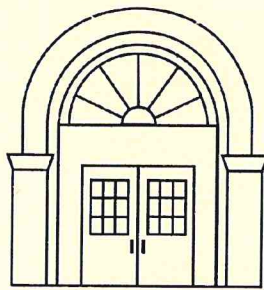


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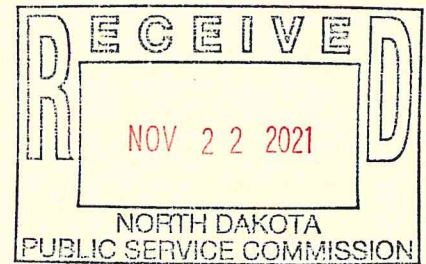
 **MERITAS**
LAW FIRMS WORLDWIDE

November 22, 2021

MR STEVE KAHL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
600 EAST BOULEVARD, DEPT 408
BISMARCK ND 58505-0480

HAND DELIVERED

Re: Whiskey Creek Wind Project LLC
Our File No. 20326



Dear Mr. Kahl:

Enclosed are ten (10) originals of Whiskey Creek Wind Project LLC's 2021 Ten Year Plan.

Also enclosed is an original Notice of Filing and Affidavit of Service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Todd D. Kranda

TK:lh
Encs

c: Whiskey Creek Wind Project LLC

1 **PU-21-432** Filed: 11/22/2021 Pages: 10
Ten Year Plan 2021-2031

Whiskey Creek Wind Project, LLC
Todd Kranda, KelschKelschRuff&Kranda

In accordance with § 49-22-04 N.D.C.C. and Chapter 69-06-02 ND Admin C, Whiskey Creek Wind Project, LLC, (“Whiskey Creek Wind”), submits the following Ten Year Plan for years 2021 through 2031.

(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.

Whiskey Creek Wind is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in North Dakota. Whiskey Creek Wind plans to construct an up to 198 megawatt (“MW”) wind energy conversion facility known as the Whiskey Creek Wind Project (the “Project”). The Project will be located approximately one mile south of the town of Niagara in Grand Forks County and Nelson County, North Dakota. The Project will interconnect to the grid at a new Great River Energy (“GRE”) substation, tying into the 230kV transmission system within the project boundary. The Project interconnection will not require a generation tie-line so will not be subject to the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) as a “transmission facility.”

Whiskey Creek Wind plans to submit Conditional Use Permit applications to Grand Forks and Nelson counties and a Certificate of Site Compatibility application to the Commission as early as 2022. Whiskey Creek Wind plans to begin Project construction as early as 2023, and plans for the Project to be commercially operational as early as the end of 2023.

Other than the proposed Project, Whiskey Creek Wind does not have any transmission or generation facilities located in North Dakota. The Project will have an estimated life of greater than ten years. As such, Whiskey Creek 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, Whiskey Creek Wind is developing the above-referenced Project, and proposes to have the Project in-service by as soon as the end of 2024. The proposed Project footprint is located south of the town of Niagara in Grand Forks County and Nelson County, North Dakota. The Project will interconnect to the grid at a new Great River Energy (“GRE”) substation, tying into the 230kV transmission system within the project boundary in Grand Forks County, North Dakota.

Whiskey Creek Wind Project has retained qualified environmental consulting firms to evaluate the proposed Project site to ensure compliance with the Commission’s siting criteria, including the exclusion and avoidance criteria referenced in N.D.C.C. § 49-22-05.1 and identified in N.D.A.C. Section 69-06-08-01. A map depicting the study area for the Project is attached as **Exhibit A**.

(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.

Whiskey Creek Wind is in the process of identifying an offtaker(s) for the Project's output. Energy produced by the Project may help local utilities meet applicable renewable energy needs. Additionally, Whiskey Creek Wind, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") and GRE are in the process of completing studies for the interconnection of the Project via a new substation, tying into the 230kV transmission system within the project boundary. Whiskey Creek Wind is in discussions with both MISO and GRE regarding the proposed interconnection and plans to enter into a generator interconnection agreement with these parties to facilitate Project interconnection 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 stage in the planning process.

