

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben
Hwikwon Ham
Audrey C. Partridge
Joseph K. Sullivan
John A. Tuma

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend
Wind, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion
System Site Permit for the Up to 300 MW Big
Bend Wind Project in Cottonwood and
Watonwan Counties, Minnesota

SERVICE DATE: February 25, 2026

DOCKET NO. IP-7013/WS-19-619

The above-entitled matter was considered by the Commission on February 12, 2026, and the following disposition made:

Granted the site permit amendment as requested by the permittee, incorporated the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting staff's December 10, 2025 recommendations, and issued an amended site permit.

The Commission adopts the attached staff recommendations for the reasons set forth therein. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sasha Bergman".

Sasha Bergman
Executive Secretary

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**ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTING STAFF
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON AN AMENDED SITE PERMIT**

Big Bend Wind Project

DOCKET NO. IP-7013/WS-19-619

Date: December 10, 2025

EIP Staff: Richard Davis | 651-539-1077 | richard.davis@state.mn.us

In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the up to 300 MW Big Bend Wind Project in Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota.

Issues Addressed: These comments and recommendations address Big Bend Wind, LLC's request for amendments to its site permit for the Big Bend Wind Project.

Additional documents and information can be found on eDockets:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents> (19-619) and on the Commission's website: <https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/14153>.

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Introduction and Background

On September 28, 2022, the Commission issued an order granting a certificate of need and issuing a site permit and a route permit to Big Bend Wind, LLC (Big Bend or permittee) for the construction and operation of the Big Bend Wind Project,¹ a 300 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Cottonwood and Martin counties,² and an approximately 18 mile long 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Cottonwood, Watonwan, and Martin counties to connect the project substation to the Xcel Energy Crandall 345 kV switching station.³

The site permit was for a wind project of up to 300 MW, consisting of up to 52 Nordex N-163 turbines (5.94 MW), 52 Vestas V162 turbines (6.0 MW) or 52 General Electric (GE) GE-158 turbines (5.8 MW).⁴ On

¹ Commission, *Order Issuing Permits*, September 28, 2022, eDocket No. [20229-189351-05](#)

² Commission, *Attachment 1*, September 28, 2022, eDocket No. [20229-189351-10](#)

³ Commission, *Attachment 3*, September 28, 2022, eDocket No. [20229-189351-20](#)

⁴ Commission, *Attachment 1*, September 28, 2022, eDocket No. [20229-189351-10](#)

September 18, 2024, Big Bend requested a site permit extension, to extend the construction start deadline on the project to September 28, 2027.⁵ On November 26, 2024, the Commission approved the requested extension of the deadline to begin construction.⁶

On October 31, 2025, Big Bend filed a request to amend their site permit.⁷ Since issuance of the site permit and the revised construction deadline, Big Bend has identified turbine technology changes and site layout modifications that would appropriately be addressed by amending the site permit. Big Bend has requested this amendment to the site permit under Minn. Stat. § 216I.09 and Site Permit Section 13.0.

Big Bend is seeking to amend the site permit as follows:

- Turbine technology changes
 - Remove Nordex N-163 turbine from consideration
 - Upgrade the GE-158 turbine from a capacity of 5.8 MW to 6.1 MW, this comes with no changes in the turbine's dimensions;
- Site layout changes
 - Remove two possible turbine locations
 - Addition of a collection line easement, avoiding a collection line crossing a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) driveway
 - Shifting the location of the project's O&M building so it is collocated with the Project substation (location was previously planned, reviewed, and permitted to be the location of Red Rock Solar substation⁸)

On November 26, 2025, the Commission issued a notice⁹ soliciting comments on Big Bend's site permit amendment request (2025 SPAR). The Commission identified the following topics for comment:

- Are there any new or changed human or environmental impacts from the redesigned project when compared to the original project?
- If the proposed design changes were known to the Commission at the time the site permit was issued, would the Commission have made a different decision?

⁵ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Filing Letter with Request for Extension*, September 18, 2024, eDocket No. [20249-210300-01](#)

⁶ Commission, *Order*, November 26, 2024, eDocket No. [202411-212440-01](#)

⁷ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Site Permit Amendment Request Letter* (2025 SPAR), October 31, 2025, eDocket No. [202510-224488-01](#), [202510-224488-02](#), [202510-224488-03](#), [202510-224488-04](#), [202510-224488-05](#), 202510-224488-06 (Non-public), [202510-224488-07](#), [202510-224488-08](#), [202510-224488-09](#), [202510-224488-10](#)

⁸ Commission, *Attachment 2*, September 28, 2022, eDocket No. [20229-189351-15](#)

⁹ Commission, *Notice of Comment Period on Site Permit Amendment*, November 26, 2025, eDocket No. [202511-225345-01](#)

- Should the Commission approve Big Bend Wind’s petition to amend the site permit for the Big Bend Wind Project?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Regulatory Process and Procedures

Under Minn. Stat. §216I.09, the owner of a large energy infrastructure facility may request to modify any provision or condition of a site or route permit issued by the Commission. Applicants requesting an amendment must describe the alteration to be made or the amendment sought and must describe any changes to the environmental impacts evaluated by the Commission as part of the initial permit approval. After a public comment period, the Commission must decide whether to authorize a requested permit amendment or determine that some other action is required. The Commission may impose reasonable conditions on any amendment it authorizes.

EIP Staff Analysis and Comments

Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff have reviewed the amendment request and supporting documents and provides the following analysis and comments in response to the Commission’s notice.

Staff comments are focused on whether the Commission should amend the site permit and, if so, what modifications to the existing permit conditions or additional conditions should be required. Staff has reviewed Big Bend’s propose site permit amendments, including a number of technical changes to reflect statutory updates and incorporation of project information from the 2025 SPAR. Staff has recommended permit amendments to clarify compliance requirements.

Staff has not identified other issues or concerns related to the matter.

Site Permit Amendment Request

Big Bend indicates the site permit should be amended to address changes to turbine technology, site layout changes, and Minn. Stat. Ch. 216I becoming effective since the site permit was issued.¹⁰ Staff comments on Big Bend’s 2025 SPAR are focused on the change in the turbine technology being considered, change in the number of turbines, change in the collector line location, and the proposed collocation of the O&M building adjacent to the project substation. Staff has also provided comments specific to the proposed project amendment and analysis of potential project impacts to the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

¹⁰ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Site Permit Amendment Request Letter* (2025 SPAR), October 31, 2025, eDocket No. [202510-224488-01](#), [202510-224488-02](#), [202510-224488-03](#), [202510-224488-04](#), [202510-224488-05](#), 202510-224488-06 (Non-public), [202510-224488-07](#), [202510-224488-08](#), [202510-224488-09](#), [202510-224488-10](#)

Changes in Turbine Technology

Big Bend is requesting approval to utilize an updated version of turbine model GE-158, which has the same dimensions, perimeters, and turbine locations as the previously approved turbine models. The GE-158 turbine model has been updated from 5.8 MWs to 6.1 MWs, resulting from improved turbine efficiency and output.

Staff has reviewed Big Bend's noise modeling and shadow flicker modeling based on the proposed change in turbine technology. The request to use the updated GE-158 wind turbine is consistent with the noise modeling and shadow flicker modeling in the September 2021 Supplemental and Amended Site Permit Application (2021 Amended SPA)¹¹ and the record supporting the Commission's original permit decision in September 2022 and revised permit decision in December 2024.¹²

Noise

Staff has reviewed the permittee's noise assessment and potential noise impacts of the updated GE-158 turbine model, and the updated GE-158 turbine is anticipated to have the same turbine-only noise and total sound (background + turbine) when compared to the noise assessment for GE-158 in the 2021 Amended SPA.¹³ Big Bend has modeled noise for the proposed updated GE-158 turbines, considering residences within one mile of the site boundary. The modeling showed turbine-only sound at 47 dBA for the closest residence.¹⁴

¹¹ Big Bend Wind, LLC, Supplemental and Amended Site Permit Application (2021 Amended SPA), September 20, 2021, eDocket No. [20219-178112-02](#), [20219-178112-03](#), [20219-178112-04](#), [20219-178112-05](#), [20219-178112-06](#), [20219-178115-01](#), [20219-178115-02](#), [20219-178115-03](#), [20219-178115-04](#), [20219-178115-05](#), [20219-178115-06](#), [20219-178115-07](#), [20219-178115-08](#), [20219-178115-09](#), [20219-178117-01](#), [20219-178117-02](#), [20219-178117-03](#), [20219-178117-04](#), [20219-178117-05](#), [20219-178117-06](#), [20219-178117-07](#), [20219-178117-08](#), [20219-178117-09](#), [20219-178120-01](#), [20219-178120-02](#), [20219-178120-03](#), [20219-178120-04](#), [20219-178120-05](#), [20219-178120-06](#), [20219-178120-07](#), [20219-178125-01](#), [20219-178125-02](#), [20219-178125-03](#), [20219-178125-04](#), [20219-178125-05](#), [20219-178125-06](#), [20219-178125-07](#), [20219-178125-08](#), [20219-178125-09](#), [20219-178125-10](#), [20219-178127-01](#), [20219-178127-02](#)

¹² Commission, Revised Site Permit, December 23, 2024. eDocket No. [202412-213281-01](#)

¹³ Big Bend Wind, LLC, 2021 Amended SPA and Appendix E Amended Noise Analysis, September 20, 2021. eDocket Nos. [20219-178112-02](#), [20219-178117-01](#), [20219-178117-02](#), [20219-178117-03](#), [20219-178117-04](#), [20219-178117-05](#)

¹⁴ Big Bend Wind, LLC, 2025 SPAR, pp. 4-6 eDocket No. [202510-224488-01](#) and Appendix C, October 31, 2025. eDocket No. [202510-224488-05](#)

Table 1. Noise Modeling Comparison GE-158 Turbine and Uprated GE-158 Turbine

		GE-158 – 5.8 MW (Revised Application and Permitted)	Uprated GE-158 – 6.1 MW (Permit Amendment)
Turbine-Only Noise	Avg L ₅₀ Modeled	33	33
	Max L ₅₀ Modeled	47	47
	Min L ₅₀ Modeled	18	17
Total Sound (Background (33 dBA) + Turbine)	Avg L ₅₀ Modeled	36	36
	Max L ₅₀ Modeled	47	47
	Min L ₅₀ Modeled	33	33

The anticipated noise impacts of the project with the proposed turbine technology changes are consistent with the permit. Section 4.3 of the permit requires the project to comply with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) noise standards at all times and section 7.4 requires the permittee to conduct a post-construction noise evaluation once the project is operating. Big Bend plans to use low-noise trailing edge (LNTE) blades and one turbine may be operated in Noise Reduced Operations (NRO) mode if the uprated GE-158 turbines are selected for the project.

Big Bend has not proposed to modify portions of the permit requiring that the project comply with MPCA noise standards (section 4.3) and staff does not believe any amendments to this section of the permit are necessary. Big Bend proposed amending the post-construction noise evaluation (section 7.4); to remove reference to the Department of Commerce and include reference to Commission staff. Staff supports technical changes to this section of the permit to clarify that the noise monitoring protocol should be developed in consultation with Commission staff rather than staff from the Department of Commerce.

Shadow Flicker

Big Bend modeled potential shadow flicker for the proposed turbine models and layouts in its 2021 Amended SPA and in the 2025 SPAR. Modeling for both the layouts shown in the 2021 Amended SPA and the SPAR used conservative assumptions (constant sun with no clouds during daytime hours, turbines running continually, windows on all sides, no buildings or vegetation that would serve as obstructions) and is likely to overestimate the actual shadow flicker experienced by nearby residents.

