

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Otter Tail Power Company
Ashtabula III Wind Upgrade Project - Barnes Cnty
Siting Exclusion Certification**

Case No. PU-23-256

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

On August 4, 2010, in Case No. PU-10-147, the Commission issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order issuing Certificate of Site Compatibility Number 17 to Ashtabula Wind III, LLC authorizing the construction of a 69 MW Ashtabula Wind Energy Conversion Facility in Barnes County, North Dakota.

On March 30, 2022, in Case No. PU-22-27, the Commission issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5966 authorizing Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) to own and operate the Ashtabula III wind facility.

On August 17, 2022, in Case No. PU-22-195, the Commission issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order authorizing transfer of Certificate of Site Compatibility Number 17 and authorized OTP's ownership of a 43 1.6 MW wind turbines by issuing First Reissued Certificate of Site Compatibility Number 17.

On June 29, 2023, in Case No. PU-23-256, OTP filed a certification to repower the 43 existing 1.6 MW General Electric (GE) 82.5-meter rotor diameter blades, hubs and gearboxes with upgraded 1.6 MW GE 91-meter rotor diameter blades, hubs and gearboxes. The changes to the site resulting from the repowering of the facilities are likely to change the impacts of the facility. As a result, the Commission finds it prudent to issue a Notice of Opportunity For Hearing to ensure continued minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota.

The issues to be considered in this proceeding are:

1. Will the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facility produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Is the proposed facility compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will the proposed facility location minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?

Those interested are invited to comment on the application in writing. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceeding and the reasons for requesting a hearing. **Comments and requests for hearings must be received by September 15, 2023.** If deemed appropriate, the Commission can determine the matter without a formal hearing.

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials please notify the Commission.

Issued: August 2, 2023

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chair



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner