

June 8, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Steven Kahl
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Aurora Wind Project, LLC's Ten Year Plan for 2020-2030
Case No. PU-20-_____**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Attached for filing are electronic copies of the following documents:

1. Aurora Wind Project, LLC's Ten Year Plan: 2020-2030;
2. Notice of Filing Ten Year Plan: 2020-2030; and
3. Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/bd
Enclosures

cc: Beth M. Innis, Williams County Auditor (w/encls.)
Stephanie Pappa, Mountrail County Auditor (w/encls.)

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Attorneys & Advisors
Main 612.492.7000
Fax 612.492.7077

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-1425

USA / China / Mexico
Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota
fredlaw.com

1 PU-20-251 Filed 06/08/2020 Pages: 15
2020 Ten Year Plan
Aurora Wind Project, LLC
Mollie Smith, Fredrikson&Byron, P.A.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY AURORA WIND
PROJECT, LLC**

Case No. PU-20-____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Mollie M. Smith, being first duly sworn, does depose and state that on June 8, 2020, she served the following document:

Ten Year Plan: 2020-2030

by placing a true and correct copy of said document in envelopes addressed as follows:

Ms. Beth M. Innis
Williams County Auditor
Williams County Administration Building, First Floor
206 E. Broadway
PO Box 2047
Williston, ND 58802-2047

Ms. Stephanie Pappa
Mountrail County Auditor
PO Box 69
Stanley ND 58784-0069

and depositing the same, with postage prepaid, in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Mollie M. Smith

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY AURORA WIND
PROJECT, LLC**

Case No. PU-20-____

**NOTICE OF FILING TEN YEAR PLAN
2020-2030**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Aurora Wind Project, LLC, in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, filed a Ten Year Plan for the years 2020 through 2030 with the North Dakota Public Service Commission on June 8, 2020, and the Williams and Mountrail County Auditors on June 8, 2020.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2020.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.



By _____

MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
Attorney for Aurora Wind Project, LLC
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425
(612) 492-7270

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the following document:

NOTICE OF FILING TEN-YEAR PLAN: 2020-2030

was served on the 8th day of June, 2020 by placing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, properly addressed to the following:

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
P.O. Box 5020
Bismarck, ND 58502-5020

North Dakota Office of Attorney General
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 125
Bismarck, ND 58505

North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

North Dakota Department of Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0200

North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 325
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

North Dakota Department of Labor and Human Rights
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 406, Room 107
Bismarck, ND 58505-0340

North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education
State Capitol, 15th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0610

North Dakota Department of Commerce
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 2
P.O. Box 2057
Bismarck, ND 58503

Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands
1707 North 9th Street
P.O. Box 5523
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

North Dakota Industrial Commission
State Capitol, 14th Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Office of Governor Doug Burgum
State of North Dakota
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

North Dakota Department of Transportation
608 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700

State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
State Capitol Building
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
1st Floor - Judicial Wing, Rm. #117
Bismarck, ND 58505-0300

Job Service North Dakota
P.O. Box 5507
Bismarck, ND 58506-5507

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North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
Century Center
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee
c/o NDSU Extension Service
2718 Gateway Ave., Suite 304
Bismarck, ND 58503

North Dakota State Water Commission
900 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 770
Bismarck, ND 58505-0850

United States Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
North Dakota Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

United States Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504

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800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20591

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North Dakota Pipeline Authority
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Williams County Commission
206 East Broadway
P.O. Box 2047
Williston, ND 58802-2047

Mountrail County Commission
c/o Stephanie Pappa, County Auditor
PO Box 69
Stanley ND 58784-0069



MOLLIE M. SMITH

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
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Dated this 8th day of June, 2020.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.



By _____

MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
Attorney for Aurora Wind Project, LLC
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425
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PO Box 69
Stanley ND 58784-0069



MOLLIE M. SMITH

TEN YEAR PLAN: 2020-2030
Aurora Wind Project, LLC

June 2020

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Aurora Wind Project, LLC (“Aurora Wind”), submits the following Ten Year Plan for years 2020 through 2030.

- (1) *A description of the general location, size, and type of all facilities to be owned or operated by the utility during the ensuing ten years, as well as those facilities to be removed from service during the ten-year period.*

Aurora Wind is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota. Aurora Wind is constructing an up to 300 megawatt (“MW”) wind energy conversion facility known as the Aurora Wind Project (“Wind Project”) and an associated 345-kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line to connect the Wind Project to the grid (“Transmission Line”) (collectively, the “Project”). The Wind Project will be located west-northwest of the City of Tioga in Williams County, North Dakota. The Transmission Line will be approximately 20 miles in length and extend from the Wind Project substation to the point of interconnection to the grid at the existing Basin Electric Power Cooperative Tande 345 kV Substation, located in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

On June 25, 2018, Mountrail County approved issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the Transmission Line. On July 2, 2018, Williams County approved Conditional Use Permits for the Wind Project and the Transmission Line. On May 7, 2019, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order granting Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 59 to Aurora Wind for the Wind Project (*see* Case No. PU-18-352). On May 29, 2019, the Commission issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order granting Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 210 and Route Permit No. 220 to Aurora Wind for the Transmission Line (*see* Case No. PU-18-351). Aurora Wind commenced construction of the Project in September 2019. Aurora Wind plans to complete construction during 2020 and have the Project commercially operational by Fourth Quarter 2020.

