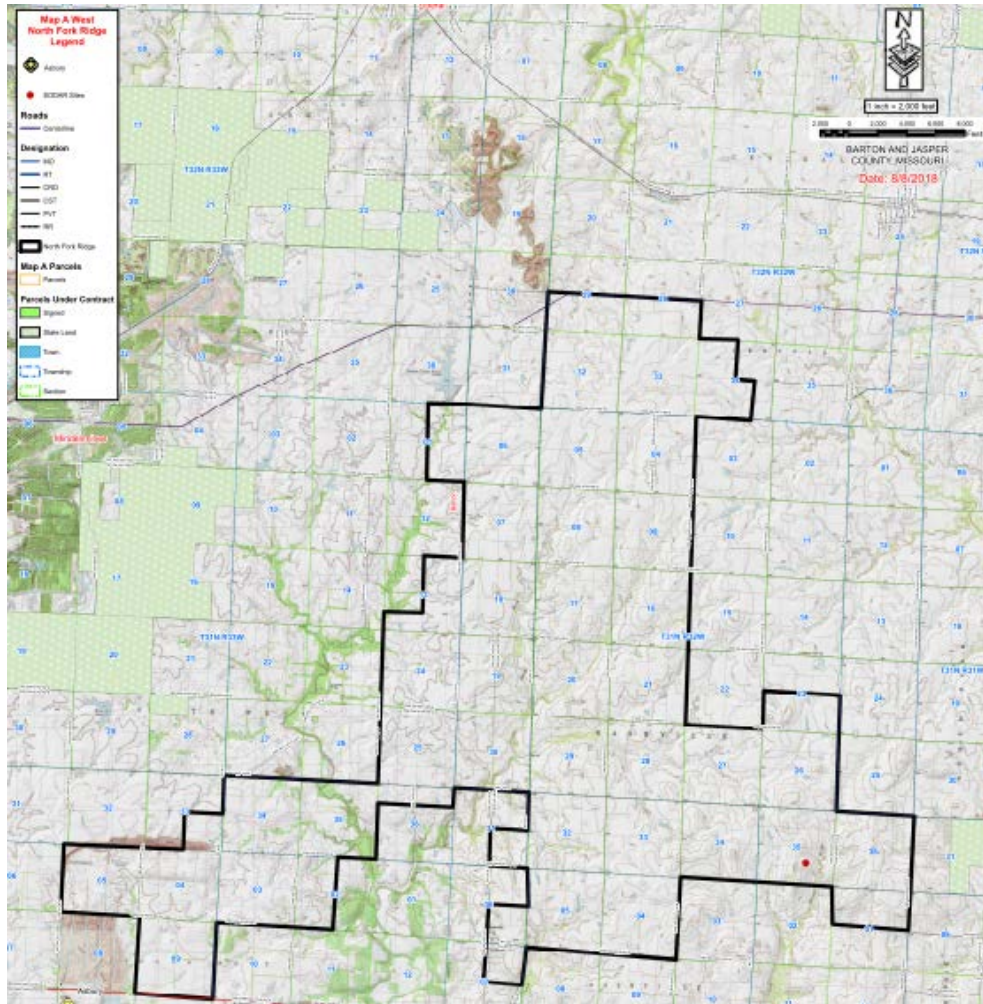


# North Fork Ridge Wind Project

*Barton and Jasper Counties, Missouri*



*Project Progress Report No. 6*

*January 2020*

**\*\*Indicates Confidential\*\***

**\*HC\*Indicates Highly Confidential\*HC\***

*Empire District  
602 S. Joplin Ave.  
Joplin, MO 64802*

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*January 2020*

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## 1.0 Summary

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued the Section 404 Clean Water Act permit on January 29, and Mortenson was released to work in all areas of the project. Mortenson's major efforts during January were focused on civil works, especially access road construction and foundation excavation. Some minor activities in support of future electrical construction were also performed. There was a brief delay on work at the substation during January due to a minor archaeological find. Despite the rapid ramp up of activity, all activities were performed safely, with nearly 18,000 man-hours worked without incident.

## 2.0 Safety

There were no safety incidents at the site during the month of January. One near miss that occurred in December was inadvertently omitted from the prior report. One of Mortenson's field personnel was walking a turbine site and stepped into a borehole that had apparently not been properly backfilled at the conclusion of geotechnical surveys. All personnel were informed of the incident and reminded to watch their footing in areas where geotechnical surveys had been performed. A site medic was added on January 20. The site medic will provide medical support, drug screening services and training in first aid, CPR and AED. 17,919 man-hours have been worked as of January 31, with no OSHA recordable incidents.

## 3.0 Project Schedule

With the Section 404 Clean Water Act permit received on January 29, the schedule will be updated, and future reports will contain more detailed schedule information as well as tracking of actual progress versus planned progress.

## 4.0 Development Activities

Development activities for the period were focused on the Section 404 Clean Water Act permit. Empire continued to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in its efforts to process the complex Section 404 permit application. USACE issued the Section 404 permit for North Fork Ridge on January 29, and Mortenson was immediately released to work in all areas of the project.

The monitoring and inadvertent discovery (MID) plan was also tested in January. On the morning of January 9, tree-clearing crews working at the substation site came across minor artifacts (stone flakes) and stopped work for archaeological monitors to fully delineate the site. The Osage and Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) were both notified of the find within twenty-four hours as required

by the MID plan. Upon completing a full survey of the site, archaeological monitors determined that the site was not significant and reported those findings to the Osage and Missouri SHPO, who both concurred. Work was stopped at that site for approximately two weeks, but it is anticipated that as all parties become more familiar with the processes in the MID plan, future work stoppages, if any, will be shorter.

The construction of the point of interconnection at the Asbury substation was completed in January. The Asbury-to-Litchfield line terminal has been relocated within the substation and re-energized, and all pre-commissioning of the North Fork Ridge Wind terminal has been completed. Additional commissioning will be required once the line to North Fork Ridge is constructed and interconnected.

## 5.0 Construction Activities

The following construction activities were completed in January:

- Access road construction:
  - Pioneered: 25,107 LF (36%)
  - Stabilized: 4,372 LF (6%)
  - Rocked: 1,852 LF (3%)
- Turbine foundations:
  - 6 foundations excavated (T-94, T-97, T-99, T-103, T-106, T-107)
  - Batch plant set up on January 27
  - Foundation embeds and templates deliveries began January 23
  - Rebar deliveries began week of January 27
- Electrical activities:
  - Started tree clearing on generation tie line route
  - Received collection cable deliveries (48 of 156 reels)
- Equipment supply:
  - Main power transformer factory acceptance test completed
  - Main power transformer prepared for shipping

The following major construction activities are planned to be completed in February:

- Complete access road construction
- Complete public road improvements
- Complete stripping of all remaining turbine sites
- Turbine foundations:
  - Excavate 33 foundations (progress: 39/69)
  - Inspect batch plant
  - Perform test pour
  - Pre-pour rebar inspection for first foundation

- Electrical activities:
  - Generation tie line:
    - Continue tree clearing and access prep
    - Begin receiving structures, conductor, OPGW and hardware deliveries
  - Substation:
    - Continue transformer pad development
    - Start foundations
  - Collection:
    - Continue receiving cable deliveries
    - Start receiving hardware and boring materials deliveries

Construction issues identified:

- Weather and saturated surface conditions
- Encroachment permits:
  - Barton County rural water district
  - Magellan Pipeline
- Unsuitable subgrade for access road for T-75, T-79, T-83

## 6.0 Project Cost Report

Expenditures during December totaled \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*. Project expenditures to date are \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* of the total budgeted expenditure of \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*. Total capital expended on the project was lower at the end of December than at the end of November because the initial payment for construction of the point of interconnection was received from the project company. This initial payment was greater than all other capital invested in the project in December. There have been no increases to the anticipated total capital expense at completion. See the next page for a report detailing expenses by budget category.



## 7.0 Progress Photos



Picture 1. Laydown yard installation.



Picture 2. Stabilized access road.





Picture 3. Foundation excavation.



Picture 4. Concrete batch plant.

## Appendices