

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
THE LAKOTA WIND PROJECT FOR
CERTIFICATION AS AN ELIGIBLE OHIO
ENERGY RESOURCE GENERATING
FACILITY

CASE NO. 20-1638-EL-REN

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on December 16, 2020

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative for certification of the Lakota Wind Project as an eligible Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} R.C. 4928.64 and 4928.645 contain the renewable energy resource requirements for electric utility and electric services companies providing electric retail generation in Ohio. R.C. 4928.01(A)(37) defines the types of renewable energy resource generating facilities that qualify in meeting the statutory mandates. Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(F), any entity that desires to be designated an eligible renewable energy resource generating facility for the state of Ohio shall file an application for certification that demonstrates the facility satisfies the requirements of R.C. 4928.64 and 4928.645.

{¶ 3} On October 26, 2020, an application was filed in this proceeding on behalf of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (Applicant) for certification of the Lakota Wind Project (Facility) as an eligible Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility, as defined in R.C. 4928.01. The Facility is located in Lakota, Iowa and is comprised of seven GE wind turbines with an aggregate capacity of 10.5 megawatts (MW). According to the application, the Facility was placed into service in March 2009.

{¶ 4} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(D)(2) provides for automatic approval of an application for certification as an eligible Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility unless the Commission suspends the application within 30 days.

{¶ 5} On November 2, 2020, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(D), the attorney examiner suspended the 30-day automatic approval of the application submitted by Applicant so that Staff could review the application further.

{¶ 6} On November 5, 2020, Applicant filed its responses to inquiries made by Staff during its review of the application.

{¶ 7} Staff filed its Review and Recommendation on December 2, 2020. Staff noted that, pursuant to R.C. 4928.64 and 4928.645, in order to qualify as a certified eligible Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility, a facility must, among other criteria, demonstrate in its application that it has satisfied all of the following criteria:

- a) The generation produced by the renewable energy resource generating facility can be shown to be deliverable into the state of Ohio, pursuant to R.C. 4928.64(B)(3);
- b) The resource to be utilized in the generating facility is recognized as a renewable energy resource pursuant to R.C. 4928.64(A)(1) and 4928.01(A)(37), or a new technology that may be classified by the Commission as a renewable energy resource pursuant to R.C. 4928.64(A)(2); and
- c) The facility must satisfy the applicable placed-in-service date, delineated in R.C. 4928.64(A)(1).

{¶ 8} In its Review and Recommendation, Staff observes that Applicant is a grid-connected facility located in Iowa, a state that is not contiguous to Ohio. Applicant must therefore provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate physical deliverability to Ohio consistent with the approach approved by the Commission in Case No. 09-555-EL-REN. In

Case No. 09-555-EL-REN, the Commission accepted Staff's proposed approach requiring that the absolute value of a facility's impact on a transmission line in Ohio must be: (a) greater than 5 percent, and (b) and greater than 1 MW, as determined by an adequate power flow study. *In re the Application of Koda Energy LLC*, Case No. 09-555-EL-REN, Finding and Order (Mar. 23, 2011).

{¶ 9} Applicant provided Staff a PJM Distribution Factor Analysis (DFAX) power flow study which was performed in August 2020 by PJM Interconnection, LLC. The DFAX analysis assumed a 50/50 peak load forecast for the 2025 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Summer Case. The DFAX study evaluated the impacts of power flows from the Facility's injection of energy on approximately 3,000 bulk electric system transmission facilities in Ohio and surrounding areas. The highest DFAX value in the state of Ohio occurred on American Electric Power's Maliszewski-Vassel 765 kilovolt transmission line and was measured at 10.47 percent, which is greater than the 5 percent transmission line impact criterion. Multiplying this 10.47 percent DFAX value by the Facility's nameplate capacity results in a value of 1.0996 MW, which satisfies the greater than 1 MW criterion. As the facility satisfies both deliverability conditions, Staff concludes that the Facility is physically deliverable to the state of Ohio.

{¶ 10} Staff further notes in its Review and Recommendation that the statutory definition of a renewable energy resource includes wind power and therefore Staff concludes that the Facility satisfies the resource/technology provision of R.C. 4928.01(A)(37) and R.C. 4928.64(A)(1). Finally, Staff notes that because all the Facility's wind turbines were placed in-service after January 1, 1998, the Facility satisfies the placed in-service date requirement under R.C. 4928.64(A)(1). Thus, the Facility meets the criteria specified in Paragraph 7.

{¶ 11} Staff also observes in its Review and Recommendation that Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(C)(2)(e) requires that facilities above 6 kilowatts measure their renewable

output with a utility-grade meter in order to be eligible for certification. Staff states that the meter described in Applicant's application satisfies this rule requirement.

{¶ 12} Staff also observes that, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(C)(3), electric generating facilities must be registered with either the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS) or PJM EIS' Generation Attribute Tracking System (GATS), the two attribute tracking systems currently recognized by the Commission. Staff states that it confirmed Applicant's representation that the Facility is currently registered with M-RETS.

{¶ 13} Based upon its review of the application and any supplemental information provided by Applicant, Staff states that the Facility appears to satisfy the Commission's requirements for certification as an eligible Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility. Staff therefore recommends that the Facility be certified.

{¶ 14} Accordingly, the Commission finds reasonable Staff's recommendation that the application for certification be approved.

III. ORDER

{¶ 15} It is, therefore,

{¶ 16} ORDERED, That the application for certification of the Lakota Wind Project, filed by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 17} ORDERED, That the Lakota Wind Project be issued a certificate as an eligible Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility. It is, further,

{¶ 18} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties of record.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

M. Beth Trombold
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Daniel R. Conway
Dennis P. Deters

DMH/kck

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Case No(s). 20-1638-EL-REN

Summary: Finding & Order approving the application of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative for certification of the Lakota Wind Project as an eligible Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio