

Hamre, John G.

From: Eberl, Stacy L.
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Hamre, John G.
Subject: FW: Northern Divide Wind Project (Case No. nPU-19-376) and Transmission Line (PU-19-377)

John, please docket the comments below for PU-19-376 and PU-19-377. Thanks!

From: Randall E Greenfield <regreenfield@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:41 AM
To: -Info-Public Service Commission <ndpsc@nd.gov>
Subject: Northern Divide Wind Project (Case No. nPU-19-376) and Transmission Line (PU-19-377)

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To the ND Public Service Commission:

The Application for the Northern Divide Wind Project should be approved. There exists an abundance of favorable amounts of wind in North Dakota for electrical energy generation. Wind farms have minimal effect on the environment and wildlife habitat. Wind energy can provide landowners with additional income and small ND communities with more jobs and tax revenue. Having more sources of electrical energy decreases electrical rates and ensures the continuity of available electrical energy.

Now is not the time to disapprove an application for a clean renewable energy source like wind energy. Even with recent relaxed EPA regulations coal-fired power plants are choosing to shut down due to the high costs of modernization and the decreasing market for coal-fired electrical energy. Some states such as Oregon and Washington have enacted laws to terminate the purchase and billing for coal-fired electrical energy. In January of 2020 one of the largest coal-fired power plants west of the Mississippi river located at Colstrip, MT closed down the oldest 2 of its 4 power plants; decreasing its electrical energy generation by roughly one-third. The reasons given were the settlement of a lawsuit for environmental contamination, the high cost of coal, the high cost of modernization, and the decreasing market for coal-fired electrical energy. ND coal-fired power plants are also struggling to reduce carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury emissions.

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