guys per structure, two light-angle with four
2 guys per structure, 15 medium-angle with four guys per structure, nine self-supporting
3 dead-ends (no guys), and three self-supporting medium angles (no guys).

4 Permanent impacts from the Transmission Project will be 0.589 acres. Pole
5 locations comprise about 78.54 square feet of permanent impacts per monopole structure
6 for direct embedded pole installations, and 314.16 square feet of permanent impacts per
7 monopole structure for drilled pier foundations.

8 **Q8. Describe the development history of the Projects.**

9 A. NextEra previously developed the Projects under the subsidiary Burke Wind, LLC as the
10 Burke Wind Project and Burke Transmission Project (collectively, the “Burke Projects”).
11 Siting applications were submitted to the Commission for the Burke Projects in Case Nos.
12 PU-18-302 and PU-18-344. The Commission denied these applications on June 12, 2019.
13 Following the Commission’s order, we reevaluated the Burke Projects, including all of the
14 valuable stakeholder input received during the siting process. Our goal was to continue
15 developing the projects in a way that met the expectations of the Commission, relevant
16 stakeholders, and applicable agencies. As part of our revised development efforts, the
17 Projects’ subsidiary was renamed to Northern Divide Wind, LLC¹ and the Projects were
18 renamed as the Northern Divide Wind Project and Northern Divide Transmission Project.

19 As a part of these efforts, we engaged closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service (“USFWS”) and North Dakota Department of Game and Fish (“NDGFD”, and
21 collectively with UWFWS, the “Wildlife Agencies”) to work to address the agencies’ prior
22 concerns. My colleague, Mr. Dustin Jones, describes these efforts in more detail in his
23 testimony. Based on recommendations from the Wildlife Agencies, the Burke Wind
24 Project layout and array was significantly altered to accommodate the concerns identified
25 by the Wildlife Agencies. In particular, three of the prior 81 Burke Wind Project turbines
26 were eliminated and 44 of the prior 81 turbines were relocated away from areas that the
27 Wildlife Agencies deemed to be most environmentally sensitive. Mr. Jones describes other

¹ Updated corporate paperwork for Northern Divide Wind, LLC including documentation of the corporate name change, has been filed with the Commission in Case No. PU-19-370.

1 efforts that we took to address prior concerns and reduce the environmental impact from
2 the Projects.

3 With respect to the development of the Transmission Project, a majority of the route
4 remains unchanged from the Burke Transmission Project. However, due to the proposed
5 relocation of the Wind Project's collector substation, we extended the Transmission Project
6 by four miles.

7 **Q9. Please describe the local permitting efforts related to the Projects.**

8 A. Northern Divide Wind submitted an amended conditional use permit ("CUP") application
9 to Burke County for relocated turbine locations, a relocated collector substation, the revised
10 transmission line route, a relocated O&M building, and an equipment laydown yard. The
11 application was presented to the Burke County Planning & Zoning Board in a public
12 hearing on October 22, 2019. On November 19, 2019, the Burke County Planning &
13 Zoning Board recommended approval of the application to the Burke County
14 Commissioners in a 4-2 vote, and the Burke County Commissioners approved the CUP
15 application in a 3-0 vote (Exhibit 3, Appendix A).

16 With respect to the approximate 18 miles of the Transmission Project located in
17 Mountrail County, Mountrail County had previously granted a CUP for the Burke
18 Transmission Project, which permit would have expired on October 22, 2019 if
19 construction had not yet started. Northern Divide Wind requested Mountrail County to
20 grant a one-year extension of the prior CUP. On September 23, 2019 at a public hearing
21 in Mountrail County, the Planning & Zoning Board unanimously granted Northern Divide
22 Wind's request for a one-year extension of the CUP (Exhibit 3, Appendix B).

23 **Q10. Please explain the need for the Projects.**

24 A. Northern Divide Wind has entered into a 30-year power purchase agreement with Basin
25 Electric for the full output of the Wind Project. My understanding is that this agreement
26 will support Basin Electric's power needs in the Bakken region in North Dakota.

27 **Q11. What are the Projects' estimated costs?**

28 A. The Wind Project is estimated to cost approximately \$300 million, and the Transmission
29 Project is estimated to cost approximately \$30 million.

