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Andrew C. Hanson Senior Attorney

April 19, 2018

Mr. Daniel Wolf, Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 Seventh Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Notice of Confidential Settlement Agreement and Joint Recommendation and Request

Docket No. ET6657/WS-08-573

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Consistent with the March 23, 2018 Order of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the above referenced docket (the "Order"), Ordering Clause 5, Wisconsin Power and Light Company ("WPL") met with Bernie Hagen and Cheryl Hagen (the "Hagens") and the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Division to discuss the issues outlined in the Order.

As a result of those discussions, the Hagens and WPL have entered into a Confidential Settlement Agreement under which, among other provisions: (1) WPL shall purchase the Hagens' Property; (2) the Hagens shall enter into a Neighbor Agreement and Easement that shall be binding on any future owners of the Hagens' Property; and (3) the Hagens shall release any and all past, present, and future claims against WPL. The Confidential Settlement Agreement is contingent upon the Commission issuing a written order that includes, at a minimum, terms that after WPL takes possession of the property the Commission shall order that the Commission will not require any further curtailment of Bent Tree Turbine Nos. 132 and 397 and shall not require any further sound monitoring at any location pertaining to Bent Tree on the basis of the DNV-GL Sound Reports.

Wisconsin Power and Light Company An Alliant Energy Company

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Mr. Daniel Wolf Minnesota Public Utilities Commission April 19, 2018 Page 2

As explained more fully in the Notice of Confidential Settlement and Joint Recommendation and Request (the "Joint Request") filed herewith, the Hagens and WPL jointly agree, stipulate and respectfully recommend that the Commission issue a written order consistent the conditions identified in the Joint Request to allow the parties fully implement the terms of the Confidential Settlement Agreement.

Yours Truly,

/s/ Andrew C. Hanson Andrew C. Hanson Senior Attorney

ACH/ab

cc: Service List

### STATE OF MINNESOTA

### BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Nancy Lange Chair
Dan Lipschultz Commissioner
Matt Schuerger Commissioner
Katie Sieben Commissioner
John Tuma Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF WISCONSIN POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY'S SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM

DOCKET NO. ET6657/WS-08-573

### AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN	)
	) ss.
COUNTY OF DANE	)

Annette K. Behnke, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states:

That on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018, copies of the foregoing Affidavit of Service, together with Wisconsin Power and Light Company's Notice of Confidential Settlement Agreement and Joint Recommendation and Request, was served upon the parties on the attached service list, by e-filing, overnight delivery, electronic mail, and/or first-class mail, proper postage prepaid from Madison, Wisconsin.

/s/ Annette K. Behnke

Subscribed and Sworn to Before Me This 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

/s/ Kathy M. Chiono

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin My Commission expires February 5, 2021

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# **Service List Member Information**

# Electronic Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Email	Company Name	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Anderson	Julia	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Electronic Service	Yes
Dobson	lan	Residential.Utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	Electronic Service	Yes
Ferguson	Sharon	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Electronic Service	Yes
Hanson	Andrew	andrewhanson@alliantenergy.com	Alliant Energy Corporation	Electronic Service	No
Lepinski	Jim	jim.lepinski@wisconsin.gov	Public Service Commission of Wisconsin	Electronic Service	No
Norris	Samantha	samanthanorris@alliantenergy.com	Interstate Power and Light Company	Electronic Service	No
Overland	Carol A.	overland@legalectric.org	Legalectric - Overland Law Office	Electronic Service	No
Ruen Blanchard	Sarah	sarahruenblanchard@alliantenergy.com	Interstate Power & Light Company - Electric	Electronic Service	No
Woeste	Robyn	robynwoeste@alliantenergy.com	Interstate Power and Light Company	Electronic Service	No
Wolf	Daniel P	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Electronic Service	Yes

# Paper Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Troe	Katie	Safe Wind in Freeborn County	27510 - 775th Avenue, Clarks Grove, MN-56016	Paper Service	No

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# STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Nancy Lange Dan Lipschulz Matt Schuerger Katie Sieben John Tuma Chair

Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF WISCONSIN POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY'S SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM

**DOCKET NO. ET6657/WS-08-573** 

# NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND JOINT RECOMMENDATION AND REQUEST

Wisconsin Power & Light Company ("WPL") and Bernie Hagen and Cheryl Hagen, husband and wife, (the "Hagens") (individually each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties") have entered into a Confidential Settlement Agreement dated April 18, 2018 ("Confidential Settlement Agreement") addressing all matters raised in the above docket by the Hagens regarding the operation of the Bent Tree Wind Project ("Bent Tree"), including complaints to WPL and complaints to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") and the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis ("EERA"). The Confidential Settlement Agreement is contingent upon a finding by the Commission, among other findings more fully described below, that the Commission shall terminate the curtailment of Turbine Nos. 132 and 397 at Bent Tree and shall not require any further sound monitoring at any location at Bent Tree arising from the sound monitoring required by the Commission in its August 24, 2016 Order Requiring Noise Monitoring, Noise Study and Further Study.

Based on the foregoing, and as more fully described below, the Parties jointly recommend and request that the Commission issue a written order containing the findings described below, thus satisfying the relevant contingencies and allowing the Parties to give full force and effect to the Confidential Settlement Agreement between them.