Whiskey Creek Wind has engaged the services of qualified environmental consulting firms to study and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the proposed Project site, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 and N.D.A.C. Section 69-06-08-01. As discussed above, Whiskey Creek Wind plans to submit Conditional Use Permit applications to Grand Forks and Nelson counties and a Certificate of Site Compatibility application to the Commission as early as 2022.

Additionally, Whiskey Creek Wind has consulted with local, state, and federal agencies in connection with siting and development of the Project, including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and Grand Forks County.

(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 projections, 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.

Whiskey Creek Wind is in the process of identifying offtake opportunities for the Project's power production. Whiskey Creek Wind will market the Project to potential off-takers and may sell the power in the form of a power purchase agreement ("PPA"), directly on the merchant market, or the project may be sold directly to a utility customer. As an independent power producer, Whiskey Creek Wind is able to bid into a variety of markets. Utilities, Commercial and Industrial ("C&I") customers, and other off-takers looking to diversify or build their energy generation portfolios are attracted to wind energy projects because of a long-term, fixed, competitive pricing, environmental benefits and existing and potential renewable energy policies. Thus, the Project could help satisfy local, regional, or even national renewable energy demand.

In 2007, North Dakota's Legislature enacted Section 17-01-01 N.D.C.C., 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 energy sources by January 1, 2025. Additional renewable resources will be needed to meet the 25x'25 initiative.

Also, 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 of up to 5,000 MW by 2020. The state had a total of 3,155 MW of installed wind capacity at the end of 2018. With improving technology and declining costs, utilities are beginning to include renewable energy projects in their resource plans as long-term economic energy and capacity resources. In North Dakota, excellent wind resources create high-capacity factor generation, reducing the cost/megawatt hour ("MWh").

In addition to traditional local and regional utility demand for wind energy, a growing number of C&I customers are turning to renewable energy to save money on energy and meet sustainability goals. Corporate and Industrial customers either purchase renewable energy directly or obtain renewable benefits and cost savings through financially settled contracts, sometimes called virtual PPAs. In addition, many utilities are creating "green tariffs," which allow customers to purchase up to 100% renewable energy from the utility.

Beyond the growing demand from utilities, many corporations have recently set goals to obtain 100% of their energy from renewables. These clean energy goals fuel the demand for corporate renewables procurement and subsequent PPAs. In the United States, corporate PPA volumes have steadily increased over the past five years. These businesses have a rapidly growing appetite for affordable clean energy, and North Dakota wind is poised to help meet that demand.

In Summary, the renewable energy produced by Whiskey Creek Wind's proposed Project will be positioned to help meet local renewable energy initiatives/goals, the regional need for renewable energy, or national C&I customer demand.



Whiskey Creek Wind Project

11/17/2024

Legend

Project Boundary



Transmission

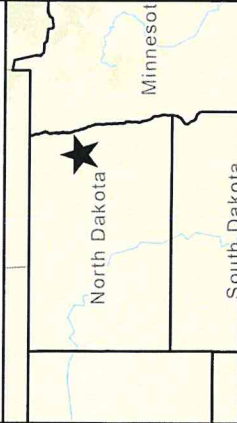


69 kV



230 kV

Project Location

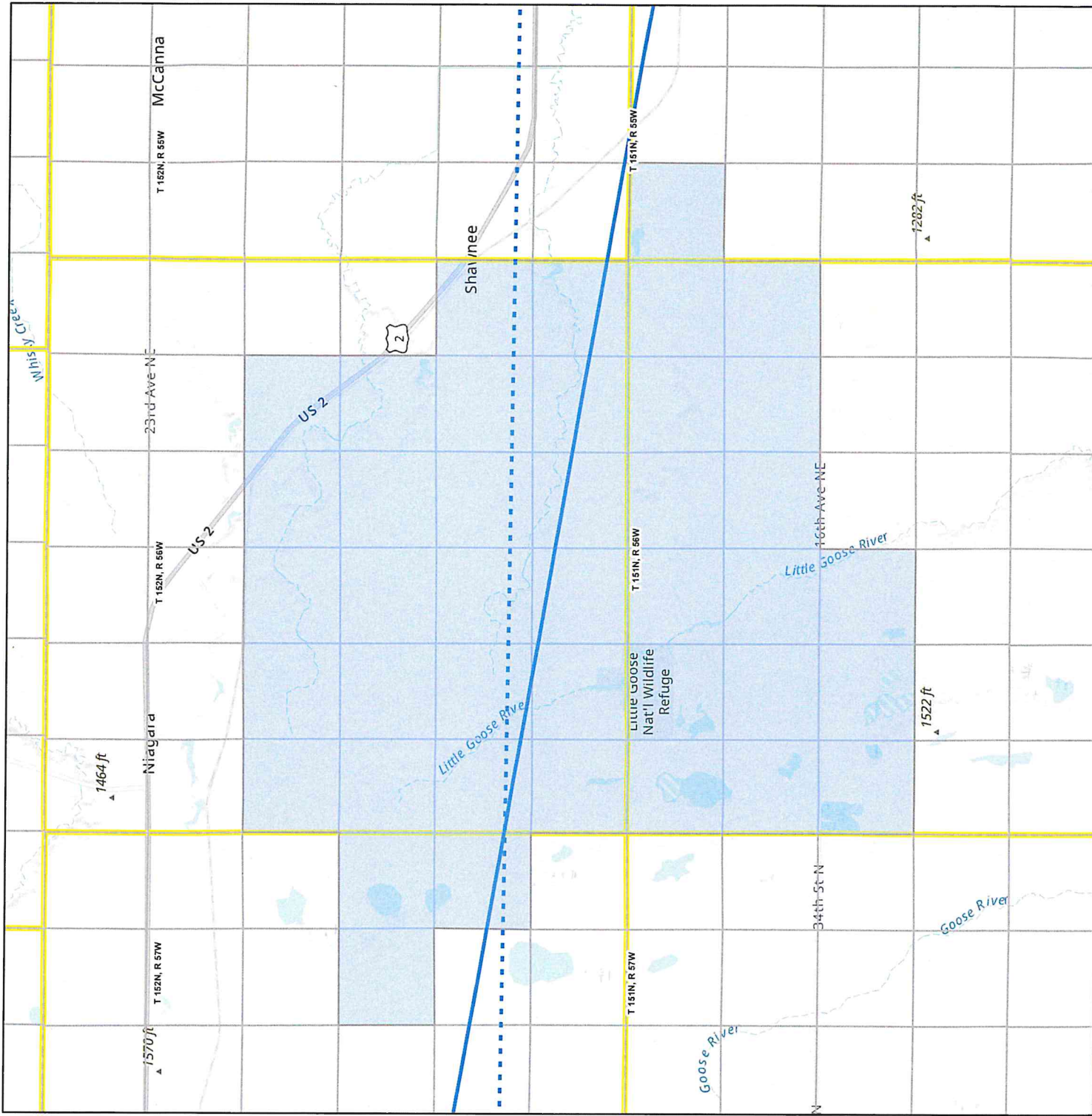


Reference

WGS 1984 World Mercator



CONFIDENTIAL



NOTICE OF FILING

You are hereby notified, pursuant to Section 69-06-02-02(2) of the North Dakota Administrative Code, that Whiskey Creek Wind Project LLC has filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission the Ten Year Plan for 2021 with regard to the Whiskey Creek Wind Project.

Dated this 22nd day of November, 2021.



TODD D. KRANDA

State Bar ID No. 04512

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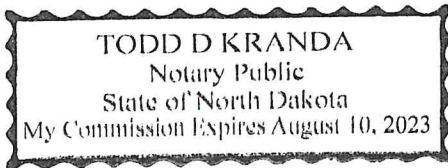
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APRIL RUFF

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MORTON)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 22nd day of November, 2021, by APRIL RUFF.


Notary Public



Prepared by: Todd D. Kranda
ND State Bar #04512
kranda@kelschlaw.com