1 **Q12. Please describe the Wind Project’s electrical collection system and collection**
2 **substation.**

3 A. The power from the wind turbines will be run through an underground 34.5 kV collection
4 system consisting of various sized cables. Collection lines will be buried 48 inches deep
5 and will not affect farming operations or other surface uses of the land during operations
6 of the Wind Project. The collection system has been designed to minimize temporary and
7 permanent environmental impacts. All the collection system cables will terminate at the
8 proposed Wind Project collection substation. The Wind Project collection substation will
9 include power transformers to step up the voltage from 34.5 kV to 345 kV.

10 **Q13. Please describe the Projects’ interconnection arrangements.**

11 A. The Projects will interconnect to Basin Electric’s transmission system. In particular, the
12 Wind Project’s generated power will interconnect to the electrical grid via the existing 345
13 kV Tande Substation.

14 The Projects are currently being studied by the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (“SPP”)
15 in its Definitive Interconnection System Impact Studies. This consists of a single SPP
16 interconnection request for 200 MW into Basin Electric’s Tande Substation. Northern
17 Divide Wind expects to execute a Generator Interconnection Agreement with SPP in the
18 third quarter of 2020.

19 **Q14. Explain Northern Divide Wind’s proposed timeline for construction and operation of**
20 **the Projects.**

21 A. Subject to receipt of Commission approval and other necessary permits, road restrictions,
22 and weather conditions, Northern Divide Wind currently anticipates beginning
23 construction of the Projects in May or June 2020. Northern Divide Wind proposes to
24 complete construction in time to place the Wind Project into commercial operations by
25 December 2020.

26 **Q15. What is the status of land and easement acquisition for the Projects?**

27 A. Northern Divide Wind has obtained all easements necessary for construction and operation
28 of the Wind Project. With respect to the Transmission Project, Northern Divide Wind has
29 obtained all easements necessary for construction and operation, except for one remaining

1 land easement, from the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Per correspondence
2 from the Department dated August 28, 2019 (Exhibit 2, Appendix C9), the Department
3 will execute an easement agreement upon receipt of the Commission's final order.

4 **Q16. How many residences are located within the boundary of the Wind Project?**

5 A. There are five occupied residences located within the Wind Project's boundary, all of
6 which are participating in the Wind Project.

7 **Q17. Provide a brief overview of the Projects' construction process.**

8 A. Once the necessary siting approvals are received from the Commission for the Projects,
9 several activities must be completed prior to the proposed commercial operation date. The
10 majority of the activity relates to delivery of the equipment and construction of the
11 facilities. Pre-construction, construction, and post-construction activities for the Projects
12 will include:

- 13 • Constructing access roads, underground collection lines, and the Wind Project
14 substation;
- 15 • Installing turbine tower foundations, and underground and aboveground junction
16 boxes;
- 17 • Placing and erecting wind turbines;
- 18 • Delivery, assembly, and installing of transmission pole structures;
- 19 • Acceptance testing; and,
- 20 • Commencing commercial operations.

21 **Q18. How will Northern Divide Wind handle topsoil removal during construction?**

22 A. Northern Divide Wind will comply with the Commission's requirements regarding topsoil
23 removal and replacement in accordance with the Commission's Certifications Relating to
24 Order Provisions.

1 **Q19. What roads are necessary for the construction and operation of the Projects?**

2 A. Northern Divide Wind expects to build approximately 25 miles of permanent access roads
3 for the Wind Project, which access roads will be 16 feet wide on average. Temporary
4 construction turbine access roads will be typically up to 50 feet wide and adjacent to the
5 turbine towers, allowing access to the turbines during and after construction.

6 No permanent access roads will be built to construct or maintain the Transmission
7 Project. The Transmission Project is adjacent to existing public roads or section lines and
8 can be accessed with minimal off-road work.

9 **Q20. Please explain Northern Divide Wind's process for landowner coordination if a**
10 **landowner has any concerns during or after construction?**

11 A. If a landowner has concerns, he or she may contact the Construction Manager during
12 construction and the O&M Manager after construction. Prior to construction, all
13 landowners within the Projects will receive mailers that will include the Construction
14 Manager's contact information. We will schedule a landowner dinner prior to construction
15 for all participating and non-participating landowners within the Project boundary to
16 provide a construction update and introduce the construction team. During construction, a
17 mailer will be sent out containing the O&M Manager's contact information. Additionally,
18 post-construction reclamation concerns may be directed to the local O&M Manager.