#### Recitals

- A. The Hagens own the real property located at 70286 290<sup>th</sup> Street, Hartland, MN 56042 (the "Hagens' Property").
- B. The Hagens' Property is within the Project Area of the Bent Tree Wind Project constructed, owned, operated, and maintained by WPL ("Bent Tree").

- C. The Hagens' Property includes a residential dwelling that is currently occupied and used as a residence.
- D. The Hagens have made various complaints regarding the operation of Bent Tree, including complaints to WPL and complaints to the Commission and EERA beginning in 2011 and continuing through the present (collectively the "Prior and Current Complaints").
- E. On August 24, 2016, the Commission issued its Order Requiring Noise Monitoring, Noise Study and Further Study pertaining, in part to the Hagens' Property ("August 24, 2016 Order)".
- F. Pursuant to the August 24, 2016 Order, the Bent Tree Wind Farm Post-Construction Noise Assessment report was prepared by DNV-GL and filed on September 28, 2017 and the Bent Tree Wind Farm Phase 2 Post-Construction Noise Assessment Report was prepared by DNV-GL and filed on February 8, 2018 (collectively the "DNV-GL Sound Reports").
- G. WPL strongly disputes the protocols used and conclusions contained in the DNV-GL Sound Reports.
- H. On February 8, 2018, WPL filed a letter and implemented certain curtailments of the operation of three turbines that are part of Bent Tree and identified in the DNV-GL Sound Reports, including the curtailment of two turbines in the vicinity of the Hagens' Property (known as Turbine Nos. T132 and T397) (collectively, the "Curtailments").
- I. The Hagens filed a Motion for Order to Show Cause and Hearing dated February 19, 2018 (the "Motion").
- J. On March 23, 2018, the Commission issued its Order to Show Cause, Requiring Further Review by the Department Of Commerce, and Continuing Curtailment (the "March 23 Order").
- K. The Hagens and WPL have agreed to a Confidential Settlement Agreement addressing all matters raised in the Prior and Current Complaints, the DNV-GL Sound Reports, the Motion, and the March 23 Order and all other matters in dispute between the Parties in this proceeding.

#### Joint Recommendation and Request

The Hagens and WPL have entered into a Confidential Settlement Agreement under which, among other provisions: (1) WPL shall purchase the Hagens' Property; (2) the Hagens shall enter into a Neighbor Agreement and Easement that shall be binding on any future owners of the Hagens' Property; and (3) the Hagens shall release any and all past, present, and future claims against WPL.

The Confidential Settlement Agreement is contingent upon the Commission issuing a written order that includes, at a minimum, terms that after WPL takes possession of the properties the Commission shall order that the Commission will not require any further Curtailment of Turbine Nos. T132 and T397 and shall not require any further sound monitoring at any location pertaining to Bent Tree on the basis of the DNV-GL Sound Reports.

In light of the foregoing, the Hagens and WPL jointly agree, stipulate and recommend that the Commission issue a written order adopting the terms and conditions set forth in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, below:

- 1. <u>Dismissal of the Motion and all Prior and Current Complaints</u>. The Commission hereby determines that the Prior and Current Complaints are resolved within the meaning of WPL's Large Wind Energy Conversion System Permit for the Bent Tree Wind Project Phase I, Attachment 2 (Complaint Handling Procedures for Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems). The Motion and all Prior and Current Complaints are dismissed with prejudice.
- 2. <u>Termination of Curtailments</u>. The Curtailment of Turbine Nos. T132 and T397 T362 shall terminate on the date on which the Hagens transfer possession of the Hagens' Property to WPL, which shall occur no later than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after closing on the purchase of the Hagens' Property by WPL. After such time, WPL may operate Turbine Nos. T132 and T397,without any curtailment imposed by the Commission as a result of the DNV-GL Sound Reports.
- 3 <u>No Further Sound Monitoring.</u> The Commission shall not require any further sound monitoring at any location pertaining to Bent Tree on the basis of the DNV-GL Sound Reports.
- 4. <u>No Precedent.</u> The Confidential Settlement Agreement reflects the unique facts of this case and is the result of negotiations between the Hagens and WPL, and the Confidential Settlement Agreement does not represent the position of either Party as to the appropriate application of the law or any binding or legal precedent related to Bent Tree or otherwise.
- 5. <u>No Admission</u>. The execution of this Confidential Settlement Agreement shall not be construed as an admission by any Party as to the validity or invalidity of any other Party's position with reference to the issues in this proceeding.
- 6. <u>Closing Date</u>. The Closing Date for the Confidential Settlement Agreement shall occur within (seven) 7 days of the date in which the Commission issues a written order with respect to this Notice of Confidential Settlement Agreement and Joint Recommendation and Request containing each and every term and condition in Sections 1 through 5, above, as determined by WPL in its sole discretion.
- 7. <u>No Conditions or Modification</u>. The Parties agree that, in the event that the Commission takes any action to reject or modify all or any part of this Joint Recommendation and Request, either Party may, in its sole discretion determine that

Confidential Settlement Agreement is null and void. In such event, the Joint Recommendation and Request: (1) shall not be any part of the record in relation to Bent Tree or be cited or have any precedential effect in relation to Bent Tree or any other proceeding; and (2) shall not limit either Party's rights to take different positions in relation to Bent Tree in this proceeding or any other proceeding.

Dated: April 19, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Overland

Attorney for Bernie Hagen

and Cheryl Hagen

WISCONSIN POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

By Michael S. Greiveldinger

Its Managing Attorney