Table 2. Modeled Shadow Flicker Comparison GE-158 Turbine and Upgraded GE-158 Turbine

	2021 Amended SPA		2025 SPAR	
	Participating	Non-Participating	Participating	Non-Participating
Maximum Shadow Flicker (Hours: Minutes)/Year	57:10	23:56	57:02	24:04

Modeling in the 2021 Amended SPA, which provided the analysis supporting the Commission’s September 2022 original site permit and the 2024 revised site permit, showed a maximum shadow flicker for the GE-158 turbine of approximately 23 hours and 56 minutes per year for non-participating receptors and 57 hours and 10 minutes per year for participating receptors. The modeled maximum shadow flicker for the upgraded GE-158 turbines is approximately 24 hours and 4 minutes per year for non-participating residences and 57 hours and 2 minutes for participating residences.

The upgraded GE-158 turbine would expose 16 participating landowners to 30 plus hours of shadow flicker per year, and no non-participating landowners will be exposed to over 30 hours of shadow flicker per year. Big Bend has met with all of the participating landowners that were modeled to experience 30 plus hours of shadow flicker per year and explained potential impacts and mitigations to them. Each participating landowner has signed a shadow flicker waiver with Big Bend.

EIP staff recommends Big Bend provide clarification in the record as to whether all 16 participating landowners currently live at the residences that will potentially experience 30 plus hours of shadow flicker per year. If any residences are rented out and the tenants, rather than the landowners, will be experiencing the shadow flicker there should be discussion as to how Big Bend plans to ensure any implemented mitigation actions will benefit the tenants in the residence(s).

Big Bend has not proposed any changes to the condition requiring preparation of a shadow flicker management plan (section 7.2), except for a technical change removing reference to Department of Commerce; staff does not recommend changes to this permit condition.

Increased Nameplate Capacity

Big Bend has requested an increase in the project’s name plate capacity from 300 MW to 311.1 MW, approximately a four (4) percent increase from what is currently permitted. Additional context for the name plate capacity increase requested is important; the original site permit application for the project requested a capacity of up to 308 MW.¹⁵

The original project was proposed as a hybrid energy generation facility to work with the previously permitted Red Rock Solar Project, which is currently not planned to be constructed and operated. The

¹⁵ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Initial Site Permit Application*, November 9, 2020. eDocket No. [202011-168170-02](#)

hybrid wind and solar energy facility was anticipated to potentially generate up to 335 MW. The environmental analysis for the wind, solar, and hybrid project were conducted in manner so no additional analysis would be necessary to proceed with only the wind energy facility.

At this time, the only turbine location changes proposed are the removal of two possible turbine locations, and the proposed updated GE-158 turbine has the same dimensions and perimeters as the turbines included in the Environmental Assessment (EA) completed for the project.¹⁶ With no turbine location changes, no changes to the turbine model size or perimeters, and previous environmental analysis that considered the potential for 335 MW energy generation at the hybrid project, staff believes that the increase of nameplate capacity from 300 to 311.1 MW will not result in any additional environmental impacts and would have been approved by the Commission at the time of issuance of the original site permit had it been proposed.

Changes in Site Layout

Big Bend's proposed amendment removes two possible turbine locations, adds a collection line easement to avoid crossing a MDNR driveway, and shifts the O&M building location to collocate the building next to the project substation.

With the use of the updated GE-158 turbine model the Permittee has proposed the removal of two of the potential turbine locations. The EA for the wind, solar, and hybrid project was conducted with the currently permitted turbine layout, and it considered the dimensions of the GE-158 and Vestas V-168 turbine models.¹⁷ The only turbine location changes proposed, are the removal of two permitted turbine locations closest to the Jeffers Petroglyphs. As this removal would minimize potential visual impacts to the users of the Jeffers Petroglyphs, staff does not believe additional environmental analysis is necessary and this would have been approved by the Commission at the time of the original permit issuance.

Big Bend has secured additional land for a collection line easement north of County Road 9, which will allow the collection line to avoid crossing the driveway for the Mountain Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The new collection line easement area was included in the EA completed for the project. Moving the collection line to the north side of County Road 9 will minimize impacts to recreational resources, because the driveway access to the Mountain Lake WMA will not be impacted during construction.¹⁸

Big Bend has requested that the project's permitted O&M building location be moved and collocated with the project's substation. The amended O&M building location will be the same location as the previously reviewed and permitted Red Rock Solar substation. Amending the O&M building location will shift impacts to agricultural land from the originally permitted location to the amended location. Staff believes collocation of the project substation and O&M building would minimize impacts to agricultural

¹⁶ DOC-EERA, *Environmental Assessment (EA) – Summary and Main Document*, January 18, 2022. eDocket No. [20221-181617-03](#), [20221-181617-08](#), [20221-181617-13](#)

¹⁷ DOC-EERA, *Environmental Assessment (EA) – Summary and Main Document*, January 18, 2022. eDocket No. [20221-181617-03](#), [20221-181617-08](#), [20221-181617-13](#)

¹⁸ Big Bend Wind, LLC, 2025 SPAR – Figures, Figure 1, October 31, 2025. eDocket No. [202510-224488-02](#)

operations by creating one developed area to work around versus having to two separate developed areas for farmers to work around.¹⁹

Northern Long-Eared Bat

In the 2025 SPAR, Big Bend states that the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is no longer present in the IPaC results for the project area. Staff believes the assumption that the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) should not be considered as a species that could be impacted by the project is not appropriate or accurate. The IPaC system is currently not to be utilized for the review of solar and wind energy projects, as is stated on the IPaC website. Additionally, the IPaC system results are generally based on anticipated range of occurrence of listed species and users should begin reviewing projects at a county wide level, and more appropriately at a species range level for a mobile species such as the NLEB.

NLEB are known for short migration between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitat, as well as regular nightly foraging flights. The species' flight activities put the species at potential risk of impact from the project's operation. Additionally, NLEBs utilize a wide variety of trees as potential roosting locations during the spring, summer, and early fall, and although no active roost trees for the species have been identified in the area, that does not imply the species may not utilize trees within or adjacent to the project area. It is also important to note that federally listed species, such as NLEB are listed and protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) wherever they are found, so the environmental analysis of potential impacts to rare species should error on the side of broader inclusion for a species known to range throughout Minnesota and into the Dakotas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has a specific webpage that shows the range of NLEBs to be considered when planning for wind energy projects.²⁰ Additionally, a GIS data layer of the NLEB wind range can be found here [NLEB Wind Range GIS datalayer | FWS.gov](#).

Staff Comments on Permit Conditions

Staff has reviewed the 2025 SPAR and believes that the proposed changes are generally consistent with the existing permit. In this section, staff provides responds to Big Bend's proposed permit amendments included in 2025 SPAR, Attachment A²¹ and recommends additional amendments.

¹⁹ Big Bend Wind, LLC, 2025 SPAR – Figures, Figure 1, October 31, 2025. eDocket No. [202510-224488-02](#)

²⁰ USFWS. Northern long-eared bat (NLEB) Range for Wind Energy Projects. <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/land-based-wind-energy-voluntary-avoidance-technical-assistance-northern-long>. Accessed December 4, 2025.

²¹ Big Bend Wind LLC, 2025 SPAR – Attachment A-Draft Site Permit Amendment, October 31, 2025. eDocket No. [202510-224488-03](#)

Permittee Proposed Permit Amendments

Big Bend suggested amendments to following sections of the permit to reflect proposed changes to the project;

- Permit Cover
- Section 1 Site Permit
- Section 2 Project Description
- Section 2.1 Associated Facility
- Section 4.9 Wind Turbine Towers
- Section 5.3 Construction and Operation Practices
- Section 5.3.16 Archaeological and Historic Resources
- Section 11.1 Decommissioning Plan

Big Bend suggested amendments to the following sections of the permit to reflect updates for Minn. Stat. § 216I, revisions to remove the Department of Commerce, and/or replace the Department of Commerce with Commission staff;

- Permit Cover
- Section 1 Site Permit
- Section 4.7 Native Prairie
- Section 5.3.16 Archaeological and Historic Resources
- Section 6.2 Independent Third-Party Monitor
- Section 7.4 Noise Studies
- Section 8.2 Power Purchase Agreement
- Section 8.3 Failure to Commence Construction
- Section 10.1 Pre-Construction Meeting
- Section 10.2 Pre-Operation Meeting
- Section 10.3 Site Plan
- Section 10.10 Project Energy Production
- Section 11.1 Decommissioning Plan
- Section 12.1 Final Boundaries
- Section 13 Permit Amendment
- Section 14 Transfer of Permit
- Section 15 Revocation or Suspension of Permit
- Attachment 1 Complaint Handling Procedures
- Attachment 2 Compliance Filing Procedures

Big Bend suggested the addition of the following permit sections;

- Section 5.3.29 Communication Cables
- Section 5.3.30 Bio-netting, Natural Netting, and Mulch Products
- Section 5.3.31 Dust Control

- Section 5.3.32 State Historic Preservation Office Recommendations
- Section 5.3.33 Unanticipated Discoveries Plan

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- Section 10.6 Prevailing Wage

Staff is in agreement with Big Bend's proposed permit amendments as they are identified in the 2025 SPAR, Attachment A.²²

EIP Staff Recommended Permit Amendments

In addition to Big Bend's proposed permit amendments, staff recommends amendments to the following sections of the site permit;

- Section 7.5.4 Immediate Incident Reports
- Section 10.3 Site Plan
- Section 10.4 Status Reports

Section 7.5.4 Immediate Incident Reports

Staff recommends modifying the language (additions blue, underlined and deletions green, strikethrough) in the condition to be consistent with recently issued site permits.

7.5.4. Immediate Incident Reports

The Permittee shall notify the Commission, EERA, the USFWS, and the DNR within 24 hours of the discovery of any of the following:

- (a) *five or more dead or injured birds or bats, at an individual turbine location, ~~within a five-day reporting period~~ during a single survey; or*
- (b) *twenty or more dead or injured birds or bats, across the entire facility, ~~within a five-day reporting period~~ during a single survey (potential mass casualty event); or*
- (c) *one or more dead or injured state threatened, endangered, or species of special concern;*
- ~~(d)~~ (d) *one or more dead or injured federally listed species, including species proposed for listing; or*
- ~~(d)~~ (e) *one or more dead or injured bald or golden eagle(s).*

Section 10.3 Site Plan

In addition to technical corrections made by Big Bend (identified in red, strikethrough), staff recommends modifying the language (additions blue, underlined and deletions green, strikethrough) in the condition to be consistent with recently issued site permits.

10.3 Site Plan

At least 30 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall provide the

²² Big Bend Wind LLC, 2025 SPAR – Attachment A-Draft Site Permit Amendment, October 31, 2025. eDocket No. [202510-224488-03](#)

Commission, ~~the Department~~, and the Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments with a site plan that includes specifications and drawings for site preparation and grading; specifications and locations of all turbines and other structures to be constructed including all electrical equipment, collector and feeder lines, pollution control equipment, fencing, roads, and other associated facilities; and procedures for cleanup and restoration. The documentation shall include maps depicting the site boundary and layout in relation to that approved by this permit. The Permittee shall document, through GIS mapping, compliance with the setbacks and site layout restrictions required by this permit, including compliance with the noise standards pursuant to Minnesota Rules Chapter 7030. At the same time, the Permittee shall notify affected landowners and city and town clerks that the site plan is on file with the Commission and the Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments. The Permittee may submit a site plan and engineering drawings for only a portion of the project if the Permittee intends to commence construction on certain parts of the project before completing the site plan and engineering drawings for other parts of the project.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the earlier of (i) 30 days after the pre-construction meeting has expired (ii) or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit.

