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August 30, 2024

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 regarding the Aircraft Detection Lighting System (“ADLS”) for the North Bend Wind Project. This letter continues the Project’s commitment to provide biweekly progress updates in the docket until such time as sensor control of the turbine lights is established.

I am pleased to report the Project continues to make good progress toward achieving that goal. During the past two weeks, work concluded on the ADLS radar and it is communicating with the Project’s network. Lighting on the neighboring Triple H Project is now fully controlled by the ADLS radar. All 71 replacement network switches for the North Bend turbines have now arrived on site, and crews continue installing those switches. Switches installed to-date are communicating with the Project’s network, in a few cases following some post-installation troubleshooting by the Project and its contractor. Additional work continues to ensure each individual turbine lighting system is reliably controlled over the network. At this time, the majority of the North Bend turbine lights continue to operate in their FAA-required default “dusk-to-dawn” mode.

In our August 1 filing, we previously indicated WAPA scheduled a transmission outage for September 16-October 25, with the Project targeting completion of all ADLS work on North Bend by September 15 as a result. Unfortunately, WAPA recently informed the Project it now must take a reliability outage for work being performed by another generating facility connected to the same line. That reliability outage is unrelated to the Project, but due to the WAPA outages from early September-October 25, there will be no power to the Project’s turbines and FAA lights. Project staff will file an appropriate NOTAM with the FAA for this period to ensure no hazards to air navigation. The turbine lighting for the Triple H Project will not be affected by these outages.

The Project remains committed to do as much work on the ADLS as possible in advance of this now-extended outage period. While the Project’s work on the ADLS has largely proceeded

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according to plan, WAPA's decision to cut power in early September will certainly have an impact and the Project will not be able to meet its previous September 15 target. The Project plans to complete any remaining work on the ADLS system as quickly as possible after WAPA has restored service later in the fall.

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

Handwritten signature of Aaron P. Scheibe in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by 'P. Scheibe'.

AARON P. SCHEIBE

APS | jrw

CC/att: EL21-018 Service List