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BY E-MAIL

July 4, 2013

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
Suite 2700, 2300 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON.
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Board Staff Interrogatories
Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership
Application for Leave to Construct Transmission Facilities
Board File No. EB-2013-0185**

Pursuant to Procedural Order No. 1, please find enclosed Board Staff's interrogatories to the Applicant in this proceeding.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Robert Caputo
Project Advisor
Applications & Regulatory Audit
Ontario Energy Board

c. All Parties in EB-2013-0185

Encl.

July 4, 2013

BOARD STAFF INTERROGATORIES

GRAND BAND WIND LIMITED PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO CONSTRUCT TRANSMISSION FACILITIES TO CONNECT A WIND GENERATION PROJECT TO THE ONTARIO TRANSMISSION SYSTEM EB-2013-0185

BUSINESS AND CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Interrogatory 1

References

- (1) *Exh. B, Tab 1, Sch. 1*
- (2) *Exh B, Tab 1, Sch. 2*

Paragraph 1 in the Reference (1) indicates that Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership is the Applicant. Paragraph 6 and other references in the evidence refer to “the Applicants”.

Paragraph 17 of Reference (1) states that the transmission facilities will be owned by Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership and that Northland Power Inc. will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Transmission Facilities pursuant to the terms of an Operations, Management and Maintenance Agreement.

The Chart in Reference (2) shows the intended corporate structure upon satisfaction of “Conditions Precedent”

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please clarify who the Applicant(s) is (are)?
- (b) What is the status of any agreements needed between FNP and Northland Power Inc. (NPI) to achieve the ownership structure shown in Reference (2)?

- (c) When does the Applicant(s) expect FNP to be issued 50% ownership in the Applicant and the applicant general partner as indicated in Reference (2)?

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE PROJECT

Interrogatory 2

Reference: Exh. B, Tab 1, Sch. 1, page 2

Paragraph 8 in the reference indicates that “a “step-up” transformer will be used at each wind turbine generator (“WTG”) to transform the electricity generated at the WTG 690 V to 34.5 kV....” The line drawing in Exh B, Tab 2, Sch 3 shows a total of 3 step-up transformers, each connecting a group of 14-17 turbines.

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please confirm/clarify whether there is one step-up transformer per turbine or a total of 3 transformers connecting groups of turbines.

CONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH TRANSMITTER

Interrogatory 3

Reference: Exh. E, Tab 1, Sch. 1

The third paragraph in the reference indicates that the Transmission Facilities will comply with the requirements of the Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) Transmission Connection Agreement.

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please provide the status of any connection agreement with HONI for the subject facilities including when an agreement is expected to be concluded, if applicable.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Interrogatory 4

Reference: Exh. B, Tab 3, Sch. 1

The reference states that “The Applicant determined that the nearest best connection point for the Generation Project was circuit B23D near Seaforth TS. The Applicant submitted its Request for Connection Point Amendment form to the OPA on June 9, 2011. On July 5, 2011 the Applicant received a FIT Contract based on this revised connection point.”

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please provide a copy of the Applicant’s latest Power Purchase Agreement under the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program with the Ontario Power Authority.

RENEWABLE ENERGY APPROVAL

Interrogatory 5

Reference: Exh. C, Tab 1, Sch. 1, page 2

The reference states the following: “The Ministry of Environment (“MOE”) Renewable Energy Approval (“REA”) for the Generation Project and Transmission Facilities was filed on February 15, 2013. As such, based on the MOE’s six month service guarantee, the Applicant anticipates receiving MOE approval of the REA by the end of August, 2013.”

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please provide an update on the status of the Renewable Energy Approval (REA). Is approval still expected by the end of August 2013?
- (b) Have there been any objections to the granting of the REA and if so, by which parties? What has been the general nature of any concerns that have been raised?
- (c) Please provide a copy of the REA approval along with a copy of the REA documentation when approval is granted.

TRANSMISSION RATE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**Interrogatory 6**

Reference: Exh. B, Tab 4, Sch. 1

The reference states that “The proposed Transmission Facilities are to be used solely to connect the Generation Project to the IESO-controlled grid. The Applicant will therefore not be a licensed or rate-regulated transmitter. The financial risk of constructing, owning, and operating the Transmission Facilities lies solely with the Applicant.”

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please confirm that the Applicant will be responsible for the total cost of the facilities proposed in this application including any modifications required on the HONI transmission system needed to accommodate the proposed facilities.
- (b) For any costs in (i) not payable by the Applicant, please describe the facilities/work required, costs of these and cost responsibility including any ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

COST RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRANDED ASSETS & DECOMMISSIONING**Interrogatory 7**

Reference: Exh. B, Tab 4, Sch. 1

- (a) Please acknowledge the Applicant’s responsibility for removing the transmission and related facilities if construction of these transmission facilities does not proceed or is interrupted due to unforeseen events such as the inability to acquire or secure the various permits or due to a force majeure event?
- (b) Did the Applicant set aside funds to address the events outlined in (iii) above leading to stranded assets and for decommissioning, or alternatively guaranteed by any other means? Please provide details.