If the Commission notifies the Permittee in writing within 30 days after the pre-construction meeting that it has completed its review of the documents and planned construction, and finds that the planned construction is not consistent with this site permit, the Permittee may submit additional and/or revised documentation but may not commence construction until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has determined that the planned construction is consistent with this site permit.

If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes to its site plan or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission, ~~the Department~~, the Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments, city and town clerks, and the affected landowners at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

In the event that previously unidentified human and environmental conditions are discovered during construction that by law or pursuant to conditions outlined in this permit would preclude the use of that site as a turbine site, the Permittee shall have the right to move or relocate turbine site. Under these circumstances, the Permittee shall notify the Commission, ~~the Department~~, the MPCA, the DNR, the Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments, city and town clerks, and the affected landowners of any turbines that are to be relocated, and provide the previously unidentified environmental conditions and how the movement of the turbine mitigates the human and environmental

impact at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any terms of this permit.

Section 10.4 Status Reports

Staff recommends modifying the language (additions blue, underlined) in the condition to be consistent with recently issued site permits.

10.4 Status Reports

The Permittee shall file status reports with the Commission on progress regarding site construction. The Permittee need not report more frequently than monthly. Reports shall begin with the commencement of site construction and continue until completion of restoration. Reports shall describe construction activities and progress and activities undertaken in compliance with this permit. Reports shall include text and photographs.

If the Permittee does not commence construction of the Project within six months of this site permit issuance, the Permittee shall file with the Commission Pre-Construction Status Reports on the anticipated timing of construction every three months beginning with the issuance of this site permit until the pre-construction meeting. The status updates shall include information on the Project's Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) interconnection process, if applicable.

Recommendations on Wind Site Permit Amendment and Conditions

EIP staff has reviewed Big Bend's 2025 SPAR and supporting materials and believes the anticipated environmental and human impacts associated with the proposed turbine technology change and modifications to the site layout are comparable to, or less than, the potential impacts associated with the November 2024 permit.

With respect to amendments to the permit, staff recommends the Commission:

- 1) Adopt Big Bend's amendments as proposed to the following sections:
 - a) Permit Cover
 - b) Section 1 Site Permit
 - c) Section 2 Project Description
 - d) Section 2.1 Associated Facility
 - e) Section 4.7 Native Prairie
 - f) Section 4.9 Wind Turbine Towers
 - g) Section 5.3 Construction and Operation Practices
 - h) Section 5.3.16 Archaeological and Historic Resources
 - i) Section 5.3.29 Communication Cables
 - j) Section 5.3.30 Bio-netting, Natural Netting, and Mulch Products
 - k) Section 5.3.31 Dust Control
 - l) Section 5.3.32 State Historic Preservation Office Recommendations
 - m) Section 5.3.33 Unanticipated Discoveries Plan
 - n) Section 6.2 Independent Third-Party Monitor

- o) Section 7.4 Noise Studies
 - p) Section 8.2 Power Purchase Agreement
 - q) Section 8.3 Failure to Commence Construction
 - r) Section 10.1 Pre-Construction Meeting
 - s) Section 10.2 Pre-Operation Meeting
 - t) Section 10.6 Prevailing Wage
 - u) Section 10.10 Project Energy Production
 - v) Section 11.1 Decommissioning Plan
 - w) Section 12.1 Final Boundaries
 - x) Section 13 Permit Amendment
 - y) Section 14 Transfer of Permit
 - z) Section 15 Revocation or Suspension of Permit
 - aa) Attachment 1 Complaint Handling Procedures
 - bb) Attachment 2 Compliance Filing Procedures
- 2) Adopt Big Bend's proposed amendments with the additional modifications proposed by staff in the following sections:
- a) Section 10.3 Site Plan
- 3) Adopt staff's proposed amendments to the following sections:
- a) Section 7.5.4 Immediate Incident Reports
 - b) Section 10.4 Status Reports

**ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTING STAFF
REPLY COMMENTS ON A SITE PERMIT AMENDMENT**

Big Bend Wind Project

DOCKET NO. IP-7013/WS-19-619

Date: December 17, 2025

EIP Staff: Richard Davis | 651-539-1077 | richard.davis@state.mn.us

In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the up to 300 MW Big Bend Wind Project in Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota.

Issues Addressed: These reply comments address public comments that were submitted during the initial comment period for proposed amendments to the site permit for the Big Bend Wind Project.

Additional documents and information can be found on eDockets:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents> (19-619) and on the Commission's website: <https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/14153>.

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Introduction and Background

On October 31, 2025, Big Bend Wind, LLC (Big Bend) filed a request to amend their site permit for the Big Bend Wind Project.¹ Big Bend has requested this amendment to the site permit under Minn. Stat. § 216I.09 and Site Permit Section 13.0.

Big Bend is seeking to amend the site permit as follows:

- Turbine technology changes
 - Remove Nordex N-163 turbine from consideration

¹ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Site Permit Amendment Request Letter* (2025 SPAR), October 31, 2025, eDocket No. [202510-224488-01](#), [202510-224488-02](#), [202510-224488-03](#), [202510-224488-04](#), [202510-224488-05](#), 202510-224488-06 (Non-public), [202510-224488-07](#), [202510-224488-08](#), [202510-224488-09](#), [202510-224488-10](#)

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- Update the GE-158 turbine from a capacity of 5.8 MW to 6.1 MW, this comes with no changes in the turbine’s dimensions;
 - Site layout changes
 - Remove two possible turbine locations
 - Addition of a collection line easement, avoiding a collection line crossing a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) driveway
 - Shifting the location of the project’s O&M building so it is collocated with the Project substation (location was previously planned, reviewed, and permitted to be the location of Red Rock Solar substation²)

On November 26, 2025, the Commission issued a notice³ soliciting comments on Big Bend’s site permit amendment request (2025 SPAR). The Commission identified the following topics for comment:

- Are there any new or changed human or environmental impacts from the redesigned project when compared to the original project?
- If the proposed design changes were known to the Commission at the time the site permit was issued, would the Commission have made a different decision?
- Should the Commission approve Big Bend Wind’s petition to amend the site permit for the Big Bend Wind Project?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff⁴ and Mr. Brad Hutchison⁵ provided comments during the initial comment which ended on December 10, 2025.

EIP Staff Reply Comments

EIP staff have reviewed the comments submitted by Mr. Hutchison and provides the following reply comments to address Mr. Hutchison’s concerns and to also provide clarity for the Commission regarding the proposed amendment of the Big Bend Wind Project site permit.

Mr. Hutchison’s comments focus on three primary issues/concerns:

1. The environmental assessment (EA) originally prepared for the project is based on outdated data and needs to be updated.
2. The Jeffers Petroglyphs settlement agreement highlights environmental impacts to area homeowners that have not been addressed.

² Commission, *Attachment 2*, September 28, 2022, eDocket No. [20229-189351-15](#)

³ Commission, Notice of Comment Period on Site Permit Amendment, November 26, 2025, eDocket No. [202511-225345-01](#)

⁴ PUC EIP, Comments on Permit Amendment Request, December 10, 2025, eDocket No. [202512-225702-01](#)

⁵ PUC, Public Comment – Brad Hutchison 1, December 11, 2025, eDocket No. [202512-225744-01](#)

3. Alternative plans for wind development in Minnesota.

Current EA and Updated Data

EIP staff acknowledges the EA for the project was issued in January 2022, with some revisions completed in February 2022.⁶ Staff believes the 2022 EA, and corrections, are still adequate with respect to the analysis of the project’s potential human and environmental impacts. Additionally, the permittee provided updated information in their filed amendment application request,⁷ regarding the potential human and environmental impacts of the amended project.

The site permit application is considered the primary environmental review document when the Commission considers site permit issuance for wind energy facilities, and in turn the site permit amendment application is considered an amendment to the environmental review and analysis document for the project. Based on staff’s review of Big Bend’s updated environmental analysis of the potential impacts associated with the amended project, staff believes Big Bend has adequately addressed potential human and environmental impacts that will be associated with the amended project.

Big Bend provided updated sound modeling and shadow flicker modeling analysis for the updated GE-158 turbine they have requested to use for the amended project. Because the locations, dimensions and noise characteristics of the updated GE-158 turbine have not changed from the originally proposed and permitted GE-158 wind turbine, no changes to potential noise or shadow flicker impacts are anticipated to occur.

Staff acknowledges Mr. Hutchison’s concerns with respect to potential turbine noise impacts that may increase due to the loss of several large ash trees throughout the project area. Although the presence of trees on the landscape does provide some attenuation of sound and may be noticeable at individual residences, noise modeling conducted for wind projects does not consider the potential attenuation of existing vegetation.⁸ Generally, noise modeling is completed with a “worst – case scenario” approach and vegetation on the landscape is not factored into the modeled sound levels to be experienced at individual receptors. This type of attenuation may be reflected in monitoring of the ambient sound levels within portions of the project area, but the ambient sound level utilized in the noise modeling is a general average across the entire project area.

Staff does not believe that the loss of individual trees across a project area the size of the Big Bend Wind Project will have a significant impact on the ambient sound level. Additionally, without a very significant

⁶ DOC-EERA, *Environmental Assessment (EA) – Summary and Main Document*, January 18, 2022. eDocket No. [20221-181617-03](#), [20221-181617-08](#), [20221-181617-13](#)

⁷ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Site Permit Amendment Request Letter* (2025 SPAR), October 31, 2025, eDocket No. [202510-224488-01](#), [202510-224488-02](#), [202510-224488-03](#), [202510-224488-04](#), [202510-224488-05](#), [202510-224488-06](#) (Non-public), [202510-224488-07](#), [202510-224488-08](#), [202510-224488-09](#), [202510-224488-10](#)

⁸ Selkimäki, M., J. Riippi, P. Rana, L. Lamula, M. Antila, T. Heinonen, T. Tokola. *Forest landscape shield models for assessing audio-visual disturbances of wind turbines*, Journal of Environmental Management, Volume 352, February 2024, ISSN 0301-4797, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479724000562>.

increase (10 or more decibels) in ambient sound levels within the project area there would be minimal to no changes in the noise modeling analysis results.

Mr. Hutchison also commented that the loss of the large tree makes it more apparent that the ground factor of $G=0.5$ is not realistic to use in noise modeling. Per the current ANSI/ACP wind turbine sound modeling standards, a ground factor of $G=0.5$ is appropriate as long as a +2 (two) decibel factor is added to the turbine's sound power level.⁹ Big Bend's Noise Assessment Report indicates that the noise modeling was conducted in accordance with the ANSI/ACP wind turbine sound modeling standards, and a ground factor of $G=0.5$ was used and two additional decibels were added to the proposed turbine models' sound power levels.¹⁰ Big Bend's Noise Assessment Report indicates that no forest attenuation was taken into consideration during the noise modeling,¹¹ so the loss of trees throughout the project area will not impact the noise modeling analysis results.

The project amendment does not propose additional land clearing activities or grading, other than what has been permitted previously by the Commission. To the best of staff's knowledge there has not been any significant grading or excavation activities related to other projects within the area, so the topography of the area has not been changed since the EA was completed.

Jeffers Petroglyphs Settlement Agreement

The Jeffers Petroglyphs have a long history of significant ceremonial and spiritual purposes for numerous Native American Tribes. The Settlement Agreement between Big Bend Wind, Apex Clean Energy, the Minnesota Historical Society, Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota (Lower Sioux), and the Upper Sioux Community (Upper Sioux) was initiated to specifically address the concerns of potential cultural and archaeological impacts of the wind turbines at the Big Bend Wind Project on individuals using the Jeffers Petroglyphs for ceremonial and/or spiritual purposes.¹² The potential visual impacts of a wind turbine associated with cultural activities at the Jeffers Petroglyphs are not considered the same as a homeowner, an individual driving a vehicle on a road within the project area, or individuals working outdoors within the project area simply being able to see a wind turbine. Simply viewing a wind turbine during typical everyday activities is not considered to cause human or environmental harm or damage.

⁹ American National Standards Institute, *ANSI/ACP Standard 111-1 – Wind Turbine Sound Modeling*. 2022

¹⁰ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Other – Attachment C-Noise Assessment Report*. October 31, 2025, eDocket No. [202510-224488-05](#).

¹¹ Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Other – Attachment C-Noise Assessment Report*. October 31, 2025, eDocket No. [202510-224488-05](#).

¹² Big Bend Wind, LLC, *Other – 2021-09-14 Big Bend Settlement Agreement*, September 14, 2021, eDocket Nos. [20219-177943-02](#), [20219-177943-05](#), [20219-177943-08](#), [20219-177943-11](#), [20219-177943-14](#), [20219-177943-17](#), [20219-177943-20](#), [20219-177943-23](#)

The Settlement Agreement identified four turbines for which Big Bend requested wind access buffer setback waivers. The site permit issued to Big Bend Wind provided a waiver, allowing for a reduced wind access buffer for two specific wind turbine locations at the facility. This waiver request was reviewed and approved by the Commission at the time of issuance of the original site permit. Staff is not aware of the need for additional wind access buffer waivers for the proposed site permit amendment.

Alternatives Plans

Finally, Mr. Hutchison commented that “the burden of coming up with an alternative plan should truly be placed on those who have set the guidelines for wind development in the state of Minnesota.” It is not entirely clear to EIP staff what Mr. Hutchison means by “an alternative plan.” Staff does not suggest alternatives to proposed energy generation facilities for the Commission’s consideration. Staff has confirmed that all lands to be used in the construction and operation of the proposed Big Bend Wind Project currently are, or will be, under an easement and/or agreement with Big Bend. Land easements will be reviewed again by staff as part of a required pre-construction compliance filing to be made by Big Bend.

EIP Staff Recommendations

Staff believes that the updated sound modeling and shadow flicker modeling completed by Big Bend is an appropriate analysis of the potential human and environmental impacts associated with the proposed site permit amendment. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the amendment of the Big Bend Wind Project site permit as was described in staff’s December 10, 2025, comments.

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**SITE PERMIT FOR A
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM**

**IN
COTTONWOOD AND WATONWAN COUNTIES**

**ISSUED TO
BIG BEND WIND, LLC**

PUC DOCKET NO. IP-7013/WS-19-619

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216I this site permit is hereby issued to:

Big Bend Wind, LLC

The Permittee is authorized by this site permit to construct and operate a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of up to 311.1 megawatts (MW) consisting of up to 51 turbines. The Large Wind Energy Conversion System and associated facilities shall be built within the site identified in this permit and as portrayed on the site maps and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

This amended site permit shall expire thirty (30) years from the date of this approval.

Approved and adopted this 25th day of February 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 2 – Compliance Filing Procedure for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 3 – Site Map

1. SITE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this site permit to Big Bend Wind, LLC (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216I. This permit authorizes the Permittee to construct and operate the Big Bend Wind Project, an up to 311.1 megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) and associated facilities in Cottonwood and Watonwan counties. The LWECS and associated facilities shall be built within the site identified in this permit and as identified in the attached site map, hereby incorporated into this document.

1.1. Preemption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216I.18, this permit shall be the sole site approval required for the location, construction, and operation of this project and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, and land use rules, regulations, and ordinances adopted by regional, county, local, and special purpose governments.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Big Bend Wind Project is an up to 311.1 MW nameplate capacity LWECS located in portions of Cottonwood and Watonwan counties, Minnesota. The LWECS will consist of up to 51 Vestas V162 turbines, or 51 GE-158 turbines. The Vestas V162 turbine is a 6.0 MW machine, and the GE-158 turbine is a 6.1 MW machine.

The project area includes approximately 43,523 acres of land, of which 34,185 acres are currently leased or pending lease agreements. Upon completion of construction and restoration, the project site will include approximately 50 acres of land converted to wind turbines and associated facilities approved by this Site Permit.

2.1. Associated Facilities

Associated facilities for the Project will include gravel access roads, underground and/or aboveground electrical collection and communication lines, an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility, a project substation, one permanent meteorological tower, one Sonic Detection and Ranging (SoDAR) or Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) unit, a construction laydown area, up to four Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (ADLS) radars, and one temporary concrete batch plant area.

The project substation will interconnect to the existing Great River Energy Lakefield Junction Substation in Martin County with an approximately 18-mile long 161 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) in PUC Docket No. IP7013/TL-19-621. Big Bend is seeking a route permit for a new approximately 4.5-mile extension of the Transmission Line in PUC Docket No. IP7013/TL-25-389. Issuance of the HVTL Route Permit is independent of the issuance of this LWECS Site Permit.

2.2. Project Location

The project is located in the following:

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
Cottonwood	Delton	107N	35W	25-28 and 33-36
	Selma	107N	34W	27-29 and 31-36
	Carson	106N	35W	1, 2, 10-16, 21-26, 35, and 36
	Midway	106N	34W	1-32 and 34-36
Watowan	Butterfield	106N	33W	3, 6-11, 15-23, 26, 28, and 29

3. DESIGNATED SITE

The site designated by the Commission for the Big Bend Wind Project is the site depicted on the site maps attached to this permit. The project area encompasses approximately 43,523 acres. Upon completion, the project will occupy approximately 50 acres of land converted to wind turbines and associated facilities approved by this permit. Within the project boundary, the LWECS and associated facilities shall be located on lands for which the Permittee has obtained wind rights.

3.1. Turbine Layout

The preliminary wind turbine and associated facility layouts are shown on the site maps attached to this permit. The preliminary layout represents the approximate location of wind turbines and associated facilities within the project boundary and identifies a layout that seeks to minimize the overall potential human and environmental impacts of the project, which were evaluated in the permitting process.

The final layout depicting the location of each wind turbine and associated facility shall be located within the project boundary. The project boundary serves to provide the Permittee with the flexibility to make minor adjustments to the preliminary layout to accommodate requests by landowners, local government units, federal and state agency requirements, and unforeseen conditions encountered during the detailed engineering and design process. Any modification to the location of a wind turbine and associated facility depicted in the preliminary layout shall be done in such a manner to have comparable overall human and environmental impacts and shall be specifically identified in the site plan pursuant to Section 10.3.

4. SETBACKS AND SITE LAYOUT RESTRICTIONS

4.1. Wind Access Buffer

Wind turbine towers shall not be placed less than five rotor diameters on the prevailing wind directions and three rotor diameters on the non-prevailing wind directions from the perimeter of the property where the Permittee does not hold the wind rights, without the approval of the Commission. This section does not apply to public roads and trails.

The Commission authorizes a variance of the wind access buffer setback for the following turbine locations: A01 and A02. These variances are granted on the condition that the permittee shall extend a final offer to the remaining landowners for the same amount and terms agreed to by other landowners in similar circumstances or their last offer, whichever is higher. At least 14 days before the preconstruction meeting, the permittee must make a compliance filing describing in detail the results of the negotiation. If no wind rights agreement is reached, Permittee acknowledges that the affected landowners will not be foreclosed from installing wind turbine generators on their property at a later date, even if such turbine generators cannot be installed on their property in compliance with the setbacks set forth in section 4.1 of site permit.

4.2. Residences

Wind turbine towers shall not be located closer than 1,000 feet from all residences or the distance required to comply with the noise standards pursuant to Minn. R. 7030.0040, established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), whichever is greater.

4.3. Noise

The wind turbine towers shall be placed such that the Permittee shall, at all times, comply with noise standards established by the MPCA as of the date of this permit and at all appropriate locations. The noise standards are found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7030. Turbine operation shall be modified, or turbines shall be removed from service, if necessary, to comply with these noise standards. The Permittee or its contractor may install and operate turbines as close as the minimum setback required in this permit, but in all cases shall comply with MPCA noise standards. The Permittee shall be required to comply with this condition with respect to all homes or other receptors in place as of the time of construction, but not with respect to such receptors built after construction of the towers.

4.4. Roads

Wind turbines and meteorological towers shall not be located closer than 250 feet from the edge of the nearest public road right-of-way.

4.5. Public Lands

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be located in publicly-owned lands that have been designated for

recreational or conservation purposes, including, but not limited to, Waterfowl Production Areas, State Wildlife Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas or county parks, except in the event that the public entity owning those lands enters into a land lease and easement with the Permittee.

4.6. Wetlands

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable and transformers, shall not be placed in public waters wetlands, as shown on the public water inventory maps prescribed by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103G, except that electric collector or feeder lines may cross or be placed in public waters or public waters wetlands subject to permits and approvals by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and local units of government as implementers of the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act.

4.7. Native Prairie

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, collector and feeder lines, underground cable, and transformers shall not be placed in native prairie, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 84.02, subd. 5, unless addressed in a prairie protection and management plan and shall not be located in areas enrolled in the Native Prairie Bank Program. Construction activities, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 216I.02, shall not impact native prairie unless addressed in a Prairie Protection and Management Plan.

The Permittee shall prepare a Prairie Protection and Management Plan in consultation with the DNR if native prairie, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 84.02, subd. 5, is identified within the site boundaries. The Permittee shall file the plan 30 days prior to submitting the site plan required by Section 10.3 of this permit. The plan shall address steps that will be taken to avoid impacts to native prairie and mitigation to unavoidable impacts to native prairie by restoration or management of other native prairie areas that are in degraded condition, by conveyance of conservation easements, or by other means agreed to by the Permittee, the DNR, and the Commission.

4.8. Sand and Gravel Operations

Wind turbines and all associated facilities, including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers shall not be located within active sand and gravel operations, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner.

4.9. Wind Turbine Towers

Structures for wind turbines shall be self-supporting tubular towers. The towers may be up to 119 meters (391 feet) above grade measured at hub height. The wind turbine specifications in the table below were provided in the Permittee's October 31, 2025 Site Permit Amendment Request.

Design Feature	Vestas V162	GE-158
Capacity (MW)	6.0	6.1
Total Height (ground to fully extended blade tip)	200 meters 656 feet	196 meters 643 feet
Hub Height	119 meters 391 feet	117 meters 384 feet
Rotor Diameter	162 meters 532 feet	158 meters 519 feet

4.10. Turbine Spacing

The turbine towers shall be constructed within the site boundary as shown on the site maps. The turbine towers shall be spaced no closer than three rotor diameters in the non-prevailing wind directions and five rotor diameters on the prevailing wind directions. If required, up to 20 percent of the towers may be sited closer than the above spacing, but the Permittee shall minimize the need to site the turbine towers closer.

4.11. Meteorological Towers

Permanent towers for meteorological equipment shall be free standing. Permanent meteorological towers shall not be placed less than 250 feet from the edge of the nearest public road right-of-way and from the boundary of the Permittee’s site control, or in compliance with the county ordinance regulating meteorological towers in the county the tower is built, whichever is more restrictive. Meteorological towers shall be placed on property the Permittee holds the wind or other development rights.

Meteorological towers shall be marked as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). There shall be no lights on the meteorological towers other than what is required by the FAA. This restriction shall not apply to infrared heating devices used to protect the wind monitoring equipment.

4.12. Aviation

The Permittee shall not place wind turbines or associated facilities in a location that could create an obstruction to navigable airspace of private and public airports (as defined in Minn. R. 8800.0100, subp. 24(a) and 24(b)) in Minnesota, adjacent states, or provinces. The Permittee shall apply the minimum obstruction clearance for private airports pursuant to Minn. R. 8800.1900, subp. 5. Setbacks or other limitations shall be followed in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Department of Aviation, and the FAA. The Permittee shall notify owners of all known airports within six miles of the project at least 14 days before the pre-construction meeting.