Other than the Wind Project and Transmission Line, Aurora Wind does not have any transmission or generation facilities located in North Dakota, and the Project will have an estimated life of greater than 10 years. As such, Aurora Wind does not have any plans to decommission any transmission or generation facilities within the timeframe of this plan.

- (2) *An identification of the location of the tentative preferred site for all energy conversion facilities and the tentative location of all transmission facilities on which construction is intended to be commenced within the ensuing five years and such other information as may be required by the commission. The site and corridor identification shall be made in compliance with the criteria published by the commission pursuant to section 49-22-05.1.*

As noted above, Aurora Wind is currently constructing the above-referenced Wind Project and Transmission Line, and proposes to have both projects in-service by Fourth Quarter 2020. The proposed Wind Project footprint is located west-northwest of the City of Tioga in Williams County, North Dakota. The Transmission Line route extends from the Wind Project substation to its planned point of interconnection to the grid at the existing Basin Electric Power Cooperative Tande 345 kV Substation, located in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

As set forth in the Commission's Orders (referenced above), the location of the Project complies with the Commission's siting criteria, including the exclusion and avoidance area criteria referenced in N.D.C.C. § 49-22-05.1 and identified in N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. Maps depicting the Wind Project's designated site, and additional detail regarding the site, are provided in Case No. PU-18-352. Maps depicting the designated corridor and route for the Transmission Line, and additional details regarding the corridor and route, are provided in Case No. PU-18-351.

- (3) *A description of the efforts by the utility to coordinate the plan with other utilities to provide a coordinated regional plan for meeting the utility needs of the region.*

Aurora Wind executed a power purchase agreement ("PPA") with Gap, Inc. for 90 MW of Project output and executed a PPA with Basin Electric Power Cooperative ("Basin Electric") for 142 MW of Project output. Additionally, Aurora Wind entered into a Generator Interconnection Agreement, dated December 21, 2018, with the Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") and Basin Electric authorizing interconnection of the Project to the grid.

- (4) *A description of the efforts to involve environmental protection and land-use planning agencies in the planning process, as well as other efforts to identify and minimize environmental problems at the earliest possible stage in the planning process.*

Aurora Wind employed qualified environmental consulting firms to study and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the proposed Wind Project site and Transmission Line corridor and route, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. As discussed above, Mountrail County and Williams County issued Conditional Use Permits for the Project. Throughout Project development, Aurora Wind has consulted with applicable local, state, and federal agencies and entities, and will continue to do so, as appropriate.

- (5) *A statement of the projected demand for the service rendered by the utility for the ensuing ten years and the underlying assumptions for the projection, with that information being as geographically specific as possible, and a description of the manner and extent to which the utility will meet the projected demands.*

As discussed above, Aurora Wind has entered PPAs with Gap, Inc. and Basin Electric for 232 MW of Project output and intends to sell the remainder of the output on a merchant basis. Given the Wind Project's location in the heart of the Bakken oil production region, the Wind Project is anticipated to meet area demand for electricity resulting from ongoing oil and gas activities in the Bakken and the region's homes and businesses. In addition, energy produced by

the Project may help local utilities to continue to meet applicable renewable energy goals and/or standards. While COVID-19 has resulted in a fairly significant reduction to both electric load and oil and gas production/activity over the past couple months, this impact is expected to be fairly short (e.g., months, not years).

In 2007, the North Dakota Legislature enacted a statutory provision adopting the national "25x25" initiative, which establishes a goal of having not less than twenty-five percent of the total energy consumed within the United States come from renewable resources by January 1, 2025.¹ Additional renewable resources will be needed to meet the 25x25 initiative.

A need also exists for renewable energy produced in North Dakota to meet state renewable portfolio standards. Eleven of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") states currently have either mandated or voluntary renewable portfolio standards or policies.² Under current state standards, total United States renewable portfolio standard demand will increase from 310 terawatt hours ("TWh") in 2019 to 600 TWh in 2030.³ Given existing renewable energy capacity, an additional 230 TWh increase in renewable resources will be required to meet demand through 2030.⁴ In addition, the regional transmission grid is being expanded to deliver wind generation in a cost-effective manner; specifically, MISO's Multi-Value Project ("MVP") Portfolio enables 41 million megawatt hours ("MWh") of wind energy per year to meet renewable energy mandates and goals.⁵

In summary, the renewable energy produced by Aurora Wind's proposed Wind Project and transmitted to the grid via Aurora Wind's proposed Transmission Line will help meet the national 25x25 initiative and the regional need for renewable energy.

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¹ See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

² *MTEP18 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan*, at 182.

³ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, *U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards 2019 Annual Status Report* (July 2019), at 24.

⁴ *Id.* at 26.

⁵ *MTEP18 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan*, at 42.