LAND - RELATED MATTERS & OTHER APPROVALS

Interrogatory 8

References:

- (1) Exh. F, Tab 1, Sch. 1
- (2) Exh. F, Tab 1, Sch. 2

In Reference (1), page 1, it is stated that:

“The transmission line is primarily located in the shoulder of existing municipal and county roads within public Right of Ways (the “RoW”). Some private property is required for the Substation and Switching Station and for the segments of the transmission line that run from the Substation and Switching Station to the RoW.

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“The forms of agreements in relation to the lands can be found in Exhibit F, Tab 1, Schedule 2 of this Application.”

Reference (2) contains three forms of agreements.

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please confirm whether the Table on page 2 of Reference 1 includes all landowners directly affected by the proposed transmission line and associated facilities, based on current information from title search? If not, please explain and update the Table accordingly.
- (b) What is the status of negotiations/agreements with the municipalities affected by the proposed transmission line and associated facilities.
- (c) Please describe the options that the Applicant holds with the two private owners of the lands required for the substation and switching station and provide the status/timing of any agreements needed for the project to proceed.
- (d) Please describe the three forms of agreements contained in Reference (2), their differences and which lands/ type of lands they are intended for.

- (e) Has each of the affected landowners been presented with form(s) of agreement? If not, does the Applicant intend to do so and when?
- (f) Please provide a list of all outstanding approvals and permits needed to complete construction of the proposed facilities, including the status and expected dates for obtaining such approvals and permits.

SYSTEM IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SIA)

Interrogatory 9

References:

- (1) *Exh. H, Tab 1, Sch. 1*
- (2) *System Impact Assessment Report, CAA ID:2011-447, dated Dec 21, 2011*
- (3) *System Impact Assessment Report Addendum, CAA ID:2011-447, dated Jan 11, 2013*

Reference (1) states that a System Impact Assessment Report (SIA) (final form) was issued on December 21, 2011 based on GE wind turbines and an overhead transmission line. Subsequently the turbine type was changed to Siemens and the decision to place the transmission line underground was made. These changes are captured in the System Impact Assessment Report Addendum dated January 13, 2013.

The Addendum report is labeled as “Draft Report”.

Both the SIA and Addendum state that the IESO recommends “that a Notification of Conditional Approval for Connection be issued for the Grand Bend Wind Farm subject to the implementation of the requirements outlined in this report.”

There is no Notification of Conditional Approval included in the pre-filed evidence.

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please advise whether the Applicant now has a final version of the Addendum report and if so please file it. If not, please explain.
- (b) Please advise whether the Applicant now has a Notification of Conditional Approval and if so please file it. If not, please explain.

- (c) Does the Applicant plan to implement all of the IESO's connection requirements contained in the final SIA report, addendum and any further updates to these documents.
- (d) Please provide verification that Hydro One Networks Inc. intends to carry out the transmitter requirements outlined in the SIA report, addendum and any further updates to these documents.

CUSTOMER IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CIA)

Interrogatory 10

References:

- (1) *Exh. I, Tab 1, Sch. 1*
- (2) *Exh. I, Tab 1, Sch. 2*

Reference (1) states that a Customer Impact Assessment Report (CIA) was issued in final form on January 4, 2012 based on GE wind turbines and an overhead transmission line. Subsequently the turbine type was changed to Siemens and the decision to place the transmission line underground was made. These changes are reflected in the Customer Impact Assessment Addendum dated March 22, 2013.

The Addendum report is labeled as "Draft".

The CIA Addendum (page 12) states that "Requirements of additional studies must be met before confirmation be made that GBWF can be incorporated without adverse impact on customers supplied from circuit B23D and in the local electrical area."

Among other requirements, the CIA addendum states that "All customers are required to check to ensure that the equipment and grounding system at their stations/facilities meet the expected increase in fault level."

Questions / Requests

- (a) Please advise whether the Applicant now has a final version of the Addendum report and if so please file it. If not, please explain.

- (b) Please advise on the status of the additional studies/requirements that must be met before confirmation be made that GBWF can be incorporated without adverse impact on customers supplied from circuit B23D and in the local electrical area, including expected confirmation date.
- (c) Does the Applicant plan to implement all of the connection requirements contained in the final CIA report, addendum and any further updates to these documents? If not, please explain.
- (d) Please provide verification that Hydro One Networks Inc. intends to carry out any transmitter requirements outlined in the CIA report, addendum and any further updates to these documents, including expected completion dates.
- (e) Please provide verification that the affected customers intend to carry out the requirements outlined in the CIA report, addendum and any further updates to these documents, including expected completion dates.

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