

June 27, 2024

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

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

**RE: Aurora Wind Project, LLC's Ten Year Plan for 2024-2034
Case No. PU-24-_____**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Enclosed for filing are two copies of the following documents:

1. Aurora Wind Project, LLC's Ten Year Plan: 2024-2034;
2. Notice of Filing Ten Year Plan: 2024-2034; and
3. Certificate of Service.

Electronic versions of the above-referenced documents and this letter were filed with the Commission today via e-mail.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/82825884
Enclosures

cc: Henry Kahn (w/ encls. via e-mail)

TEN YEAR PLAN: 2024-2034

Aurora Wind Project, LLC

June 2024

In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-04 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-02, Aurora Wind Project, LLC (“Aurora Wind”), submits the following Ten Year Plan for years 2024 through 2034.

- (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.*

Aurora Wind is a Delaware limited liability company, authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota.

Aurora Wind owns and operates an up to 298.8 (“MW”) wind energy conversion facility known as the Aurora Wind Project (“Wind Project”) and an associated 345-kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line to connect the Wind Project to the grid (“Transmission Line”) (collectively, the “Project”). The Wind Project is located west-northwest of the City of Tioga in Williams County, North Dakota. The Transmission Line is approximately 20 miles in length and extends from the Wind Project substation to the point of interconnection to the grid at the existing Basin Electric Power Cooperative Tande 345 kV Substation, located in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

On June 25, 2018, Mountrail County approved issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the Transmission Line. On July 2, 2018, Williams County approved Conditional Use Permits for the Wind Project and the Transmission Line. On May 7, 2019, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order granting Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 59 to Aurora Wind for the Wind Project (*see* Case No. PU-18-352). On May 29, 2019, the Commission issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order granting Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 210 and Route Permit No. 220 to Aurora Wind for the Transmission Line (*see* Case No. PU-18-351). Aurora Wind commenced construction of the Project in September 2019. The Project was placed in-service in early 2021.

Other than the Wind Project and Transmission Line, Aurora 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, Aurora 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 was placed in-service in early 2021. The Wind Project footprint is located west-northwest of the City of Tioga in Williams County, North Dakota. The Transmission Line route extends from the Wind Project substation to its planned point of interconnection to the grid at the existing Basin Electric Power Cooperative Tande 345 kV Substation, located in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

As set forth in the Commission's Orders (referenced above), the location of the Project complies 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 depicting the Wind Project's site, and additional detail regarding the site, are provided in Case No. PU-18-352. Maps depicting the corridor and route for the Transmission Line, and additional details regarding the corridor and route, are provided in Case No. PU-18-351.

- (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.*

Aurora Wind executed a virtual power purchase agreement ("VPPA") with Gap, Inc. for 90 MW of Project output and executed a power purchase agreement ("PPA") with Basin Electric Power Cooperative ("Basin Electric") for 142 MW of Project output. Additionally, Aurora Wind entered into an Amended and Restated Generator Interconnection Agreement, dated August 12, 2020, with the Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") and Basin Electric authorizing interconnection of the Project 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 possible stage in the planning process.*

Aurora Wind has designed a Project that optimizes the wind resource, minimizes the impact on land resources and potentially sensitive areas and follows the energy conversion facility siting criteria and transmission facility corridor and route criteria outlined in N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. Aurora Wind employed qualified environmental consulting firms to study and identify avoidance and exclusion areas within the Wind Project site and Transmission Line corridor and route, in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 and N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-06-08. As discussed above, Mountrail County and Williams County issued Conditional Use Permits for the Project, and the Commission issued Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 47 (*see* Case No. PU-18-352) and Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 210 and Route Permit No. 220 (*see* Case No. PU-18-351) for the Project. Throughout Project development, Aurora Wind has consulted with applicable local, state, and federal agencies and entities, and will continue to do so, as appropriate.

Additional information regarding Aurora Wind's agency and entity contacts, and efforts to identify and minimize any potential environmental issues, is provided in Case Nos. PU-18-351 and PU-18-352.

- (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.

As discussed above, Aurora Wind has a VPPA with Gap, Inc. for 90 MW and a PPA with Basin Electric for 142 MW. Output not contracted, or produced pursuant to the VPPA with Gap, Inc., will be sold on a merchant basis. Given the Wind Project’s location in the heart of the Bakken oil production region, the Wind Project is anticipated to meet area demand for electricity resulting from ongoing oil and gas activities in the Bakken and the region’s homes and businesses. In addition, energy produced by the Project may help local utilities to continue to meet applicable renewable energy goals and/or standards.

In 2021, the North Dakota Legislature enacted a statutory provision adopting a low-emission technology initiative, which establishes a goal that the “agricultural, forestry, natural resources, and working land of the United States should provide energy from low-emission technology and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, fuel, feed, and fiber.”¹ As used in this initiative, low-emission technology includes, among others, wind. Additional renewable resources will be needed to meet the low-emission technology initiative.

