

June 11, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

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

**RE: Ruso Wind Partners, 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. Ruso Wind Partners, 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: Morgan Berry (w/ encls.)
Elizabeth Wash (w/ encls.)

70105997 v1

1 PU-20-262 Filed 06/11/2020 Pages: 11
2020 Ten Year Plan
Ruso Wind Partners, LLC
Mollie Smith, Fredrikson&Byron, P.A.

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

TEN YEAR PLAN: 2020-2030

Ruso Wind Partners, LLC

June 2020

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Ruso Wind Partners, LLC (“Ruso 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.*

Ruso Wind is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota. Ruso Wind is developing an up to 205 megawatt (“MW”) wind energy conversion facility known as the Ruso Wind Project (“Wind Project”) and an associated 230-kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line to connect the Wind Project to the grid (“Transmission Line”). The Wind Project will be located approximately one mile west of the City of Ruso in Ward County, North Dakota. Although the point of interconnection has not been finalized, the currently proposed Transmission Line would be approximately 10 miles in length and extend from the Wind Project substation in Ward County to a to-be-constructed switching station that will be constructed, owned, and operated by Great River Energy (“GRE”), and located in McHenry County, North Dakota. Ruso Wind plans to commence construction of the Wind Project and Transmission Line as early as Third Quarter 2021 and achieve commercial operation by the end of 2022.

Other than the Wind Project and Transmission Line, Ruso Wind does not have any transmission or generation facilities located in North Dakota, and the projects will have an estimated life of greater than 10 years. As such, Ruso 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, Ruso Wind is pursuing development of the above-referenced Wind Project and Transmission Line and proposes to have both projects constructed and in-service by the end of 2022. The proposed Wind Project footprint is located in Ward County, North Dakota. The currently proposed route for the Transmission Line extends from the Wind Project substation to its planned point of interconnection at the GRE switching station to be constructed in Section 5, Township 151 North, Range 80 West, McHenry County, North Dakota

Ruso Wind has retained qualified environmental consulting firms to evaluate the proposed Wind Project site and Transmission Line corridor and route so as to ensure compliance

with 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. Ruso Wind has filed an Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Wind Project (Case No. PU-19-028) and an Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the Transmission Line (Case No. PU-19-029) with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”). Maps depicting the proposed site for the Wind Project and the proposed corridor and route for the Transmission Line are provided in Case Nos. PU-19-028 and PU-19-029, respectively.

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

Ruso Wind is in the process of identifying an offtaker for the Wind Project’s output. Energy produced by the Wind Project may help local utilities to continue to meet applicable renewable energy standards. Ruso Wind is currently exploring interconnection options for the Wind Project, which include potentially interconnecting to the grid via the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. system or the Southwest Power Pool system. Once the point of interconnection is finalized, Ruso Wind will coordinate with the appropriate regional transmission organization/independent system operator to conduct the necessary interconnection studies, with the goal of entering into a generator interconnection agreement for the Wind Project.

- (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.*

As noted above, Ruso Wind has engaged the services of 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. Ruso Wind has obtained all necessary Conditional Use and Special Use permits from the affected Counties and Townships. In addition, Ruso Wind has filed an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Wind Project and an application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the Transmission Line with the Commission. Ruso Wind has consulted with applicable local, state, and federal agencies and entities in connection with siting and development of the Wind Project and Transmission Line, and Ruso Wind will continue to coordinate with agencies and entities, as appropriate, throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Wind Project and Transmission Line.

- (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, Ruso Wind is in the process of identifying an offtaker for the Wind Project’s output. However, the Wind Project is anticipated to meet area demand for electricity. In addition, energy produced by the Project may help local utilities to continue to meet applicable renewable energy goals and/or standards.

In 2010, the North Dakota Department of Commerce, EmPower ND Commission, published the Comprehensive State Energy Policy 2010-2025, which recommended a capacity of wind generation up to 5,000 MW by 2020.¹ The state had a total of 3,155 MW of installed wind capacity at the end of 2018.²

In 2007, the North Dakota Legislature enacted a statutory provision adopting the national "25x'25" 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, 2025.³ Additional renewable resources will be needed to meet the 25x'25 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.⁴ Under current state standards, total United States renewable portfolio standard demand will increase from 310 terawatt hours ("TWh") in 2019 to 600 TWh in 2030.⁵ Given existing renewable energy capacity, an additional 230 TWh increase in renewable resources will be required to meet demand through 2030.⁶ 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.⁷

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

70178895 v4

¹ North Dakota Department of Commerce. Undated. EmPower North Dakota. Comprehensive State Energy Policy 2010-2025. Accessed online June 1, 2020. Retrieved from <https://commerce.nd.gov/>.

² U.S. Department of Energy. 2018. 2018 Wind Technologies Market Report. Accessed online June 1, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/downloads/2018-wind-technologies-market-report>.

³ See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

⁴ *MTEP18 MISO Transmission Enhancement Plan*, at 182.

⁵ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, *U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards 2019 Annual Status Report* (July 2019), at 24.

⁶ *Id.* at 26.

⁷ *MTEP18 MISO Transmission Enhancement Plan*, at 42.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY RUSO WIND
PARTNERS, LLC**

Case No. PU-20-____

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Ruso Wind Partners, 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 11, 2020, and the Ward and McHenry County Auditors on June 11, 2020.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2020.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.



By _____

MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
Attorney for Ruso Wind Partners, 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 11th 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
Bismarck, ND 58505-0340

North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education
State Capitol, 15th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 270
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

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

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

Federal Aviation Administration
United States Department of Transportation
800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20591

North Dakota Transmission Authority
c/o North Dakota Industrial Commission
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

North Dakota Pipeline Authority
c/o North Dakota Industrial Commission
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

McHenry County Commission
c/o Darlene Carpenter, County Auditor
407 Main Street South, Room 201
Towner, ND 58788

Board of Ward County Commissioners
225 Third St. SE
Minot, ND 58701



MOLLIE M. SMITH

70105950 v1

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY RUSO WIND
PARTNERS, LLC**

Case No. PU-20-____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Mollie M. Smith, being first duly sworn, does depose and state that on June 11, 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:

Darlene Carpenter
McHenry County Auditor
407 Main Street South, Room 201
Towner, ND 58788

Devra Smestad
Ward County Auditor
P.O. Box 5005
Minot, ND 58702-5005

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



Mollie M. Smith