



Expedition Wind, LLC
A wholly-owned subsidiary of:
NATIONAL RENEWABLE SOLUTIONS
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September 26, 2019.

Ms. Sharon Olmstead, Director of Planning and Zoning
Marion County Planning and Zoning
203 South 3rd Street
Marion, KS 66861

Re: Submittal of Expedition Wind, LLC Application for Wind Energy Conversion System Conditional Use Permit Application and integrated Project Development Plan for the Expedition Wind, LLC Wind Energy Project, Marion County, Kansas.

Dear Ms. Olmstead and Planning and Zoning Commission Members,

In accordance with the Marion County Zoning Regulations, enclosed you will find the Conditional Use Permit application for a new CUP and Development Plan to support the full Expedition Wind, LLC Wind Energy project, planned for construction in Marion County, Kansas.

As you are aware, Expedition received approval of a CUP (19-11) in July, 2019. This letter is intended to summarize this CUP application, our intentions and relative positions as they relate to the Marion County regulations. Incorporated herein are direct responses to the questions and concerns of the County Planning Staff and Consultant, the Marion County Commissioners, and the interests of the County residents, expressed at various County Commission meetings recently. These include:

Process and Consideration

- This application is designed to be a companion CUP with the approved existing “Doyle” project CUP’s: Resolution Nos. 10-19, 11-22, 2014-13, 2014-22, 2015-5, and 19-11 approved in July, 2019. This new proposed CUP fills in an area of the footprint in the SE corner of our full Development Plan, and designed to facilitate only a Transmission Facility which is immediately adjacent to the KDOT ROW, running along Highway 77 South towards the project interconnection point in Butler County. Together, property from the CUP, the previous “Doyle” CUP’s and the July, 2019 CUP will comprise the entire Expedition 200 MW Development Plan.
- After a careful review of our footprint and overall development plan, we have proposed development standards in this CUP that meet or exceed the standards in your currently approved WECS regulations, as well as recent previously approved CUP(s) for the same purpose.

Project Values, Economic Impact and Job Creation

- As a part of our evaluating our overall Development Plan, we have commissioned and included a report from Fort Hays University to evaluate the future economic impact for the County’s Schools, Residences, Farms/Ranches, and Businesses. The Expedition Wind project will be a strong counter to the current declining population and income trends in the area, and should help reverse these trends on a long-term basis. Fort Hayes has identified the *economic value for the project at over \$143,000,000* generated from its project over 30 years. The lease revenue alone, for local residents in the project represent over \$64,200,000 over this time period.

- The project will create 10-12 well-paid local, permanent jobs, *and the revenue to local residents represents the annual value of 20-25 new jobs in the County*. Overall, these impacts would make Expedition one of the top five employers in the County.
- Expedition has been proactive, available and willing to talk to anyone at any time in order to address the various health, safety and noise impacts as presented by area County residents. We have continued to provide the County with a series of independent reports by large universities or public research corporations, backed by detailed studies over the past several years addressing most of these issues.
- We are particularly proud of our faithful landowners actually living within our footprint (*over 120+ landowners committed to the project*). We will invite all of our landowners to the Public Hearing, and the specific landowners who own the land included in this CUP have provided specific letters of support of this CUP and our project. Further, the landowner with the homesite immediately south of the area in this CUP has signed a participation agreement with Expedition, and is therefore supportive of the project.
- Marion County has been losing population consistently, each decade, over the last one hundred years. The home values and median incomes of the County's residents lag far behind Kansas' median home values and median incomes. There have been precious few significant new development projects in the County in the last ten years (except the Diamond Vista Wind project), and meanwhile, property taxes continue to rise. We believe that the Expedition project will be part of the County's solution to encourage added County population growth and increases in family incomes.

As laid out by the Conditional Use Permit checklist, the following application and support material for your review are enclosed:

1. Completed and signed Conditional Use Permit Application Form
2. Check/Receipt for \$200, as confirmed by Marion County
3. Affidavit of Legal Authority
4. Project Development Plan Executive Summary
5. Specific Response to Article 12 & Article 27 Rules and Regulations
6. (Attachment 1) – Project Development Plan and CUP Atlas Set, Index & Design Features
7. (Attachment 2) – Project Participants
8. (Attachment 3) – Soil Erosion, Sediment Control & Stormwater Runoff Plan
9. (Attachment 4) – Environmental Review & ComSearch Communications Reports
10. (Attachment 5) – Cultural Resources Report
11. (Attachment 6) – Letters of Support – Landowners & Ares
12. (Attachment 7) – Local Economic Analysis – Fort Hayes State University

As we've described in this application and supporting materials, the various aspects of wind and Transmission projects like Expedition Wind have been exhaustively researched, tested and proven to not just provide low-cost, valuable renewable energy, but also to substantively *improve* the rural communities where they are sited.

Further, through our close work with the County, area residents and local businesses over the past several months, we've made huge strides in mitigating impacts from surrounding residents/landowners who've voiced their concerns about our project. Most of the folks who will be near the project have had ample opportunity to join us

(and still do), but because many of opponents of the project live up to ten miles away from the project, we are unable to appease everyone (and likely never will).


Now it's time for our *participating* landowners' voices to be heard. They see this project as a critical new revenue source in a time of continued declines in State and National agricultural income. **These landowners are County residents and the ones contributing their land to the Project and this CUP, and they're asking for your careful consideration and support.**

Most of these residents have waited a long time for this project to finally get built – and NRS is ready to make good on that promise. But in order to move forward and capture these benefits now and for the future generations of landowners and residents in Marion County, we need the support of the Planning & Zoning Commission and ultimately, the Board of County Commissioners.

We stand ready and committed to work with you as you may request.

Sincerely,

EXPEDITION WIND, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Pelstring", with a stylized, cursive script.

Patrick Pelstring, President and CEO
National Renewable Solutions, LLC