



May 5, 2021

Mrs. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: *In the Matter of the Application by Buffalo Ridge II, LLC for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of the Buffalo Ridge II Wind Farm and Associated Collection Substation and Electric Interconnection System – EL08-031*

Condition 24. Buffalo Ridge II Project Status Report

Dear Mrs. Van Gerpen:

Buffalo Ridge II, LLC (Buffalo Ridge II) received its order from the Commission on April 23, 2009 (EL08-031) and was constructed in late 2009 through 2010. The Commercial Operation Date (COD) for the Buffalo Ridge II wind facility is December 31, 2010. Buffalo Ridge respectfully submits this Project Status Report in compliance with Condition 24 of the Order.

Condition 24: Decommissioning Update

In addition to the terms, conditions and requirements regarding decommissioning set forth in Findings of Fact XIV. Decommissioning of Wind Energy Facilities, within 90 days following the date ten years after the project commences operation, the Applicant shall submit a Project status report, updated decommissioning plan for the Project and financial information for Applicant in accordance with ARSD 20: 10:22: 13.01 for the Commission's review and approval. At such time, the Commission will determine whether Applicant shall be required to provide a bond, letter of credit, guarantee or other security to assure adequate funding is available to fully perform decommissioning obligations as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:13.01.

The Buffalo Ridge II wind energy facility is a 210 Megawatt (MW) facility that is comprised of 105 Gamesa G87 turbines. The 34.5 kilovolts (kV) energy produced at each of the turbines is

collected via underground and overhead electrical collector lines and transferred to the Project substation where the power is stepped-up to 115 kV. It is transmitted on an approximately 13-mile 115 kV transmission line to the interconnection substation (Xcel Energy's Brookings County Substation). The as-built survey of the facility was filed with the Commission in February 2011.

The facility has been an operational wind facility since COD. The facility is well maintained as demonstrated by turbine availability (percent of time the turbine is available to generate energy), which has been 97% in 2019 and 2020. In 2020, major maintenance activities included replacement of a grounding transformer, blade replacements on two turbines, and bearing replacement on one turbine.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions (kristin.sare@avangrid.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Sare". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin Sare
Asset Manager