

THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
SENECA WIND, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE
TO CONSTRUCT A WIND-POWERED
ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY IN
SENECA COUNTY, OHIO.

CASE NO. 19-1831-EL-BGN

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on February 20, 2020

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Ohio Power Siting Board grants the request to close this case as filed by Seneca Wind, LLC.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

{¶ 2} Seneca Wind, LLC (Seneca Wind or Applicant) is a person as defined in R.C. 4906.01.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4906.04 provides that no person shall construct a major utility facility in the state without obtaining a certificate for the facility from the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board).

{¶ 4} On October 7, 2019, Seneca Wind filed a pre-application notification letter with the Board regarding its intent to construct a wind-powered electric generation facility (project) in Case No. 19-1831-EL-BGN.

{¶ 5} On January 22, 2020, Seneca Wind filed notice that it did not intend to file an application for approval of the project, advising that the project was placed on hold, and requesting that the docket in Case No. 19-1831-EL-BGN be closed.

{¶ 6} Upon consideration, the Board grants Seneca Wind's request to close Case No. 19-1831-EL-BGN.

{¶ 7} The Board notes that Seneca Wind filed an expedited, accelerated letter of notification (LON) application on December 13, 2018, in Case No. 18-1794-EL-BLN. That

expedited, accelerated LON application sought approval to construct a new substation (Seneca Wind substation) and a 1.65-mile 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to interconnect the Seneca Wind electric generation facility to the electric grid through the existing American Electric Power Melmore substation. R.C. 4906.10(A)(1) and Ohio Adm.Code 4906-6-05(B)(2) require an applicant for an electric transmission line or gas pipeline to establish the need for the facility. In its expedited, accelerated LON application, Seneca Wind explained this project is needed to generate energy to meet regional demand and, therefore, the generation facility must be connected to the existing transmission grid in order to provide the wind-powered electricity to the market. Seneca Wind's expedited, accelerated LON application was automatically approved pursuant to R.C. 4906.03 and Ohio Adm.Code 4906-6-10 on February 11, 2019, subject to seven conditions. Condition one states that "[W]ith the exception of tree clearing activities, construction of the facility may not commence until Applicant has obtained a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Seneca Wind Project (ref: Case No. 18-0488-EL-BGN)."

{¶ 8} Insofar as Seneca Wind has dismissed Case No. 18-0488-EL-BGN and now the most recent certification case, Case No. 19-1831-EL-BGN, the Board finds it appropriate to instruct Seneca Wind to file, by March 23, 2020, a status report regarding Seneca Wind's intentions, including if the certificate will be abandoned for the substation and transmission line approved in Case No. 18-1794-EL-BLN. Should the authorization to construct under Case No. 18-1794-EL-BLN be abandoned by Seneca Wind or canceled by the Board, Seneca Wind could refile for such authority in a future proceeding as part of or at the same time as an application is filed to construct a wind-powered electric generation facility.

III. ORDER

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That effective February 20, 2020, the request to close the docket in Case No. 19-1831-EL-BGN filed by Seneca Wind, LLC be granted in accordance with Paragraph 6. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That Seneca Wind, LLC comply with Paragraph 8 as it relates to Case No. 18-1794-EL-BLN. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all interested persons of record in this matter.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Approving:

Sam Randazzo, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Rachel Near, Designee for Lydia Mihalik, Director
Ohio Development Services Agency

Mary Mertz, Director
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Gene Phillips, Designee for Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, Director
Ohio Department of Health

Drew Bergman, Designee for Laurie Stevenson, Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

George McNab, Designee for Dorothy Pelanda, Director
Ohio Department of Agriculture

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in

Case No(s). 19-1831-EL-BGN

Summary: Entry that the Ohio Power Siting Board grants the request to close this case as filed by Seneca Wind, LLC electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing