

North Fork Ridge Wind Project

Barton and Jasper Counties, Missouri



Project Progress Report No. 20

March 2021

****Indicates Confidential****

HC*Indicates Highly Confidential*HC

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Contents

1.0	Summary	1
2.0	Safety.....	1
3.0	Project Schedule.....	1
4.0	Development Activities	1
5.0	Construction Activities	2
6.0	Project Cost Report	3
7.0	Progress Photos.....	5
8.0	Appendices	6

1.0 Summary

There were no on-site activities during March. A permit application was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this month, and the Southwest Power Pool posted results for Phase 2 of the interconnection study. Final safety statistics and updated costs are provided in this report. Cost reporting will be finalized in the next few months.

2.0 Safety

There were no onsite activities during March. Man-hours at completion was 412,358, and the total number of safety incidents are reported below.

Period	Near Miss	Property Damage	First Aid	OSHA Recordable
To Date	18	34	28	3

3.0 Project Schedule

Substantial completion was achieved on November 21st, 2020, and turbine commissioning was completed on December 22nd, 2020. The Purchase and Sale Agreement closing occurred on January 27th, 2021.

4.0 Development Activities

With the exception of wildlife permitting and interconnection, development activities are nearly complete for North Fork Ridge. Both of those development activities are expected to be completed within the first year of commercial operation. A settlement agreement has been entered by and between Vestas and Empire. The agreement along with a summary of the agreement will be submitted as a separate filing.

During March, tax equity investors consented to allowing the project to pursue a 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit. This is an optional intermediary step on the way to an incidental take permit (ITP) for the gray bat. This recovery permit process is applicable where data about a species is limited, and the purpose is to develop additional data, which will aid in the recovery of the species and development of the habitat conservation plan and ITP. The project filed an application for the 10(a)(1)(A) permit at the end of the month and is requesting a four-year term.

On March 8th, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) posted preliminary Phase 2 results from the interconnection study for customer information only. These results show that, as expected, the

correction of model input errors invalidated the network upgrades assigned to North Fork Ridge in Phase 1 of the study. Final results of Phase 2 are scheduled to be posted on April 7th.

On January 27th, the Purchase and Sale Agreement was closed with the purchase of North Fork Ridge Wind Holdings, LLC by Empire. At that time, tax equity investors contributed their funding of North Fork Wind Holdings, LLC.

5.0 Construction Activities

This is the status of construction activities:

