

4906-17-02 Project Summary and Facility Overview

(A) PROJECT SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following [Application, 2-1]:

- On November 18, 2010, OPSB entered a journal entry transferring the Certificate from Heartland Wind, LLC to Blue Creek Wind Farm, LLC (Blue Creek).
- The Applicant has identified specific locations for eight additional turbines and other related Facility components within this Amendment. The Facility will have up to 175 turbines for a maximum potential output of 350 MW.
- The Applicant's General Contractor is purchasing concrete from a local supplier. The Applicant will not be constructing a temporary concrete batch plant for producing concrete required during construction.
- The Facility will have two intra-project collection substations. The Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 identified three intra-project collection substations.

(1) General Purpose of the Facility

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(2) Facility Description

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following [Application, 2-3]:

- There are over 200 participating landowners representing approximately 24,900 acres of leased land. The Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 identified 140 participating landowners, representing approximately 17,000 acres of leased land.
- The distance between the eight turbines included in this Amendment ranges from 979 feet to 4,637 feet. The Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 identified 892 to 3,617 feet. [Application 2-4]

(3) Site Selection Process

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010

(a) High Quality Wind Resource

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(b) Suitable Transmission

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- The Facility would include 97.7 miles of underground collection lines and 7.8 miles of aboveground collection lines (rated at 34.5 kV), that would tie into one smaller collector substation. The Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 identified 103.2 and 5.4 miles respectively. [Application, 2-4 to 2-5]
- Approximately 1.8 miles of 115 kV aboveground collection lines would connect the one Project collection substation to the 345 kV Interconnection Substation. The Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 identified 7.0 miles connecting to two collector substations. [Application, 2-5]

(c) Available Land and Land Use Constraints

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(d) Ecological and Environmental Impacts

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except for the following at the end of the section [Application, 8-27]:

- Site visits to the Project area to characterize habitats and identify wetlands and waterbodies were performed during September and October 2009, March 2010 and March 2011. Figure 8-3, the ecological map for the Project area, has been updated to show the eight new turbines in a revised layout.

(e) Community Support

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(f) Site Accessibility

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(4) Principal Environmental and Socioeconomic Considerations

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(a) Ecological

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- The Applicant performed additional wetland delineations for eight additional turbines and support components in March 2011. A Revised Wetland Delineation Report will be submitted to the OPSB upon completion of the investigation and coordination with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). It is the intent of the Applicant to keep total wetland impacts per location to less than 0.1 acre, so the under the USACE Nationwide permit program the Facility can be authorized without a mitigation requirement.

(b) Land Use and Community Development

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(c) Socioeconomic

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(d) Cultural Resources

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

The Applicant has performed additional archaeological investigations for eight turbines and support components in March 2011. No archeological artifacts were

recovered during the survey. Therefore, no historic properties, as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l), will be impacted by the proposed project in the Amendment areas. A revised survey report will be submitted to the OPSB upon completion of the investigation and coordination with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO). The eight new turbines are situated within the previously studied project boundary. They will not require any additional architectural surveys.

(e) Noise

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- Potential noise from the Facility was evaluated for 160 Gamesa G90 2.0 MW wind turbines on 328-foot (100-meter) tall towers and associated substations. The expected operational project noise levels at residences within the Project area are anticipated to range between less than 30 decibels (A-weighted scale) (dBA) to 50 dBA. The Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 identified 167 turbines and 30 dBA to 50 dBA. Appendix T provides the results of the additional noise assessment.

(f) Visual Impact

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- A revised shadow flicker analysis was performed in March 2011 for 160 turbines including the eight additional turbines (assuming G-90 wind turbines on 328-foot [100 meter] tall towers) to evaluate the extent of potential shadow flicker experienced at each residence and nearby transportation corridor in the Project area. The revised shadow flicker analysis resulted in predicted shadow flicker effects over 30 hours per year at 11 residences in the

Project area. The Applicant plans to work with landowners to use a number of mitigation measures to reduce projected shadow flicker impacts to these affected residences. [Replaces first paragraph, Application, 2-12 to 2-13]

(5) Project Schedule

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following: [Replaces last four sentences, Application, 2-13]

- OPSB issued a certificate for the Blue Creek Wind Farm on August 23, 2010.
- The Applicant will build the Facility, including the eight turbines covered by this Amendment, in one Phase rather than in two Phases as indicated in the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010. The Applicant will place the Facility in service beginning in December 2011, with full operation of the Facility by March 2012. Figure 2-2 shows the anticipated Facility schedule [Replaces Figure 2-2]