

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Otter Tail Power Company
Amend – Langdon Wind Energy Center Upgrade Project
Siting Application – Cavalier County**

Case No. PU-23-86

Application to Amend Order and Certificate

I. Introduction.

Pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-08(5), Otter Tail Power Company (“Otter Tail”) submits an application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requesting an amendment of the Commission’s Order Granting Partial Certificate Transfer, dated July 16, 2008 (Case No. PU-07-26) (“2008 Order”), along with the Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 8 (collectively, “Order and Certificate”) issued to Otter Tail for its portion of the Langdon Wind Energy Center (“Facility”). Specifically, Otter Tail requests that the Commission amend the Order and Certificate to remove the 40.5 megawatt (“MW”) limitation.

II. Procedural History.

A brief overview of relevant procedural history is provided below:

- On May 31, 2007, the Commission issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order granting Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 6 to Langdon Wind, LLC (“Langdon Wind”) for the 159 MW Langdon Wind Energy Center (Case No. PU-07-26).
- On November 21, 2007, the Commission issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) to Otter Tail authorizing the purchase and operation of a 40.5 MW portion of the 159 MW Langdon Wind Energy Center (Case No. PU-07-607).
- On March 26, 2008, Langdon Wind filed an Application for Partial Transfer of Certificate of Site Compatibility, seeking to transfer to Otter Tail the rights and obligations of Certificate No. 6 that aligned with geographical area of the

Langdon Wind Energy Center for which the Commission issued the CPCN to Otter Tail (Case No. PU-08-159).

- On July 16, 2008, the Commission issued its 2008 Order authorizing transfer of 40.5 MW of the Langdon Wind Energy Center to Otter Tail, issuing Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 8 for 40.5 MW to Otter Tail, and issuing Second Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 6 for the remainder to Langdon Wind (Case Nos. PU-08-159).
- The Facility was constructed in 2007 with the Project beginning commercial operations in January 2008.
- On March 6, 2023 (updated March 7, 2023), Otter Tail filed the Certification of Bradley E. Tollerson, with accompanying documentation, pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-03(3)(a)(4) (“Certification Filing”) regarding planned equipment upgrades at the Facility (“Upgrade Project”).
- On April 18, 2023, Otter Tail filed supplemental information in support of the Certification Filing.

III. Planned Upgrade Project.

The Upgrade Project will consist of removing and replacing the existing General Electric (“GE”) turbine blades hub, and gearbox with an upgraded technology package of GE turbine blades hub, and gearbox. In addition, the generator technology will be upgraded to accommodate the new equipment. GE is finalizing its upgrade analysis, but has indicated that the current 1.5 MW generator technology may need to be replaced with 1.6 MW generator technology, as the 1.6 MW technology offers more optionality and may enable better, more efficient turbine operations. As a result of the technology change to upgrade the Facility, the total nameplate generating capacity may increase to 43.5 MW; however, Otter Tail will limit the output at the point of interconnection to 40.5 MW in accordance with its Generator Interconnection Agreement.

IV. Amendment Request – Removal of Capacity Limitation.

In order paragraph no. 2 of the 2008 Order, the Commission issued a Certificate of Site Compatibility to Otter Tail “for the 40.5 MW portion of the Langdon Wind Energy Center for

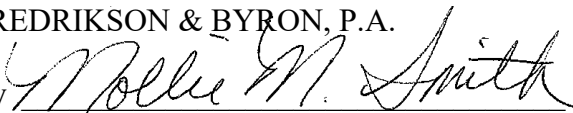
which the Commission issued Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5336.” Likewise, Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 8 issued to Otter Tail designates a site for “a 40.5 MW portion of” the Langdon Wind Energy Center. As noted above, when repowered, the Project’s nameplate capacity may increase to 43.5 MW, even though the megawatts delivered to the grid will be limited to 40.5 MW. Based on review of prior repower dockets, Otter Tail understands that the Commission has previously concluded that order and certificate amendments are required where a megawatt limitation is specified.¹ Therefore, Otter Tail requests that the Commission amend the Order and Certificate to remove the megawatt limitation.

V. Conclusion.

For the reasons set forth above, Otter Tail respectfully requests that its application to amend the Order and Certificate to remove the capacity limitation be granted.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2023.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.

By 

MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
Attorney for Otter Tail Power Company
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425
(612) 492-7270
msmith@fredlaw.com

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¹ See Order, dated December 3, 2019, Ashtabula Wind Energy Center Repower (Case No. PU-19-284); Order, September 5, 2018, Langdon Wind Energy Center Upgrade Project (Case No. PU-18-186); and Order, dated October 27, 2022, Border Winds Energy Project Repower (Case No. PU-22-173).