19
20 **III. Setbacks**

21 **Q21. Are the Projects designed to comply with local setback requirements and the setback**
22 **requirements set forth in the Commission's rules and regulations?**

23 A. Yes.

24 **Q22. Please describe the setbacks applicable to the Wind Project.**

25 A. The Wind Project has been designed to comply with or exceed the Commission's and
26 Burke County's setback requirements, which are summarized in the table below. Northern
27 Divide Wind based setback distances on the GE 2.72 model, which is the taller of the two
28 turbine types that Northern Divide Wind proposes to utilize. The distance from the nearest
29 participating residence to a turbine is 2,040 feet, and the distance to the nearest non-
30 participating residence to a turbine is approximately 2,806 feet.

1 The table below summarizes the Commission's and Burke County's setbacks
 2 applicable to the Wind Project.

Wind Project Setback Distances		
Setback Type	Setback Distance	Setback Distance
Commission		
Interstate and state road right-of-way	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Centerline of any county or maintained township roadway	1.1 x height of the plus 75 feet	560.6 feet
Railroad right-of-way	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
115 kV or higher transmission lines	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Property line of non-participating landowners	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Non-participating residences	3 x height of the turbine	1,456.7 feet
Geographic center of an intercontinental ballistic missile launch or launch control facility	1,200 feet	1,200 feet
Burke County		
Occupied structures	One-half mile from the turbine	2,640 feet
Bridges	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Rail lines	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Above ground electrical or communication lines	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Antenna towers	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Unoccupied structures	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Improvements with an estimated value over \$25,000	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet
Boundary between the host property and any property that adjoins the host property ²	1.1 x height of the turbine	534.1 feet

3
 4 **Q23. Please describe the setbacks applicable to the Transmission Project.**

5 A. The Transmission Project also complies with or exceeds the Commission's and Burke and
 6 Mountrail Counties' setback requirements for transmission facilities, which are set forth in
 7 the below table.

Transmission Project Setback Distances	
Setback Type	Setback Distance
Commission	
The geographic center of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch or launch control facility.	1,200 feet
Areas on either side of a direct line between ICBM launch or launch control facilities to avoid microwave interference.	30 feet
Residence, school, or place of business.	500 feet
Burke County	
From all section lines and the centerline of all township and county roads.	150 feet
From the centerlines of all federal and state highways.	250 feet
Mountrail County	
From all section lines and the centerline of all township and county roads.	150 feet
From the centerlines of all federal and state highways.	250 feet

1
2 **Q24. How were setbacks measured for the Projects?**

3 A. An American Land Title Association (“ALTA”) survey was conducted for the Projects.
4 This survey identified property lines, road rights-of-way, and utility rights-of-way. A
5 desktop analysis was performed using the ALTA survey data to ensure that turbines and
6 other infrastructure met the most stringent setbacks provided for by the Commission, Burke
7 County, and Mountrail County. For setbacks involving residences, schools, and places of
8 business, the measurement was taken from the approximate outermost portion of the
9 building. For setbacks from property lines, section lines, and county lines, the
10 measurement was taken from the proposed center point of the turbine to the surveyed
11 property line, section line, or county line. Where required by the Commission, setbacks
12 were measured from the proposed center point of turbines to the nearest edge of designated
13 rights-of-way for interstate and state roads, railroads, and 115 kV or greater transmission
14 lines.

15 Wind Project setbacks were measured in the field during micro-siting and during
16 desktop review to verify all setbacks. Survey grade field data was utilized to verify
17 compliance with setback requirements.

18 The measurement for Transmission Project setbacks involving residences, schools
19 and places of business was taken from the outermost portion of the arm of a transmission

1 tower. Aerial imagery was reviewed to identify all potential residences, schools, and places
2 of business.

3 **Q25. The Transmission Project Application (Exhibit 2) identifies one residence located**
4 **within 500 feet of the Transmission Project facility, which is designated as a**
5 **Commission Avoidance Area. Can you please identify the location of this residence?**

6 A. This residence is located 335 feet from the Transmission Project (measured from the
7 outermost portion of the arm of a transmission tower), as shown in the Transmission Project
8 Map Book Set, Exhibit 2, Appendix D, page 18 of 18.

