

VII. COMMISSION DECISION ALTERNATIVES

A. Environmental Report

1. Determine that the Environmental Report and the record created in this matter address the issues identified in the March 29, 2018 *Environmental Report Scoping Decision*.
2. Determine that the Environmental Report and the record created in this matter do not address the issues identified in the March 29, 2018 *Environmental Scoping Decision*, and direct the DOC EERA to prepare a supplement to the report that addresses the identified deficiencies.
3. Take some other action deemed more appropriate.

B. Certificate of Need

1. Grant a certificate of need for the up to 260 megawatt Nobles 2 Wind Farm proposed in Nobles County, Minnesota, finding that:
 - a. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(A), have been met and that denying the application would likely harm the future adequacy, reliability, or efficiency of the energy supply to Nobles 2 Wind LLC's customers, or to the people of Minnesota and neighboring states;
 - b. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(B), have been met and that a more reasonable and prudent alternative to the project has not been demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence in the record;
 - c. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(C), have been met and that the preponderance of the evidence in the record demonstrates the project will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health;
 - d. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(D), have been met and that the record does not demonstrate that the design, construction, or operation of the project, or a suitable modification of the project, will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments; and

- e. the proposed facility will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health.
- 2. Deny a certificate of need for the up to 260 MW Nobles 2 Wind Farm proposed in Nobles County, Minnesota.
- 3. Take some other action deemed more appropriate.

Staff Recommendation: A1 and B12(a-e).