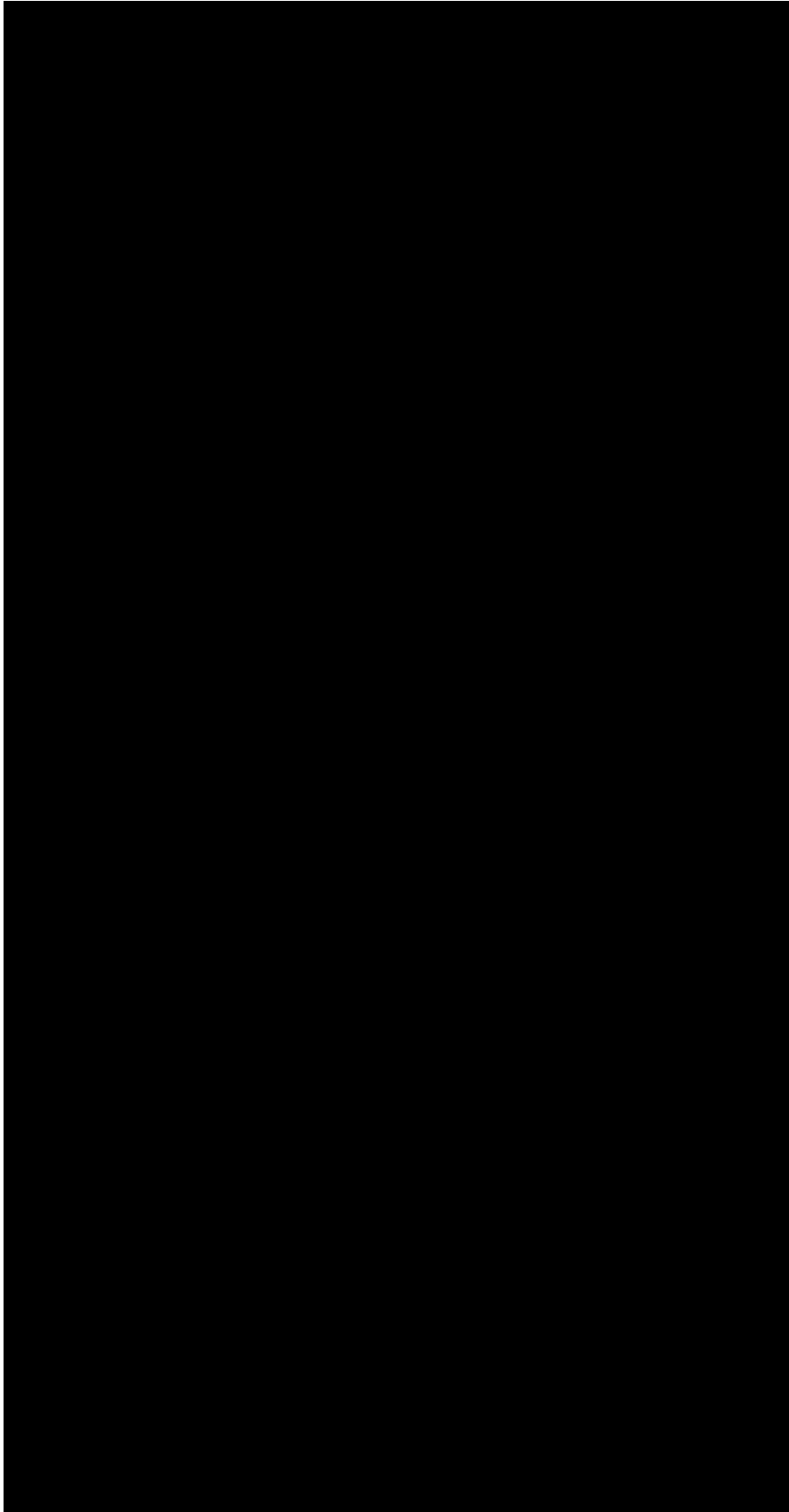
- Turbine foundations:
 - All foundations placed and backfilled
- Electrical activities:
 - Collection
 - Completed November 12th.
 - Substation:
 - Completed July 29th.
 - Generation tie line:
 - Completed July 29th.
- Erection:
 - Acceptance of turbine mechanical completion certificates completed.
 - Substantial completion achieved on November 21st.
- Commissioning:
 - Commissioning completed December 22nd.
- Restoration:
 - All restoration activities continued.
- Other:
 - Permanent met tower completed and commissioned.

Construction issues identified:

- Surge arrester failures: There were three surge arrester failures in December. The manufacturer has confirmed to Mortenson that the arresters were part of a defective lot. As of the end of March, all surge arresters have been replaced under warranty.

6.0 Project Cost Report

Expenditures during March totaled ** [REDACTED] **. The major expenses in this month were labor and professional services related to wildlife permitting and tax equity closing. Project expenditures to date (excluding the PSA Purchase Price) are ** [REDACTED] ** of the total budgeted expenditure of ** [REDACTED] **. The current estimate at completion is ** [REDACTED] **. The major drivers of this variance remain increases in the Purchase and Sale Agreement Annex 1 costs, specifically those for schedule maintenance and for construction of the point of interconnection and generation tie line. A report of the project costs at completion including the purchase price will be provided in the next project progress report.



North Fork Ridge *HC* Highly Confidential in its Entirety *HC*

7.0 Progress Photos

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8.0 Appendices

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