9 **Q26. Has Northern Divide Wind secured a waiver from this landowner?**

10 A. Yes, the waiver was filed with the Commission and is marked as Exhibit 3, Appendix D.

11 **Q27. What is the status of local permitting?**

12 A. As I described in Section II, above, Northern Divide Wind has obtained CUPs from Burke
13 County and Mountrail County for the Projects. Remaining local agreements include Burke
14 County building and construction permits, and road use and utility crossing agreements.
15 These will be obtained and filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction
16 in areas for which said permit or authorization is required.

17 **IV. Telecommunications, Weather Radar, and Lighting**

18 **Q28. Has Northern Divide Wind studied whether there are any possible effects of the Wind**
19 **Project on microwave beam paths, telecommunications and weather radar facilities?**

20 A. Yes. Existing telephone and fiber optic cables within the Wind Project will be located in
21 the field by the respective utility companies prior to construction to ensure that impacts to
22 telephone and fiber optic cables will be avoided.

23 Northern Divide Wind received a response from the National Telecommunications
24 and Information Administration on April 18, 2017 issuing a No Harmful Interference
25 Anticipated determination that the proposed turbines are not anticipated to interfere with
26 telecommunications and weather radar facilities (Exhibit 1, Appendix B1).

27 A telecommunications study was also completed to identify all published Federal
28 Communications Commission microwave telecommunication systems in proximity of the

1 Project Area. Based on the results of the study, no impacts to these systems are anticipated
2 from the Wind Project's turbines.

3 **Q29. Will the Wind Project comply with Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA")**
4 **requirements?**

5 A. Yes. The wind turbines and the METs must comply with FAA lighting and marking
6 requirements. Northern Divide Wind has received the FAA Determinations of No Hazard
7 for all Wind Project turbines, all alternate turbine locations, the permanent MET and the
8 two temporary power performance METs. The FAA's review included the evaluation of
9 any potential interference with air traffic and concluded the proposed turbines and turbine
10 locations do not pose a hazard to air traffic.

11 **Q30. Explain Northern Divide Wind's plans for use of light-mitigating technology at the**
12 **Wind Project.**

13 A. Northern Divide Wind will install an FAA-approved aircraft detection lighting system
14 ("ADLS") at the Wind Project. Northern Divide Wind has submitted site-specific approval
15 requests to the FAA for installation of the ADLS at the Wind Project, and we expect to
16 receive FAA approval for the ADLS radar before June 2020. Northern Divide Wind has
17 procured the ADLS equipment for the Wind Project, and the equipment has been delivered
18 to Northern Divide Wind's vendor in the U.S. The ADLS will be operational at the time
19 that the Wind Project enters commercial operations.

20 **V. Operations and Maintenance and Project Decommissioning**

21 **Q31. Discuss the personnel that will be involved in operating and maintaining the Projects?**

22 A. Northern Divide Wind will operate and maintain the Wind Project. Five to seven full-time
23 employees will operate and maintain the Projects. The O&M staff will have full
24 responsibility for ensuring that the Projects operate consistent with applicable permits,
25 prudent industry practice, and equipment manufacturer recommendations.

26 **Q32. Explain what monitoring and maintenance are required for the Projects?**

27 A. Northern Divide Wind's on-site O&M staff will be responsible for maintenance of the
28 Projects on a daily basis. O&M field duties include performing all scheduled and

1 unscheduled maintenance, including periodic operational checks and tests, regular
2 preventive maintenance on all turbines, related plant facilities and equipment, safety
3 systems, controls, instruments, and machinery. Northern Divide Wind has designed and
4 will install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (“SCADA”) system on the Wind
5 Project during construction, which provides continuous data to the O&M staff and
6 NextEra’s field production and diagnostics control center located in Juno Beach, Florida,
7 which monitors all NextEra power generating facilities 24 hours a day/seven days a week.

8 **Q33. Please explain what steps Northern Divide Wind will take to ensure the Projects’**
9 **emergency preparedness.**

10 A. The Projects will have an Emergency Response Plan (“ERP”) that governs reporting and
11 response procedures in the event of an emergency. The ERP will be shared with local
12 emergency response teams for review and comment, and training will be coordinated as
13 necessary. Additionally, Northern Divide Wind personnel will be trained annually on
14 emergency equipment use, emergency response, and first aid procedures.