4.13. Footprint Minimization

The Permittee shall design and construct the LWECS so as to minimize the amount of land that is impacted by the LWECS. Associated facilities in the vicinity of turbines such as electrical/electronic boxes, transformers, and monitoring systems shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be mounted on the foundations used for turbine towers or inside the towers unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

5. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction and operation of the LWECS and associated facilities over the life of this permit.

5.1. Permit Distribution

Within 30 days of permit issuance, the Permittee shall send a copy of the permit and the complaint procedures to any regional development commission, county auditor and environmental office, and city and township clerk in which any part of the site is located.

Within 30 days of permit issuance, the Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaint procedures. In no case shall the landowner receive this site permit and complaint procedures less than five days prior to the start of construction on their property. An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the permitted site.

5.2. Access to Property

The Permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering private property or conducting maintenance, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

5.3. Construction and Operation Practices

The Permittee shall comply with the construction practices, operation and maintenance practices, and material specifications described in the September 20, 2021 Big Bend Wind Supplemental and Amended Site Permit Application and as further described in its October 31, 2025 Site Permit Amendment Request, and the record of the proceedings unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

5.3.1. Field Representative

The Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction of the project. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours throughout site preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee shall provide the field representative's contact information to affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, local government units and other interested persons.

5.3.2. Site Manager

The Permittee shall designate a site manager responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during the commercial operation and decommissioning phases of the Project. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours for the life of this permit.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the site manager 14 days prior to the pre-operation meeting. The Permittee shall provide the site manager's contact information to affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons 14 days prior to the pre-operation meeting. The Permittee may change the site manager at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, local government units and other interested persons.

5.3.3. Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions

The Permittee shall inform and educate all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction and ongoing operation of the LWECS of the terms and conditions of this permit.

5.3.4. Public Services and Public Utilities

During construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services and public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these will be temporary, and the Permittee will restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate mitigation measures if not already considered as part of this permit.

5.3.5. Topsoil Protection

The Permittee shall implement measures to protect and segregate topsoil from subsoil on all lands unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

5.3.6. Soil Compaction

The Permittee shall implement measures to minimize soil compaction of all lands during all phases of the project's life and shall confine compaction to as small an area as practicable. Soil

decompaction measures shall be utilized on all lands utilized for project construction and travelled on by cranes, heavy equipment, and heavy trucks; even when soil compaction minimization measures were used.

5.3.7. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the MPCA Construction Stormwater Program. If construction of the facility disturbs more than one acre of land, or is sited in an area designated by the MPCA as having potential for impacts to water resources, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Construction Stormwater Permit from the MPCA that provides for the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that describes methods to control erosion and runoff.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

5.3.8. Wetlands and Water Resources

Construction in wetland areas shall occur during frozen ground conditions to minimize impacts, to the extent feasible. When construction during winter is not possible, wooden or composite mats shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and managed in accordance with all applicable wetland permits. Wetlands and riparian areas shall be accessed using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts.

Wetland and water resource areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements. All requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and local units of government shall be met.

5.3.8.1. Calcareous Fen Management Plan

If any calcareous fens are identified within 500 feet of any proposed construction activities a Calcareous Fen Management Plan will need to be developed in consultation with DNR.

5.3.9. Vegetation Removal

The Permittee shall disturb or clear vegetation on the project site only to the extent necessary to assure suitable access for construction, and for safe operation and maintenance of the project. The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees removed in selecting the site layout specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and other vegetation, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles.

5.3.10. Application of Pesticides

The Permittee shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), DNR, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. All pesticides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage adjacent properties including crops, orchards, tree farms, apiaries, or gardens. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or designee to obtain approval for the use of pesticide at least 14 days prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of pesticides on any part of the site within the landowner's property. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to affected landowners and known beekeepers operating apiaries within three miles of the project site at least 14 days prior to such application.

5.3.11. Invasive Species

The Permittee shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential introduction and spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities. The Permittee shall develop an Invasive Species Prevention Plan to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities and file with the Commission 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting.

5.3.12. Noxious Weeds

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. The Permittee shall consult with landowners on the selection and use of seed for replanting. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes.

5.3.13. Public Roads

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall identify all state, county, or township roads that will be used for the project and shall notify the Commission and the state, county, or township governing body having jurisdiction over the roads to determine if the governmental body needs to inspect the roads prior to use of these roads. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with the project. Where practical, all-

weather roads shall be used to deliver cement, turbines, towers, assembled nacelles, and all other heavy components to and from the turbine sites.

The Permittee shall, prior to the use of such roads, make satisfactory arrangements (approved permits, written authorizations, road use agreements, development agreements, etc.) with the appropriate state, county, or township governmental body having jurisdiction over roads to be used for construction of the project, for maintenance and repair of roads that may be subject to increased impacts due to transportation of equipment and project components. The Permittee shall notify the Commission of such arrangements upon request.

5.3.14. Turbine Access Roads

The Permittee shall construct the least number of turbine access roads necessary to safely and efficiently operate the project and satisfy landowner requests. Access roads shall be low profile roads so that farming equipment can cross them and shall be covered with Class 5 gravel or similar material. Access roads shall not be constructed across streams and drainage ditches without required permits and approvals. When access roads are constructed across streams, drainage ways, or drainage ditches, the access roads shall be designed and constructed in a manner so runoff from the upper portions of the watershed can readily flow to the lower portion of the watershed. Any access roads that are constructed across streams or drainage ditches shall be designed and constructed in a manner that maintains existing fish passage.

Access roads that are constructed across grassed waterways, which provide drainage for surface waters that are ephemeral in nature, are not required to maintain or provide fish passage. Access roads shall be constructed in accordance with all necessary township, county or state road requirements and permits.

5.3.15. Private Roads

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when obtaining access to the site, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

5.3.16. Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when constructing the facility. In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Archaeologist. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize project impacts on the resource consistent with SHPO and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction at such location and promptly

notify local law enforcement and the State Archaeologist. Construction at such location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement and the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3.17. Interference

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission an assessment of television and radio signal reception, microwave signal patterns, and telecommunications in the project area. The assessment shall be designed to provide data that can be used in the future to determine whether the turbines and associated facilities are the cause of disruption or interference of television or radio reception, microwave patterns, or telecommunications in the event residents should complain about such disruption or interference after the turbines are placed in operation. The Permittee shall be responsible for alleviating any disruption or interference of these services caused by the turbines or any associated facilities.

The Permittee shall not operate the project so as to cause microwave, television, radio, telecommunications, or navigation interference in violation of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations or other law. In the event the project or its operations cause such interference, the Permittee shall take timely measures necessary to correct the problem.

5.3.18. Livestock Protection

The Permittee shall take precautions to protect livestock during all phases of the project's life.

5.3.19. Fences

The Permittee shall promptly replace or repair all fences and gates removed or damaged during all phases of the project's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. When the Permittee installs a gate where electric fences are present, the Permittee shall provide for continuity in the electric fence circuit.

5.3.20. Drainage Tiles

The Permittee shall take into account, avoid, promptly repair or replace all drainage tiles broken or damaged during all phases of project's life unless otherwise negotiated with affected landowner.

5.3.21. Equipment Storage

The Permittee shall not locate temporary equipment staging areas on lands under its control unless negotiated with affected landowner. Temporary equipment staging areas shall not be located in wetlands or native prairie as defined in Sections 4.6 and 4.7.

5.3.22. Restoration

The Permittee shall, as soon as practical following construction of each turbine, restore the areas affected by construction to the condition that existed immediately before construction began, to the extent possible. The time period to complete restoration may be no longer than 12 months after the completion of construction, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. Restoration shall be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance and inspection of the project. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities.

5.3.23. Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the site and all premises on which construction activities were conducted and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

5.3.24. Pollution and Hazardous Waste

All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment shall be taken by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction, restoration, and operation of the facility.

5.3.25. Damages

The Permittee shall fairly restore or compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction.

5.3.26. Public Safety

The Permittee shall provide educational materials to landowners adjacent to the site and, upon request, to interested persons about the project and any restrictions or dangers associated with the project. The Permittee shall also provide any necessary safety measures such as warning signs and gates for traffic control or to restrict public access. The Permittee shall submit the location of all underground facilities, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 216D.01, subd. 11, to Gopher State One Call following the completion of construction at the site.

5.3.27. Tower Identification

All turbine towers shall be marked with a visible identification number.

5.3.28. Federal Aviation Administration Lighting

Towers shall be marked as required by the FAA. There shall be no lights on the towers other than what is required by the FAA. This restriction shall not apply to infrared heating devices used to protect the wind monitoring equipment.

The Permittee shall install and employ an FAA-approved lighting mitigation system. Such a system shall use aircraft detection (aircraft detection lighting system, ADLS), dimming (light intensity dimming solution, LIDS) or other FAA-approved mitigation method. The Permittee shall describe the lighting mitigation system used for the project in its site plan.

5.3.29. Communication Cables

The Permittee shall place all communication and supervisory control and data acquisition cables underground and within or adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

5.3.30. Bio-netting, Natural Netting, and Mulch Products

The Permittee shall use only “bio-netting” or “natural netting” types and mulch products without synthetic (plastic) fiber additives.

5.3.31. Dust Control

The Permittee shall minimize, and avoid, if possible, the use of chloride-based dust control chemicals (i.e., calcium chloride and magnesium chloride).

5.3.32. State Historic Preservation Office Recommendations

The Permittee shall file correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) containing recommendations for surveys or other mitigation measures related to the Project promptly upon receipt by the Permittees.

5.3.33. Unanticipated Discoveries Plan

The Permittee shall develop an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP) to identify guidelines to be used in the event previously unrecorded archeological or historic properties, or human remains, are encountered during construction, or if unanticipated effects to previously identified archaeological or historic properties occur during construction. This is in addition to and not in lieu of any other obligations that may exist under law or regulation relating to these matters. The UDP shall describe how previously unrecorded, non-human burial, archaeological sites found during construction shall be marked and all construction work must stop at the discovery location. The Permittee shall file the UDP with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the preconstruction meeting.

5.4. Electrical Collector and Feeder Lines

Collector lines that carry electrical power from each individual transformer associated with a wind turbine to an internal project interconnection point shall be buried underground. Collector lines shall be placed within or adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

Feeder lines that carry power from an internal project interconnection point to the project substation or interconnection point on the electrical grid may be overhead or underground. Feeder line locations shall be negotiated with the affected landowner. Any overhead or underground feeder lines that parallel public roads shall be placed within the public rights-of-way or on private land immediately adjacent to public roads. If overhead feeder lines are located within public rights-of-way, the Permittee shall obtain approval from the governmental unit responsible for the affected right-of-way.

Collector and feeder line locations shall be located in such a manner as to minimize interference with agricultural operations including, but not limited to, existing drainage patterns, drain tile, future tiling plans, and ditches. Safety shields shall be placed on all guy wires associated with overhead feeder lines. The Permittee shall submit the engineering drawings of all collector and feeder lines in the site plan pursuant to Section 10.3.

5.5. Other Requirements

5.5.1. Safety Codes and Design Requirements

The LW ECS and associated facilities shall be designed to meet or exceed all relevant local and state codes, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) standards, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. The Permittee shall report to the Commission on compliance with these standards upon request.

5.5.2. Other Permits and Regulations

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of those permits unless those permits conflict with or are preempted by federal or state permits and regulations. A list of the permits which may be required is included in the permit application. At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall submit a filing with a detailed status update of all permits, authorizations, and approvals that have been applied for specific to the project. The detailed status update shall include the permitting agency or authority, the name of the permit, authorization, or approval being sought, contact person and contact information for the permitting agency or authority, brief description of why the permit, authorization, or approval is needed, application submittal date, and the date the permit, authorization, or approval was issued or is anticipated to be issued.

The Permittee shall demonstrate that it has obtained all necessary permits, authorizations, and approvals by filing an affidavit stating as such, prior to commencing project construction for that portion of the project. The Permittee shall provide a copy of any such permits, authorizations, and approvals upon Commission request.

The Permittee shall comply with all terms and conditions of permits or licenses issued by the counties, cities, and municipalities affected by the project that do not conflict with or are not preempted by federal or state permits and regulations.

6. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this permit should there be a conflict.

6.1. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Landowner Review of Plans

The Permittee shall provide the local SWCD and participating landowners with the opportunity to review and comment on detailed access road, and all other infrastructure plans and designs in order to minimize the potential to pond and/or divert water creating gully erosion or the potential to cause damage or failure to existing conservation practices, such as terraces, sediment control basin(s) or diversion(s) prior to finalization and installation. The Permittee shall file documentation that condition 6.1 of this permit has been complied with at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting.

6.2. Independent Third-Party Monitor

Prior to any construction, the Permittee shall propose a scope of work and identify one independent third party agency monitor on behalf of the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting unit. The scope of work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting unit. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting unit with costs borne by the Permittee. The Permittee shall file with the Commission the scope of work 30 days prior to commencing construction and the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the third-party monitor 14 days prior to commencing any construction and upon any change that may occur during the construction of the project and restoration.

6.3. Settlement Agreement Specific to the Jeffers Petroglyphs

The Permittee shall adhere to, and follow, the Settlement Agreement, fully executed on September 14, 2021, entered into by and among Big Bend Wind, LLC, Red Rock Solar, LLC, Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC, Minnesota Historical Society, Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, and the Upper Sioux Community. The Settlement Agreement shall be followed, unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

7. SURVEYS AND REPORTING

7.1. Biological and Natural Resource Inventories

The Permittee, in consultation with the Commission and the DNR, shall design and conduct pre-construction desktop and field inventories of existing wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, recreation areas, native prairies and forests, wetlands, and any other biologically sensitive areas within the project site and assess the presence of state- or federally-listed or threatened species. The results of the inventories shall be filed with the Commission at least 30 days prior to the pre-construction meeting to confirm compliance of conditions in this permit. The Permittee shall file with the Commission, any biological surveys or studies conducted on this project, including those not required under this permit.

7.2. Shadow Flicker

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall provide data on shadow flicker for each residence of non-participating landowners and participating landowners within and outside of the project boundary potentially subject to turbine shadow flicker exposure. Information shall include the results of modeling used, assumptions made, and the anticipated levels of exposure from turbine shadow flicker for each residence. The Permittee shall provide documentation on its efforts to avoid, minimize and mitigate shadow flicker exposure. The results of any modeling shall be filed with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting to confirm compliance with conditions of this permit.

7.3. Wake Loss Studies

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission the pre-construction micro-siting analysis leading to the final tower locations and an estimate of total project wake losses. As part of the annual report on project energy production required under Section 10.9 of the permit the Permittee shall file with the Commission any operational wake loss studies conducted on this project during the calendar year preceding the report.

7.4. Noise Studies

The Permittee shall file a proposed methodology for the conduct of a post-construction noise study at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee shall develop the post-construction noise study methodology in consultation with the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting unit. The study must incorporate the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting unit Noise Study Protocol to determine the operating LWECs noise levels at different frequencies and at various distances from the turbines at various wind directions and speeds. The Permittee must conduct the post-construction noise study and file with the Commission the completed post-construction noise study within 18 months of commencing commercial operation.

7.5. Avian and Bat Protection

7.5.1. Operational Phase Fatality Monitoring

The Permittee shall utilize a qualified third party to conduct a minimum of two full years of avian and bat fatality monitoring following the commencement of the operational phase of the project. Monitoring activities and results will be coordinated directly with DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Commission. Detailed monitoring protocols, agency coordination, and any avoidance and minimization measures will be detailed in the project's Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP).

7.5.2. Avian and Bat Protection Plan

The Permittee shall comply with the provisions of the most recently filed and accepted version of the Project's ABPP. The initial version of the ABPP submitted for this project as part of the November 9, 2020 Site Permit Application, and all necessary revisions that occur during the permit issuance process will be incorporated into a Permit Version. The Permit Version of the ABPP will be filed with the Commission 14 days before the pre-construction meeting, and revisions should include any updates associated with final construction plans and site plans.

The ABPP must address steps to be taken to identify and mitigate impacts to avian and bat species during the construction phase and the operation phase of the project. The ABPP shall also include formal and incidental post-construction fatality monitoring, training, wildlife handling, documentation (*e.g.*, photographs), and reporting protocols for each phase of the project.

The Permittee shall, by the 15th of March following each complete or partial calendar year of operation, file with the Commission an annual report detailing findings of its annual audit of ABPP practices. The annual report shall include summarized and raw data of bird and bat fatalities and injuries and shall include bird and bat fatality estimates for the project using agreed upon estimators from the prior calendar year. The annual report shall also identify any deficiencies or recommended changes in the operation of the project or in the ABPP to reduce avian and bat fatalities and shall provide a schedule for implementing the corrective or modified actions. The Permittee shall provide a copy of the report to the DNR and to the USFWS at the time of filing with the Commission.

7.5.3. Quarterly Incident Reports

The Permittee shall submit quarterly avian and bat reports to the Commission. Quarterly reports are due by the 15th of January, April, July, and October commencing the day following commercial operation and terminating upon the expiration of this permit. Each report shall identify any dead or injured avian and bat species, location of find by turbine number, and date of find for the reporting period in accordance with the reporting protocols. If a dead or injured avian or bat species is found, the report shall describe the potential cause of the occurrence (if known) and the steps taken to address future occurrences. The Permittee shall provide a copy of the report to the Department, DNR and to the FWS at the time of filing with the Commission.

7.5.4. Immediate Incident Reports

The Permittee shall notify the Commission, EERA, the USFWS, and the DNR within 24 hours of the discovery of any of the following:

- (a) five or more dead or injured birds or bats, at an individual turbine location, during a single survey; or
- (b) twenty or more dead or injured birds or bats, across the entire facility, within a ~~five-day reporting period~~ during a single survey (potential mass casualty event); or
- (c) one or more dead or injured state threatened, endangered, or species of special concern; or
- (d) one or more dead or injured federally listed species, including species proposed for listing; or
- (e) one or more dead or injured bald or golden eagle(s).

In the event that one of the four discoveries listed above should be made, the Permittee must file with the Commission within seven days, a compliance report identifying the details of what was discovered, the turbine where the discovery was made, a detailed log of agencies and individuals contacted, and current plans being undertaken to address the issue.

7.5.5. Turbine Operational Curtailment

The Permittee shall operate all facility turbines so that all turbines are locked or feathered up to the manufacturer's standard cut-in speed from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise of the following day from April 1 to October 31 of each year of operation. All operating turbines at the facility must be equipped with operational software that is capable of allowing for adjustment of turbine cut-in speeds.

8. AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT LWECs

8.1. Wind Rights

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall demonstrate that it has obtained the wind rights and any other rights necessary to construct and operate the project within the boundaries authorized by this permit. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude any other person from seeking a permit to construct a wind energy conversion system in any area within the boundaries of the project covered by this permit if the Permittee does not hold exclusive wind rights for such areas.

8.2. Power Purchase Agreement

In the event the Permittee does not have a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the project at the time this permit is issued, the Permittee shall provide notice to the Commission when it obtains a commitment for purchase of the power. This permit does not authorize construction of the project until the Permittee has obtained a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the project. In the event the Permittee does not obtain a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the project within five years of the issuance of this permit, the Permittee must advise the Commission of the reason for not having such commitment. In such event, the Commission may determine whether this permit should be amended or revoked. No amendment or revocation of this permit may be undertaken except in accordance with Minn. Stat. §§ 216I.09 and 216I.24.

8.3. Failure to Commence Construction

If the Permittee has not completed the pre-construction surveys required under this permit and commenced construction of the project within five years of the issuance of this permit, the Permittee must advise the Commission of the reason construction has not commenced. In such event, the Commission shall make a determination as to whether this permit should be amended or revoked. No revocation of this permit may be undertaken except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules, including Minn. Stat. § 216I.24.

9. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist the Commission with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

10. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

10.1. Pre-Construction Meeting

Prior to the start of any construction, the Permittee shall participate in a pre-construction meeting with the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting unit and Commission staff to review pre-construction filing requirements, scheduling, and to coordinate monitoring of

construction and site restoration activities. Within 14 days following the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission, a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees. The Permittee shall indicate in the filing the construction start date.

10.2. Pre-Operation Meeting

At least 14 days prior to commercial operation of the facility, the Permittee shall participate in a pre-operation meeting with the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting unit and Commission staff to coordinate field monitoring of operation activities for the project. Within 14 days following the pre-operation meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission, a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees.

10.3. Site Plan

At least 30 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall provide the Commission, and the Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments with a site plan that includes specifications and drawings for site preparation and grading; specifications and locations of all turbines and other structures to be constructed including all electrical equipment, collector and feeder lines, pollution control equipment, fencing, roads, and other associated facilities; and procedures for cleanup and restoration. The documentation shall include maps depicting the site boundary and layout in relation to that approved by this permit. The Permittee shall document, through GIS mapping, compliance with the setbacks and site layout restrictions required by this permit, including compliance with the noise standards pursuant to Minnesota Rules Chapter 7030. At the same time, the Permittee shall notify affected landowners and city and town clerks that the site plan is on file with the Commission and the Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments. The Permittee may submit a site plan and engineering drawings for only a portion of the project if the Permittee intends to commence construction on certain parts of the project before completing the site plan and engineering drawings for other parts of the project.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the earlier of (i) 30 days after the pre-construction meeting or (ii) until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit.

If the Commission notifies the Permittee in writing within 30 days after the pre-construction meeting that it has completed review of the documents and planned construction, and finds that the planned construction is not consistent with this site permit, the Permittee may submit additional and/or revised documentation but may not commence construction until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has determined that the planned construction is consistent with this site permit.

If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes to its site plan or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission, the

Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments, city and town clerks, and the affected landowners at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

In the event that previously unidentified human and environmental conditions are discovered during construction that by law or pursuant to conditions outlined in this permit would preclude the use of that site as a turbine site, the Permittee shall have the right to move or relocate turbine site. Under these circumstances, the Permittee shall notify the Commission, the MPCA, the DNR, the Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Environmental Services and Public Works Departments, city and town clerks, and the affected landowners of any turbines that are to be relocated, and provide the previously unidentified environmental conditions and how the movement of the turbine mitigates the human and environmental impact at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any terms of this permit.

10.4. Status Reports

The Permittee shall file status reports with the Commission on progress regarding site construction. The Permittee need not report more frequently than monthly. Reports shall begin with the commencement of site construction and continue until completion of restoration. Reports shall describe construction activities and progress and activities undertaken in compliance with this permit. Reports shall include text and photographs.

If the Permittee does not commence construction of the Project within six months of this site permit issuance, the Permittee shall file with the Commission Pre-Construction Status Reports on the anticipated timing of construction beginning with the issuance of this site permit until the pre-construction meeting. The status updates shall include information on the Project's Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) interconnection process, if applicable.

