

June 16, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

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

**RE: Meadowlark Wind I 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. Meadowlark Wind I 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: Lorne Whittles (w/ encls.)

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TEN YEAR PLAN: 2020-2030
Meadowlark Wind I LLC

June 2020

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

Meadowlark Wind is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota. Meadowlark Wind owns and operates the approximately 100 megawatt (“MW”) nameplate capacity, 99 MW at the point of interconnection, wind energy conversion facility known as the New Frontier Wind Energy Project (“Project”) located in McHenry County, North Dakota. On April 25, 2012, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (“Order”) granting Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 29 to Meadowlark Wind for the Project (*see* Case No. PU-11-69), and on May 10, 2017, the Commission issued an Order of Continuing Suitability with respect to the Project. Meadowlark Wind began construction of the Project in May 2018, and the Project entered commercial operation on December 21, 2018.

An approximately 15-mile-long 115 kilovolt (“kV”) generator lead line was constructed in order to interconnect the Project to the transmission grid at the McHenry Substation, located just west of Voltaire, North Dakota.

Other than the Project and associated 115 kV generator lead line, Meadowlark 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, Meadowlark 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, the Project entered commercial operation in December 2018. The Project is located in the southwest corner of McHenry County. At this time, Meadowlark Wind has no plans to construct additional energy conversion facilities or transmission facilities in the next five years.

As set forth in the Order, the Project was sited in compliance 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 of the Project's designated site, and additional detail regarding the Project site, are provided in Case No. PU-11-69.

- (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.*

The Project interconnects to Great River Energy's ("GRE") McHenry substation via a 15-mile 115 kV transmission line. A Generator Interconnection Agreement was executed with GRE and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") in September 2012. Meadowlark Wind's Interconnection Application and MISO's administration of the application are consistent with MISO's Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserves Market Tariff, as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and per the operating policies of the Electric Reliability Organization designed to facilitate the administration of efficient energy markets.

- (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.*

Meadowlark Wind utilized qualified environmental personnel to study and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the Project site, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. As noted above, the Commission issued a Certificate of Site Compatibility on April 25, 2012 and an Order of Continuing Suitability with respect to the Project on May 10, 2017 (*see* Case No. PU-11-69). McHenry County issued a Zoning Permit and Conditional Use Permit for the Project on November 1, 2016. Throughout Project development and construction, Meadowlark Wind consulted with applicable local, state, and federal agencies and entities, and will continue to coordinate with agencies and entities as appropriate during operation of the Project. Additional information regarding Meadowlark Wind's agency and entity contacts, and efforts to identify and minimize any potential environmental issues, is provided in Case No. PU-11-69.

- (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.*

Corporate and industrial ("C&I") customers are interested in renewable energy, and corporate procurement is an emerging driver for significant new demand. Over 6.53 gigawatts

(“GW”) of renewable energy have been purchased by non-utilities as of the end of 2018.¹ That compares to 2.78 GW procured by non-utilities in 2017 and approximately 1.73 GW in 2016.² These businesses have a rapidly growing appetite for affordable clean energy, and North Dakota wind is poised to help meet that demand.

Meadowlark Wind has executed a 12-year fixed price contract with Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc. Under the contract, which was executed on August 29, 2017, Meadowlark Wind will swap the market revenue from a fixed volume of the Project’s generation for a fixed price payment over a 12-year term.

Thus, the 102 MW of renewable energy produced by Meadowlark Wind’s Project will help meet an identified need for renewable energy.

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¹ Advanced Energy Economy, *Corporate Renewable Deals 2014-2018*, available at <https://businessrenewables.org/corporate-transactions/>.

² *Id.*

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY MEADOWLARK
WIND I LLC**

Case No. PU-20-____

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Meadowlark Wind I 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 16, 2020, and the McHenry County Auditor on June 16, 2020.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2020.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.



By _____

MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
Attorney for Meadowlark Wind I 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 16th 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

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



MOLLIE M. SMITH

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY MEADOWLARK
WIND I LLC**

Case No. PU-20-___

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Mollie M. Smith, being first duly sworn, does depose and state that on June 16, 2020, she served the following document:

Ten Year Plan: 2020-2030

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

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

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



Mollie M. Smith