A need also exists for renewable energy produced in North Dakota to meet state renewable portfolio standards. Ten of the MISO states currently have either mandated or voluntary renewable portfolio standards or policies.² Under current state standards, aggregate United States renewable portfolio standard demand more than doubles from 400 terawatt hours (“TWh”) in 2023 to 900 TWh in 2050.³ Given existing renewable energy capacity, roughly 300 TWh of additional clean electricity supply will be required by 2030 and 800 TWh by 2050.⁴ In addition, the regional transmission grid is being expanded to deliver wind generation in a cost-effective manner; specifically, MISO’s Multi-Value Project (“MVP”) Portfolio is expected to enable 41 million megawatt hours (“MWh”) of wind energy per year to meet renewable energy mandates and goals.⁵

In summary, the renewable energy produced by Aurora Wind’s Wind Project and transmitted to the grid via Aurora Wind’s Transmission Line will help meet local renewable energy initiatives/goals, the regional need for renewable energy, or national C&I customer demand.

¹ See N.D.C.C. § 17-01-01.

² U.S. Energy and Information Administration, Renewable energy explained, Portfolio standards (last updated November 30, 2022). Accessed online June 4, 2024. Retrieved from <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/renewable-sources/portfolio-standards.php>.

³ See Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, U.S. State Renewables Portfolio & Clean Energy Standards, 2023 Status Update (June 2023), at 23. Accessed online June 4, 2024. Retrieved from https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/lbnl_rps_ces_status_report_2023_edition.pdf.

⁴ See Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, U.S. State Renewables Portfolio & Clean Energy Standards, 2023 Status Update (June 2023), at 23.

⁵ MTEP18, MISO Transmission Enhancement Plan, at 42. Accessed online June 4, 2024. Retrieved from <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/MTEP18%20Full%20Report264900.pdf>.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY AURORA WIND
PROJECT, LLC**

Case No. PU-24-___

**NOTICE OF FILING TEN YEAR PLAN
2024-2034**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Aurora Wind Project, 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 2024 through 2034 with the North Dakota Public Service Commission on June 27, 2024, and the Mountrail County and Williams County Auditors on June 27, 2024.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2024.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.



By _____

MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714
Attorney for Aurora Wind Project, LLC
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400
(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: 2024-2034

was served on the 27th day of June, 2024 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 58505-0040

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 58505-0250

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
Bismarck, ND 58505-0340

North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education
State Capitol, 15th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 270
Bismarck, ND 58505-0610

North Dakota Department of Commerce
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 6
P.O. Box 2057
Bismarck, ND 58502-2057

Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands
1707 North 9th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

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
Bismarck, ND 58501

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
Liberty Memorial Building
604 E Boulevard Ave, Dept. 750
Bismarck, ND 58505

Natural Resources Conservation Service
North Dakota NRCS State Office
220 East Rosser Avenue
Federal Building
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

North Dakota Department of Water Resources
1200 Memorial Highway, Dept. 770
Bismarck, ND 58504

United States Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
North Dakota Ecological Services 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

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
4201 Normandy Street
Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

North Dakota Geological Survey
600 East Boulevard Avenue,
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

North Dakota Forest Service
State Headquarters - Molberg Center
307 - 1st Street East
Bottineau, ND 58318-1100

Federal Bureau of Land Management
Montana/Dakotas State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101

Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse
3400 Defense Pentagon, Room 5C646
Washington, DC 20301 – 3400

20th Airforce 91st Missile Wing
196 Missile Ave.
Minot AFB, ND 58705-5006

Minot Air Force Base
196 Missile Ave.
Minot AFB, ND 58705-5006

Grand Forks Air Force Base
757 Tuskegee Amn. Blvd.
Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND, 58205
Building 418, East Entrance

Mountrail County Board of Commissioners
c/o Stephanie Pappa, County Auditor
P.O. Box 69
Stanley, ND 58784

Williams County Board of Commissioners
c/o Beth M. Innis, County Auditor
P.O. Box 2047
Williston, ND 58802-2047

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mollie M. Smith".

MOLLIE M. SMITH

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A
TEN YEAR PLAN BY AURORA WIND
PROJECT, LLC**

Case No. PU-24-_____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Mollie M. Smith, being first duly sworn, does depose and state that on June 27, 2024, she served the following document:

Ten Year Plan: 2024-2034

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

Stephanie Pappa
Mountrail County Auditor
P.O. Box 69
Stanley, ND 58784

Beth M. Innis
Williams County Auditor
P.O. Box 2047
Williston, ND 58802-2047

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



Mollie M. Smith