10.5. Labor Statistic Reporting

The Permittee shall file quarterly reports with the Commission within 45 days of the end of the quarter regarding construction workers that participated in the construction of the project. The reports shall (a) detail the Permittee's efforts and the site contractor's efforts to hire Minnesota workers, and (b) provide an account of: (i) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are Minnesota residents, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 290.01, subd. 7; (ii) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are residents of other states, but maintain a permanent residence within 150 miles of the project; and (iii) the total gross hours worked or total full-time equivalent workers. Permittee shall work with its contractor to determine the suitable reporting metric. The report may not include personally identifiable data.

10.6. Prevailing Wage

The Permittee, its contractors, and subcontractors shall pay no less than the prevailing wage rate as defined in Minn. Stat. § 177.42 and shall be subject to the requirements and enforcement provisions under Minn. Stat. §§ 177.27, 177.30, 177.32, 177.41 to 177.435, and 177.45. The Permittee shall keep records of contractor and subcontractor pay and provide them at the request of Commission staff.

10.7. In-Service Date

At least three days before the facility is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the facility will be placed into service and the date on which construction was completed.

10.8. As-Builts

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

10.9. GPS Data

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (*e.g.*, ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for all structures associated with the LWECS.

10.10. Project Energy Production

The Permittee shall, by February 1st following each complete or partial year of project operation, file a report with the Commission on the monthly energy production of the project including:

- (a) the installed nameplate capacity of the permitted project;
- (b) the total monthly energy generated by the project in MW hours;
- (c) the monthly capacity factor of the project;
- (d) yearly energy production and capacity factor for the project;
- (e) the operational status of the project and any major outages, major repairs, or turbine performance improvements occurring in the previous year; and
- (f) any other information reasonably requested by the Commission.

The Permittee shall file this information in a format recommended in the Commission's guidance on energy production reporting. This information shall be considered public and must be filed electronically.

10.11. Wind Resource Use

The Permittee shall, by February 1st following each complete or partial calendar year of operation, file with the Commission the average monthly and average annual wind speed collected at one permanent meteorological tower during the preceding year or partial year of operation. This information shall be considered public and must be filed electronically.

10.12. Emergency Response

The Permittee shall prepare an Emergency Response Plan in consultation with the emergency responders having jurisdiction over the facility prior to project construction. The Permittee shall submit a copy of the plan, along with any comments from emergency responders, to the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting and a revised plan, if any, at least 14 days prior to the pre-operation meeting. The Permittee shall provide as a compliance filing confirmation that the Emergency Response Plan was provided to the emergency responders and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) with jurisdiction over the facility prior to commencement of construction. The Permittee shall obtain and register the facility address or other location indicators acceptable to the emergency responders and PSAP having jurisdiction over the facility.

10.13. Extraordinary Events

Within 24 hours of discovery of an occurrence, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of any extraordinary event. Extraordinary events include but shall not be limited to: fires, tower collapse, thrown blade, acts of sabotage, collector or feeder line failure, and injured worker or private person. The Permittee shall, within 30 days of the occurrence, file a report with the Commission describing the cause of the occurrence and the steps taken to avoid future occurrences.

11. DECOMMISSIONING, RESTORATION, AND ABANDONMENT

11.1. Decommissioning Plan

The Permittee shall comply with the provisions of the most recently filed and accepted Decommissioning Plan. The initial version of the Decommissioning Plan was submitted for this Project as Appendix J of the November 9, 2020 site permit application, followed by a Revised Decommissioning Plan as Attachment M of the September 20, 2021 Supplemental and Revised Site Permit Application, and most recently followed by a Revised Decommissioning Plan as Attachment B of the October 31, 2025 Site Permit Amendment Request. The Permittee shall file an updated Decommissioning Plan incorporating comments and information from the permit issuance process and any updates associated with the final construction plans, with the Commission at least fourteen 14 days prior to the pre- construction meeting. The Decommissioning Plan shall be updated every five years following the commercial operation date.

The Decommissioning Plan shall provide information identifying all surety and financial securities established for decommissioning and site restoration of the project. The decommissioning plan shall provide an itemized breakdown of the costs of decommissioning all project components, which shall include labor and equipment. The plan shall identify cost estimates for the removal of turbines, turbine foundations, underground collection cables, access roads, crane pads, substations, and other project components. The plan may also include anticipated costs for the replacement of turbines or repowering the project by upgrading equipment.

The Permittee shall also submit the decommissioning plan to the local unit of government having direct zoning authority over the area in which the project is located. The Permittee shall ensure that it carries out its obligations to provide for the resources necessary to fulfill its requirements to properly decommission the project at the appropriate time. The Commission may at any time request the Permittee to file a report with the Commission describing how the Permittee is fulfilling this obligation.

11.2. Site Restoration

Upon expiration of this permit, or upon earlier termination of operation of the project, or any turbine within the project, the Permittee shall have the obligation to dismantle and remove from the site all towers, turbine generators, transformers, overhead and underground cables and lines, foundations, buildings, and ancillary equipment to a depth of four feet. Any agreement for removal to a lesser depth or no removal shall be recorded with the county and shall show the locations of all such foundations. To the extent feasible, the Permittee shall restore and reclaim the site to pre-project conditions, including topography and topsoil conditions. All access roads shall be removed unless written approval is given by the affected landowner requesting that one or more roads, or portions thereof, be retained. All such agreements between the Permittee and the affected landowner shall be submitted to the Commission prior to completion of restoration activities. The site shall be restored in accordance with the requirements of this condition within 18 months of termination.

11.3. Abandoned Turbines

The Permittee shall advise the Commission of any turbines that are abandoned prior to termination of operation of the project. The project, or any turbine within the project, shall be considered abandoned after one year without energy production and the land restored pursuant to Section 11.2 unless a plan is submitted to and approved by the Commission outlining the steps and schedule for returning the project, or any turbine within the project, to service.

12. COMMISSION AUTHORITY AFTER PERMIT ISSUANCE

12.1. Final Boundaries

After completion of construction, the Commission shall determine the need to adjust the final boundaries of the site required for this project.

12.2. Expansion of Site Boundaries

No expansion of the site boundaries described in this permit shall be authorized without the approval of the Commission. The Permittee may submit to the Commission a request for a change in the boundaries of the site for the project. The Commission will respond to the requested change in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

12.3. Periodic Review

The Commission shall initiate a review of this permit and the applicable conditions at least once every five years. The purpose of the periodic review is to allow the Commission, the Permittee, and other interested persons an opportunity to consider modifications in the conditions of this permit. No modification may be made except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

12.4. Modification of Conditions

After notice and opportunity for hearing, this permit may be modified or amended for cause, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) violation of any condition in this permit;
- (b) endangerment of human health or the environment by operation of the project; or
- (c) existence of other grounds established by rule.

12.5. More Stringent Rules

The issuance of this permit does not prevent the future adoption by the Commission of rules or orders more stringent than those now in existence and does not prevent the enforcement of these more stringent rules and orders against the Permittee.

12.6. Right of Entry

The Permittee shall allow Commission designated representatives to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards:

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.
- (b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- (c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property.

- (d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this permit.

12.7. Proprietary Information

Certain information required to be filed with the Commission under this permit may constitute trade secret information or other type of proprietary information under the Data Practices Act or other law. The Permittee must satisfy requirements of applicable law to obtain the protection afforded by the law.

13. PERMIT AMENDMENT

This permit may be amended at any time by the Commission in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 216I.09.

14. TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 216I.13.

Within 14 days of the commercial operation date, the Permittee shall file a notice describing its ownership structure, identifying, as applicable:

- (a) the owner(s) of the financial and governance interests of the Permittee;
- (b) the owner(s) of the majority financial and governance interests of the Permittee's owners; and
- (c) the Permittee's ultimate parent entity (meaning the entity which is not controlled by any other entity).

The Permittee shall immediately notify the Commission of:

- (a) a change in owner(s) of the majority* financial or governance interests in the Permittee;
- (b) a change in owner(s) of the majority* financial or governance interests of the Permittee's owners; or
- (c) a sale which changes the parent entity of the Permittee.

**When there are only co-equal 50/50 percent interests, any change shall be considered a change in majority interest.*

The Permittee shall notify the Commission of:

- (a) the sale of a parent entity or a majority interest in the Permittee;

- (b) the sale of a majority interest of the Permittee's owners or majority interest of the owners; or
- (c) a sale which changes the entity with ultimate control over the Permittee.

15. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMIT

The Commission may take action to suspend or revoke this permit upon the grounds that:

- (a) a false statement was knowingly made in the application or in accompanying statements or studies required of the Permittee, and a true statement would have warranted a change in the Commission's findings;
- (b) there has been a failure to comply with material conditions of this permit, or there has been a failure to maintain health and safety standards;
- (c) there has been a material violation of a provision of an applicable statute, rule, or an order of the Commission; or
- (d) the Permittee has filed a petition with the Commission requesting that the permit be revoked or terminated.

In the event the Commission determines that it is appropriate to consider revocation or suspension of this permit, the Commission shall proceed in accordance with the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 216I.24 to determine the appropriate action. Upon a finding of any of the above, the Commission may require the Permittee to undertake corrective measures in lieu of having this permit suspended or revoked.

16. EXPIRATION DATE

This permit shall expire 30 years after the date this permit was approved and adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1

Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting and resolving complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, and maintenance.

B. Scope

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee and all complaints received by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) under Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700 relevant to this permit.

D. Definitions

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site or route preparation, cleanup or restoration, or other permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person, remains unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved to one or both of the parties.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private; however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing

1. The permittee shall designate a representative responsible for filing complaints to the Commission's eDocket system. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals. The name and contact information for the

representative shall be kept current in eDockets.

2. A person presenting the complaint should, to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:

- a. name, address, phone number, and email address;
- b. initial date of the complaint;
- c. tract, parcel number, or address of the complaint;
- d. a summary of the complaint; and
- e. whether the complaint relates to a permit violation, a construction practice issue, or other type of complaint.

3. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:

- a. docket number and project name;
- b. name of complainant, address, phone number and email address;
- c. precise description of property or parcel number;
- d. name of permittee representative receiving complaint and date of receipt;
- e. nature of complaint and the applicable permit condition(s);
- f. summary of activities undertaken to resolve the complaint; and
- g. a statement on the final disposition of the complaint.

F. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit, unless otherwise required below. The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-800-657-3782 (voice

messages are acceptable) or consumer.puc@state.mn.us. For e-mail reporting, the email subject line should read "PUC EFP Complaint" and include the appropriate project docket number

Monthly Reports: During project construction, restoration, and operation, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be filed by the 15th of each month to Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: <https://efiling.web.commerce.state.mn.us/documents>. If no complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall file a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

If a project has submitted twelve consecutive months of complaint reports with no complaints, monthly reports can terminate by a letter to eDockets notifying the Commission of such action.

If a substantial complaint is received (by the company or the Commission) following termination of the monthly complaint report, as noted above, the monthly reporting should commence for a period of one year following the most recent complaint or upon resolution of all pending complaints.

If a permittee is found to be in violation of this section, the Commission may reinstate monthly complaint reporting for the remaining permit term or enact some other commensurate requirement via notification by the Executive Secretary or some other action as decided by the Commission.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding the permit or issues related to site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, or operation and maintenance will be promptly sent to the permittee.

