From: Ryan Henning < ryan.henning@apexcleanenergy.com>

Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 8:57 AM

To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>; Scott Jansen <scott.jansen@apexcleanenergy.com>

Cc: Sean Stocker <sean.stocker@apexcleanenergy.com>; Kolar, Jesse L. <ia href="mailto:klobar@nd.gov">; Link, Greg W. ; Link, Greg W. <a

Supplement to Exhibit No. 19(d)

Subject: RE: Correspondence from Bowman Wind

Hi Elisha. In advance of our meeting next week, we plan to discuss items #1 and #3 as detailed in the NDGF's July 22, 2021 letter to the NDPSC (snip below for convenience). Bowman Wind considers NDGF recommendations #2 and #4 addressed. See additional detail below.

As a result, the Department suggests that Apex commit to the following recommendations:

- 1. All proposed turbines be removed from within the Greater Sage-Grouse PCA and at least 4 miles from known Sage-Grouse leks.
- 2. If voluntary offsets are pursued, the primary strategy should be to re-create grasslands on broken land (e.g. cropland) rather than preserve existing grasslands.
- 3. In the absence of two years pre-construction sharp-tailed grouse surveys, all turbines should be sited off unbroken grasslands to avoid disturbance to any leks which may be present.
- 4. Acknowledge that PLOTS tracts agreements cannot be altered without landowner and Department consent.

With regard to NDGF recommendation #2, pursuant to NDCC Sections 49-22-08(6) and 49-22-09.2, a Project does not have to enact mitigation. Therefore, any offsets are purely voluntary and at the behest of the Applicant, Bowman Wind. As detailed in the Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy, Bowman Wind plans to acquire voluntary native grassland conservation agreements for the modeled output acreage for the operational life of the project consistent with the guidance in the 2019 Shaffer et al. paper.

With regard to the NDGF recommendation #4, PLOTS tract agreements are a signed legal agreement between the NDGF and the landowner. As such, Bowman Wind has no interface with any signed agreement(s) and offers no consent or other decree.

To be better prepared for the discussions with regard to NDGF recommendations #1 and #3, Bowman Wind reiterates its request sent October 13, 2022 for the following information in advance of the 11/22/2022 meeting:

- 1. Please provide the location and status (inactive, occupied, active) of all greater sage-grouse leks documented within the last five (5) years (2017-2022), within 4 miles of turbine locations (i.e., from the October 13, 2022 submitted turbine layout and corresponding shape files).
- 2. Please provide the shape files for the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) that are demarcated in the NDGFD 2014 Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Greater Sage-Grouse in North Dakota (2014 Plan; see Figure 8 in the 2014 Plan).
- 3. Please identify the six turbines by turbine number (i.e., from the October 13, 2022 submitted turbine layout and corresponding shape files), within four miles of an active greater-sage grouse lek referenced on page 4 of the NDGF July 22, 2021 letter to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding the Bowman Wind Project.
- 4. Please identify the two turbines by turbine number (i.e., from the October 13, 2022 submitted turbine layout and corresponding shape files) within a Priority Conservation Area (PCA) referenced on page 4 of the NDGF July 22, 2021 letter to the PSC regarding the Bowman Wind Project.

Thanks and we look forward to closing out these two outstanding issues at Bowman Wind. Regards,

-Ryan