15 The Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractor for the Projects,
16 Blattner Energy, will coordinate the ERP during construction. During operations, the
17 Projects’ O&M Manager will continue coordination of the ERP with local emergency
18 responders. Northern Divide Wind has had preliminary discussions with the County
19 regarding the Projects’ ERP.

20 **Q34. What is the estimated life of the Wind Project?**

21 A. As I previously discussed, Northern Divide Wind executed a 30-year power purchase
22 agreement with Basin Electric. As technology evolves, the life of the Wind Project may
23 be extended with future upgrades.

24 **Q35. What are Northern Divide Wind’s plans regarding decommissioning of the Wind**
25 **Project?**

26 A. Northern Divide Wind will develop a decommissioning plan and provide financial
27 assurance in accordance with the Commission’s decommissioning rules and regulations
28 (N.D.C.C. § 49-02-27 and N.D. Admin. Code Chapter 69-09-09). Additionally, Northern
29 Divide Wind is contractually obligated to the landowners to remove the wind facilities,

1 including foundations to a depth of four feet below ground, when the wind easement
2 expires and to restore the area to the same physical condition that existed immediately
3 before the construction of the turbines.

4 **VI. Outreach**

5 **Q36. Explain Northern Divide Wind’s outreach to the public and with local political**
6 **subdivisions regarding the Projects’ development.**

7 A. Northern Divide Wind undertook significant outreach with the public, landowners, and
8 agencies throughout the history of the Projects. During the Projects’ development,
9 Northern Divide Wind worked closely with Burke and Mountrail County officials and
10 other stakeholders to address feedback and concerns and to ensure the Projects were
11 meeting local requirements. Throughout 2017, 2018, and 2019, Northern Divide Wind met
12 with these counties on a bi-monthly basis to discuss the Projects. Northern Divide Wind
13 also met with landowners in and around the Projects on various occasions and has worked
14 with landowners to avoid or minimize impacts on their property to the extent practicable.

15 **Q37. Explain how Northern Divide Wind has demonstrated its commitment to being**
16 **involved with the local community.**

17 A. Northern Divide Wind is invested in, and has been actively contributing to the local
18 communities near the Projects, including providing donations to various organizations such
19 as: local schools, youth organizations, extracurricular programs, sports teams, county
20 sponsored events and programs, and various county departments including local volunteer
21 emergency responders.

22 **Q38. What are some of the economic benefits of the proposed Projects?**

23 A. The proposed Projects will have positive economic impacts for the local population,
24 including lease and royalty payments for participating landowners, new employment, and
25 property and sales tax revenue. Northern Divide Wind estimates that the Projects will
26 provide approximately \$30 million in tax revenue to Burke and Mountrail Counties over
27 30 years. These revenues will not only benefit the counties and participating landowners,
28 but will also benefit the local economy as that money is reinvested in local goods and
29 services.

1 In addition, the Projects will create approximately 200-300 temporary construction
2 jobs at the peak of construction activities and five to seven permanent full-time local O&M
3 jobs. Northern Divide Wind has executed a contract with Blattner Energy to construct the
4 Projects. Blattner Energy will hire local skilled and non-skilled labor, first from Burke and
5 Mountrail Counties, and then from other areas in North Dakota. Additional goods and
6 services will be sourced locally to the extent possible.

7 **VII. Conclusion**

8 **Q39. In your opinion, will the Projects' location and operation produce minimal adverse**
9 **effects on the environment and on the citizens of North Dakota?**

10 A. Yes. The Projects have been sited to comply with Burke and Mountrail County zoning
11 regulations and the Commission's siting criteria, as well as to minimize potential impacts
12 to existing land uses, infrastructure, and environmental resources. Additionally, the
13 Projects will provide significant benefits to the local community and the state. For these
14 reasons, and as demonstrated through the Applications, supporting filings, and my
15 testimony, the Projects will produce minimal adverse effects.

16 **Q40. Has Northern Divide Wind made additional commitments to minimize adverse**
17 **impacts with respect to the Projects?**

18 A. Yes. Exhibits 4 and 5 are true and correct copies of the Commission's Certification
19 Relating to Order Provisions for the Projects, which have been executed by an authorized
20 representative of Northern Divide Wind. Northern Divide Wind will comply with the
21 requirements set forth in the Certifications.

22 **Q41. Does this conclude your testimony?**

23 A. Yes.