The permittee shall notify the Commission when the issue has been resolved. The permittee will add the complaint to the monthly reports of all complaints. If the permittee is unable to find resolution, the Commission will use the process outlined in the Unresolved Complaints Section to process the issue.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

Complaints raising substantial and unresolved permit issues will be investigated by the Commission. Staff will notify the permittee and appropriate persons if it determines that the complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, the permittee and complainant shall be required to submit a written summary of the complaint and its current position on the issues to the Commission. Staff will set a deadline for comments. As necessary, the complaint will be presented to the Commission for consideration.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting

Complaints may be filed by mail or email to the permittee's designated complaint representative, or to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-800-657-3782 (voice messages are acceptable) or consumer.puc@state.mn.us. The name and contact information for the permittee's designated complaint representative shall be kept current in the Commission's eDocket system.

ATTACHMENT 2

Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by Commission energy facility permits.

B. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all known compliance filings required by permit.

C. Definitions

Compliance Filing: A filing of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

D. Responsibilities

1. The permittee shall file all compliance filings with Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: <https://efiling.web.commerce.state.mn.us/documents>.

General instructions are provided on the eDockets website. Permittees must register on the website to file documents.

2. All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

- a. Date
- b. Name of submitter/permittee
- c. Type of permit (site or route)
- d. Project location
- e. Project docket number
- f. Permit section under which the filing is made
- g. Short description of the filing

3. Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, engineered drawings) must, in addition to being electronically filed, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Paper copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, and 2) Desiree Morningstar, Manager, Energy Infrastructure Permitting, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

The Commission may request a paper copy of any electronically filed document.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEE: Big Bend Wind, LLC

PERMIT TYPE: Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit PROJECT LOCATION: Cottonwood and Watonwan counties, Minnesota PUC DOCKET NUMBER: IP7013/WS-19-619

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
1.	4.7	Prairie Protection and Management Plan	30 days prior to submitting site plan, as necessary
2.	4.12	Notification to Airports	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
3.	5.1	Distribution of Permit and Complaint Procedures	Within 30 days of permit issuance
4.	5.3.1	Field Representative	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
5.	5.3.2	Site Manager	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
6.	5.3.7	NPDES/SDS and SWPPP Permits	In accordance with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7.	5.3.10	Landowner Notification of Pesticide Application	14 days prior to application
8.	5.3.11	Invasive Species Protection Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
9.	5.3.13	Identification of Roads and Road Agreement	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. It is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
10.	5.3.16	Archaeological and Historic Resources	Upon request
11.	5.3.17	Assessment of Interference with Electronic Communications	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
12.	5.3.22	Site Restoration	60 days after completion of restoration
13.	5.3.26	Public Safety / Education Materials	Upon request
14.	5.3.33	Unanticipated Discoveries Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
15.	5.5.2	Other Permits and Regulations	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
16.	6.1	SWCD Review of Plans	With site plan; 14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
17.	6.2	Independent Monitor Scope of Work	30 days prior to construction
18.	6.2	Emergency phone number of the Independent Monitor	14 days prior to construction
19.	7.1	Biological and Natural Resource Inventories	30 days prior to pre-construction meeting
20.	7.2	Shadow Flicker Data	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
21.	7.3	Wake Loss Studies	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting and with annual report

22.	7.4	Post-Construction Noise Methodology	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
23.	7.4	Post-Construction Noise Study	Within 18 months of commencing commercial operations
24.	7.5.1	Avian and Bat Fatality Monitoring Results	Upon completion of monitoring
25.	7.5.2	Avian and Bat Protection Plan Audits	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting, and 15th of March each year or partial year
26	7.5.3	Quarterly Incident Reports	15th of January, April, July and October
27.	7.5.4	Immediate Incident Reports	Within 24 hours of discovery and a report within 7 days
28.	8.1	Demonstration of Wind Rights	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
29.	8.2	Power Purchase Agreement Notification	Within 60 days of the expiration of the PPA
30.	9.0	Complaint Procedures	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
31.	10.1	Pre-Construction Meeting Summary	Within 14 days following the meeting
32.	10.2	Pre-Operation Meeting	14 days prior to commercial operation
33.	10.3	Site Plan	30 days prior to pre-construction meeting
34.	10.4	Construction Status Reports	Monthly

35.	10.5	Labor Statistic Reporting	Within 45 days of the end of each quarter
36.	10.6	Prevailing Wage	Upon request
37.	10.6	Notice of In-Service Date	3 days before the facility is placed into service
38.	10.7	As-Builts	Within 90 days of completion of construction
39.	10.8	GPS Data	Within 90 days of completion of construction
40.	10.9	Project Energy Production	February 1st of each year
41.	10.10	Wind Resource Use	February 1st of each year
42.	10.11	Emergency Response Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
43.	10.12	Extraordinary Event	Within 24 hours of discovery
44.	11.1	Decommissioning Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
45.	14	Ownership Structure	Within 14 days of the commercial operation date

ATTACHMENT 3

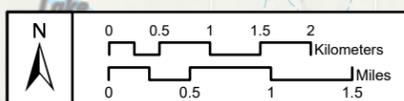
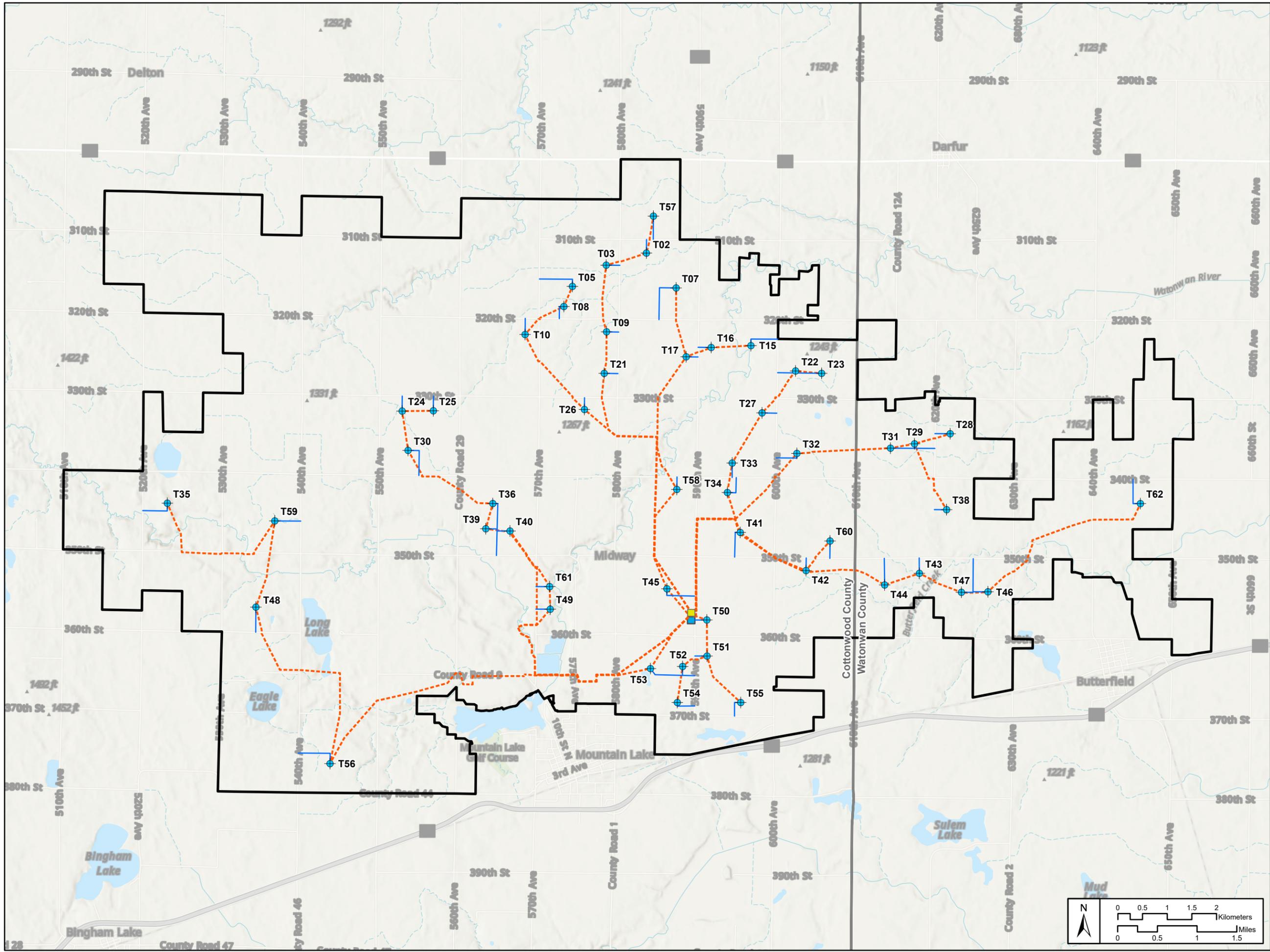
Site Map



Big Bend Wind Figure 3 Site Plan

-  Turbine
-  Access Road
-  Underground Collection
-  Project Substation
-  O&M Building - Updated Location
-  Project Boundary

Date: 10/29/2025
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Minnesota South FIPS 2203 Feet
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983
 Units: Foot US



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robin Benson, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ORDER

Docket Numbers: **IP-7013/WS-19-619**

Dated this **25th** day of **February, 2026**

/s/ Robin Benson

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Sasha	Bergman	sasha.bergman@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
2	Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron		60 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
3	Mike	Bull	mike.bull@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
4	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
5	Adam	Duininck	aduininck@ncsrcc.org	North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters		700 Olive Street St. Paul MN, 55130 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
6	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
7	Lucas	Franco	lfranco@liunagroc.com	LIUNA		81 Little Canada Rd E Little Canada MN, 55117 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
8	Brenna	Gunderson	brenna.gunderson@apexcleanenergy.com	Apex Clean Eenergy		8665 Hudson Blvd N Ste 110 Lake Elmo MN, 55042 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
9	Kate M	Heins	kate.heins@apexcleanenergy.com	Apex Clean Energy		310 4th St NE Ste 200 Charlottesville VA, 22902 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
10	Valerie	Herring	vherring@taftlaw.com	Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP		2200 IDS Center 80 S. Eighth Street Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
11	Dylan	Ikkala	dylan.ikkala@apexcleanenergy.com	Apex Clean Energy		8665 Hudson Blvd N Ste 110 Lake Elmo MN, 55042 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619

First #	Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
12	Kelly	Johnson	kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us				Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
13	David	Kelliher	david.kelliher@mhhs.org			345 Kellogg Blvd W SAINT PAUL MN, 55102 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
14	Stacy	Kotch Egstad	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us		MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
15	James	LaFave	james.lafave@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	600 N Robert Street St. Paul MN, 55164-0620 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
16	Kevin	Majjala	kevin.majjala@mhhs.org	Minnesota Historical Society		null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
17	Samantha	Odegard	samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov			PO Box 147 Granite Falls MN, 56241 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
18	Kevin	Pranis	kpranis@liunagroc.com	Laborers' District Council of MN and ND		81 E Little Canada Road St. Paul MN, 55117 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
19	Peter	Rademacher	prademacher@hogenadams.com			1935 County Road B2 West Suite 460 St. Paul MN, 55113 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
20	Leif	Rasmussen	leif@steffensandrasmussen.com	Steffens & Rasmussen		6600 France Ave South Edina MN, 55435 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
21	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
22	Nathaniel	Runke	nrunke@local49.org			611 28th St. NW Rochester MN, 55901 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
23	Ronald C	Schirmer	ronald.schirmer@mnsu.edu	Department of Anthropology		359 Trafton Science Center N Mankato MN, 56001 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
24	Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates		7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN,	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
					55423 United States				
25	Cheyenne	St. John	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	Lower Sioux Tribal Community	39527 Reservation Hwy 1 Morton MN, 56270 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619
26	Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	19-61919-619
27	Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul MN, 55155-4040 United States	Electronic Service		No	19-61919-619