## **BEFORE** THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

of Northwest Ohio Wind, LLC, for a Certificate to Site a Wind-Powered	) ) Case No. 13-197-EL-BGN
Electric Generation Facility in	) Case No. 13-19/-EL-BGN
Paulding County, Ohio	)

### Motion to Intervene of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation ("OFBF") pursuant to Section 4906-7-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code ("OAC"), moves to intervene in the above docket as a full party of record. OFBF has a real and substantial interest in this matter for the reasons set forth in the accompanying memorandum of support.

For the reasons stated below, OFBF requests that its motion for intervention be granted and that it be made a full party of record.

Respectfully Submitted,

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## BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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# Memorandum in Support of Motion to Intervene of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

On May 24, 2013 Northwest Ohio Wind, LLC filed an application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Certificate") to build a wind farm project. The facility will be located within approximately 21,000 acres of leased private land in Blue Creek and Latty Townships in Paulding County Ohio.

According to the application, the facility would consist of up to 59 wind turbines, along with all associated infrastructure, including underground collection lines, access roads, a step-up transformer facility, a temporary staging and construction lay down area, a possible temporary concrete batch plant and an operation and maintenance facility. The applicant will utilize a new commercial wind turbine model with generation capacity of between 1.7 and 2.0 megawatts ("MW"); giving the facility a maximum generating capacity of 100 megawatts. The facility is expected to operate with an average annual capacity factor of approximately 42.5 percent; generating approximately 370,000 megawatt hours ("MWh") annually.

The general purpose of the facility is to produce wind powered electricity that will maximize energy production from wind resources within the project area in order to deliver clean, renewable electricity to the Ohio bulk power transmission system to serve the needs of electric utilities and their customers. The electricity generated by the facility will be transferred

to the transmission grid at a single interconnection point on the existing American Electric Power ("AEP") 138 kilovolt ("kV") Haviland substation located within the project area. The transmission grid is operated by PJM Interconnection, LLC ("PJM"). The electricity generated by this facility will be for sale at wholesale under a power purchase agreement.

This project offers a variety of opportunities – both for the developer and the community. The application details a variety of economic benefits, as well as adherence to a number of environmental safeguards. Effective collaboration between the developer, energy service providers, government officials and interested citizens will be vital to ensure that all potential benefits are realized, and consumers at local, state and regional levels can employ the completed wind farm as a tool to help control energy costs.

### OFBF Should be Granted Intervention as a Party of Record

Pursuant to Section 4906-7-04 of the OAC, OFBF moves to intervene in this proceeding as a full party of record. OFBF has a real and substantial interest in this matter for the reasons set forth herein.

Rule 4906-7-04(B) of the OAC states:

- (B) The board or the administrative law judge shall grant petitions for leave to intervene only upon a showing of good cause.
- (1) In deciding whether to permit intervention under this paragraph, the board or the administrative law judge may consider:
  - (a) The nature and extent of the person's interest.
  - (b) The extent to which the person's interest is represented by existing parties.
  - (c) The person's potential contribution to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding.
  - (d) Whether granting the requested intervention would unduly delay the proceeding or unjustly prejudice an existing party.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and the Paulding County Farm Bureau, maintain a non-profit organization representing agricultural interests at the state and local levels. Over 214,000 member families belong to the organization state wide, including over 490 families in the Paulding County Farm Bureau.

Many Farm Bureau members are involved in farm and agribusiness activities - food processing, commodity processing/conditioning/handling, biofuel production and greenhouse operations. Some members are involved in larger scale industries and manufacturing while others have small business enterprises – restaurants, cleaners and other services. All are residential energy consumers.

Farm Bureau members have a keen interest in effective wind energy development. Along with enhancing their income, farmers engaged in wind leasing agreements want to make sure that construction activities on their property adhere to procedures ensuring soil and water conservation as well as air quality. Residents in rural neighborhoods want assurances that environmental considerations – setbacks, noise standards, shadow flicker and other factors – are addressed with effective turbine placement. Area businesses want to make sure that a wind facility in the community enhances local commerce and economic development. In short, OFBF has extensive experience gathering input, addressing the needs of and representing farm, small business and rural residents concerning energy development. This perspective cannot be provided by another existing party.

On the state level, OFBF has worked with utilities, energy service providers, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, other government agencies and interested citizens groups to explore strategies and introduce new technologies to help consumers and communities control energy costs. Some of this work spans several decades.

OFBF was involved with the Ohio Department of Development – Ohio Wind Working Group. Farm Bureau leaders represented farm, small business and residential energy consumers. They held key positions in action teams, helping create effective wind energy development policies for consideration by state and local government leaders. These activities included facilitating constructive dialogue between a variety of stakeholders with diverse interests concerning wind energy development. The organization continues to help citizens and local leaders in several areas of the state create working groups to discuss and address wind energy development issues and concerns.

On the local level, OFBF field staff and volunteer leaders with the Paulding County Farm Bureau work with wind developers, government leaders and interested citizen/consumer groups to explore how wind energy development should be addressed at the local level. Again, Farm Bureau represents farm, small business and residents. It utilizes its extensive policy development process to generate stakeholder dialogue that includes a variety of groups with varied interests and concerns.

OFBF will be able to share their experiences and unique perspective with the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") as it works with others to evaluate this case. The organization fully understands and appreciates the rules and regulations governing the OPSB evaluation process concerning the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need sought by Northwest Ohio Wind, LLC. OFBF's participation in this process will not cause undue delay, will not unjustly prejudice any existing party and will contribute to the just and quick resolution of issues and concerns raised.

Given the diverse, yet unique interests of its members, experience with energy development issues and support for collaboration, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation submits that good cause exists to grant it leave to intervene in this proceeding.

## Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation requests that its motion to intervene be granted and that it be made a full party of record.

Respectfully Submitted,

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### Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was served on this <u>v3<sup>rM</sup></u> day of June 2013 by regular U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or by electronic mail, upon the persons listed below.

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