

February 25, 2011

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today granted to ITC *Transmission* (ITC) an expedited siting certificate for a transmission line that allows the company to construct a double circuit 345 kilovolt transmission line and four new substations to facilitate the transmission of electricity generated by wind energy conversion systems in the state's primary wind resource zone, located in Michigan's Thumb Region. The approval marks the first time the MPSC has granted an expedited siting certificate since Public Act 295 of 2008 (PA 295) was enacted.

The Thumb Region was designated by the Michigan Wind Energy Resource Zone Board as Region No. 4 wind zone. The MPSC, on Jan. 27, 2010 in Case No. U-15899, selected the Thumb Region as the state's "primary wind energy resource zone."

PA 295 directs the MPSC to grant an expedited siting certificate if it determines that all of the following requirements are met:

- The proposed transmission line will facilitate transmission of electricity generated by wind energy conversion systems located in a wind energy resource zone;
- The proposed transmission line has received federal approval;
- The proposed transmission line does not represent an unreasonable threat to the public convenience, health, and safety;
- The proposed transmission line will be of appropriate capability to enable the wind potential of the wind energy resource zone to be realized; and
- The proposed or alternate route to be authorized by the expedited siting certificate is feasible and reasonable.

In today's order, the MPSC said the company has met those requirements and is authorized to construct the transmission line using its proposed route. In addition, the company is directed to file in this docket any public construction status reports it is required by law to file with any local, state, or federal agency during construction of the transmission line.

ITC *Transmission* on Aug. 30, 2010 filed an application seeking approval of an expedited siting certificate for a transmission line that would allow it to transmit electricity generated by wind energy conversion systems located in Michigan's Thumb Region to more populous areas of the state.

The Thumb Region consists of Hampton, Merritt, and Portsmouth townships in Bay County; Bingham, Bloomfield, Brookfield, Caseville, Chandler, Colfax, Dwight, Fairhaven, Gore, Grant, Hume, Huron, Lake, Lincoln, McKinley, Meade, Oliver, Paris, Port Austin, Rubicon, Sand Beach, Sebawaing, Sheridan, Sherman, Sigel, Verona, and Windsor townships in Huron County; Blumfield and Buena Vista townships in Saginaw County; Austin, Delaware, Forester, Marion, Minden, and Wheatland townships in Sanilac County; and Akron, Almer, Columbia, Denmark, Elkland, Ellington, Elmwood, Fairgrove, Gilford, Juniata, Novesta, and Wisner townships in Tuscola County.

The MPSC, under PA 295, is required to issue its final order in an expedited siting certificate application proceeding in 180 days.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth.

Case No. U-16200

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