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August 1, 2024

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Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Patricia Van Gerpen, Exec. Director
VIA FILING SERVICE: patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us

RE: In the Matter of the Application by North Bend Wind Project, LLC for a Permit to Construct and Operate the North Bend Wind Project in Hyde County and Hughes County, South Dakota – PUC Docket: EL21-018
MAGT File: 7900

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

I write today in reference to the Aircraft Detection Lighting System (“ADLS”) for the North Bend Wind Project. Following recent conversations between staff and the Project, we have concluded it would be appropriate to provide an update in the docket and ensure all interested parties receive timely updates going forward. As discussed in more detail below, the Project’s ADLS system is currently operating without sensor-activation of the turbine lighting systems due to component issues with the ADLS control system. As a result, each turbine’s lights operate in a factory-set, industry standard default mode that automatically turns on each individual turbine’s lighting from dusk to dawn, as required by FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-1L. The Project is working with its contractors and suppliers to resolve the ADLS issues, and currently plans to transition to sensor control over the system, which is also shared with the neighboring Triple H Wind Project, on or before September 15, 2024.

In brief, the component issues in question affect the communications network used for sensor-controlled ADLS activation and are twofold. First, between January and May 2024, Project personnel identified and worked to resolve fiber issues and a critical component failure that required additional on-site troubleshooting and repair by a contractor before operation of the ADLS system could begin. Second, after resolving those initial issues, it then became apparent in the May-June timeframe there was another hardware issue involving the network switches connecting the ADLS controller and the Project’s individual turbines. This issue requires the replacement of switches in all the Project’s turbines. Procurement of those replacements, which are pre-configured for field installation, began in early July, but due to parts availability they have not yet arrived.

The Project currently meets twice weekly with its contractors to monitor progress and ensure final on-site work begins as planned the week of August 5, 2024. Based on current contractor

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timelines and parts availability, work is planned to be complete on or before September 15, 2024. However, as we have indicated to staff, a WAPA transmission outage is scheduled September 16-October 25 to complete construction of the switch yard that connects to the Project. During this time, there will be no power to the North Bend turbines and FAA lights. Project staff will file a NOTAM with the FAA for this period to ensure no hazards to air navigation.

I know the Project regrets the delay in bringing the ADLS online as previously planned and is working hard to resolve the issues as quickly as possible. In order to ensure transparency going forward, the Project plans to provide biweekly progress updates in the docket until such time as sensor control of the turbine lights is established. We will also work with staff to ensure any changes to the current timeline are also communicated clearly for everyone's benefit and appreciate staff's engagement with us on the matter to date.

Please file this letter into the docket pursuant to Condition 35. As always, thank you for your courtesies in this matter.

Very truly yours,

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brett Koenecke".

BRETT KOENECKE

BK | jrw

CC/att:EL21-018 Service List