

**BEFORE THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Northern Divide Wind, LLC  
200 MW Northern Divide Wind Energy Center  
Burke County, North Dakota  
Siting Application

Case No. PU-19-376

Northern Divide Wind, LLC  
345 kV Transmission Line  
Burke and Mountrail Counties  
Siting Application

Case No. PU-19-377

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**DECLARATION OF CLAY CAMERON**

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STATE OF COLORADO            )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF DENVER            )

I, Clay Cameron, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am more than eighteen years of age, competent to testify as a witness, and make this declaration based on my personal knowledge and belief as to the facts set forth within.
2. I am the Senior Project Manager, Renewable Development for NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (“NextEra”), which is the indirect, upstream parent company of Northern Divide Wind, LLC (“Northern Divide Wind”), the Applicant in these proceedings. Northern Divide Wind submitted its Applications for the Northern Divide Wind Energy Center (“Wind Project”) and the associated approximately 41-mile, 345 kV transmission line (“Transmission Project”) in Commission Case Nos. PU-19-376 and PU-19-377, respectively.
3. I am submitting this Declaration in order to provide the Commission with additional information in response to the hearing in this proceeding, which was held on April 17, 2020, and in response to various public comments filed in these proceedings following the April 17 hearing.

**I. Aircraft Detection Lighting System (“ADLS”)**

4. At the April 17 hearing, I testified that Northern Divide Wind submitted site-specific approval requests to the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) for installation of ADLS at the Project and that approval remained pending. As an update to my testimony, on April 15, 2020, the FAA issued Determinations of No Hazard authorizing installation of ADLS at the Project.

## **II. Landowner Coordination**

5. In developing the Wind Project, Northern Divide Wind undertook significant work to site the project. This work includes performing numerous studies and surveys to design and engineer the project and to evaluate the project site for environmental, cultural, and other important factors necessary to obtain Commission, county, and other approvals. These studies and surveys included, without limitation, land surveys, geotechnical tests, biological studies, cultural studies, environmental studies, and other field-related work.
6. In the course of this siting process, if access to a participating landowner’s property was necessary to conduct these studies or surveys, Northern Divide Wind would notify the landowner by phone or email no less than 24 hours prior to entering the property. If the property is rented or leased to other interested parties, and proper contact information was provided to Northern Divide Wind, then those persons also would be contacted prior to conducting the field work activities. In no case did anyone on behalf of Northern Divide Wind enter a participating landowner’s property without authorization of that landowner.
7. Once the Wind Project becomes operational, landowner, renter, and leaseholder contact information will be provided to Northern Divide Wind’s on-site operations and maintenance personnel for future coordination as needed.
8. I reviewed comments that raised concerns regarding landowner coordination submitted by an individual who, along with some of his family members, rent farm land from landowners who are participating in the Wind Project.<sup>1</sup> In addition to communicating directly with the landowners prior to performing any survey work, Northern Divide Wind’s land team also communicated with this individual and his family on multiple occasions and endeavored to provide sufficient notice before entering parcels that they rent.

## **III. Compatibility with Agricultural Crop Spraying**

9. NextEra subsidiaries currently operate approximately 120 wind projects in the United States and Canada, including 15 operating projects in North Dakota, many of which are

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<sup>1</sup> See PU-19-376, Docket No. 71 (Comments of Patrick M. Ely). Additional concerns were expressed regarding crop damages resulting from prior surveying efforts. Although such issues are non-jurisdictional to the Commission, Northern Divide Wind has previously attempted to resolve these concerns and continues to do so.

located in agricultural areas where crop spraying is common. NextEra's operations team works closely with landowners to ensure farming operations, including crop spraying, can continue safely and in harmony with the operations of NextEra's wind facilities. Typically, crop spraying is conducted during times of day when wind speeds are low, when turbines are not operating due to lack of wind. With close coordination and adequate notification from landowners, Northern Divide Wind can accommodate crop spraying schedules by shutting down wind turbines as needed.

10. Landowners in the area conducting crop spraying during construction may contact Northern Divide Wind's construction manager, Larry Levin ([larry.levin@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:larry.levin@nexteraenergy.com) and 701-371-5747). Landowners in the area conducting crop spraying during operations may contact Northern Divide Wind's operations manager, whose contact information will be provided to local landowners and to Burke County before commercial operations.


#### **IV. Project Decommissioning**

11. As described in the Wind Project Application, Northern Divide Wind will develop a decommissioning plan in accordance with the requirements set forth in North Dakota Administrative Code (N.D. Admin. Code) Chapter 69-09-09 and will file the plan with the Commission for approval prior to commercial operations as required in N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-09-06. Exhibit No. 1 (Wind Project Application) at page 4-6. Northern Divide Wind also will submit to the Commission financial assurance sufficient to assure decommissioning, as required by N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-09-08. Northern Divide Wind will provide its financial assurance for the construction period prior to commencement of construction, as required by N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-09-08(1). *Id.*
12. As also described in the Wind Project Application, Northern Divide Wind has a contractual obligation to the landowners to remove wind facilities when the wind easements expire and to restore the area to substantially the same physical condition that existed immediately before the construction of the turbines. *Id.*
13. With respect to turbines, the GE 2.72 MW and 2.32 MW turbines that Northern Divide Wind expects to use for the Wind Project have an estimated useful life of 30 years. Northern Divide Wind also reserves the right to consider and explore alternatives to decommissioning at the end of the Project's term, for example, by retrofitting the turbines and power systems with upgrades based on new technology that may allow the Wind Project to produce efficiently and successfully into the future.
14. Once the turbines are decommissioned, Northern Divide Wind will dispose of the turbine components according to its Commission-approved decommissioning plan and its contractual obligations with landowners. NextEra subsidiaries generally dispose of

turbine components either through recycling, landfills, or donations of turbine parts to colleges and wind technician programs. Once decommissioned, above-ground turbine components do not remain on landowners' property.

I declare, under penalty of perjury under the law of North Dakota, the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on the 8th day of May, 2020, at County of Denver, Colorado, United States of America.

By:   
Clay Cameron  
Senior Project Manager  
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC