

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
BRIE ANDERSON
ON BEHALF OF TIMBERMILL WIND, LLC

NCUC DOCKET NO. EMP-118, SUB 1

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2 A. My name is Brie Anderson. I am employed at Merjent, Inc. (“Merjent”). My
3 business address is 1 Main Street SE, Suite 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

4 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL**
5 **EXPERIENCE.**

6 A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in ecology and field biology with a
7 wildlife emphasis and a Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Systems for
8 Natural Resources. I have more than 12 years of experience permitting various
9 infrastructure projects at the federal, state, and local levels. A copy of my resume is
10 attached as Anderson Direct Exhibit 1.

11 **Q. WHAT IS MERJENT’S ROLE WITH RESPECT TO TIMBERMILL WIND,**
12 **LLC?**

13 A. Merjent is providing environmental permitting support to Timbermill Wind,
14 LLC (“Timbermill”) for the construction of up to 189 megawatts (MWs) of new wind energy
15 in Chowan County, North Carolina (the “Wind Project”) and an approximately 6-mile 230
16 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities (the “Timbermill Line”) to
17 interconnect the Wind Project to the transmission grid. Timbermill retained Merjent to
18 assist with environmental aspects of the line routing and preparation of the Environmental
19 Report, the scope of which is limited to the Timbermill Line.

20 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION?**

21 A. No.

22 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

23 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Application for Certificate of
24 Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and (the “CECPCN Application”) for
25 the Timbermill Line.

26 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILIARITY WITH THE FACILITY AND**
27 **TIMBERMILL LINE.**

28 A. I have reviewed environmental survey data, conducted desktop data
29 analysis, and assisted with the layout of the Timbermill Line to avoid and minimize impacts
30 to environmental resources. I managed the development of the Environmental Report
31 that has been filed as CECPCN Application Exhibit 3, as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-
32 102(a)(4) and North Carolina Utilities Commission Rule R8-62.

33 **Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE TIMBERMILL LINE.**

34 A. The Timbermill Line will include approximately 6 miles of 230 kV
35 transmission line between the proposed Collector Substation and proposed
36 Interconnection Switching Station, as those components are described in the CECPCN
37 Application, adjacent to the Point of Interconnection (“POI”) at the existing 230 kV Winfall-
38 Mackeys transmission line owned by Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion
39 Energy North Carolina. The Timbermill Line crosses through a predominantly rural area
40 with sparsely scattered rural residences, farmsteads, agricultural production and
41 silviculture operations, and agricultural support facilities throughout.

42 **Q. BASED ON THE ANALYSIS CONDUCTED TO DATE, HAS THE**
43 **TIMBERMILL LINE BEEN SITED SO AS TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS?**

44 A. Yes. Potential impacts to natural resources as a result of the Timbermill
45 Line are anticipated to be minimal. This assessment is due, in part, to the fact that the
46 Transmission Route is primarily agricultural and silviculture land with limited natural
47 resource diversity and that impacts to natural resources, to a great extent, can be avoided
48 and mitigated.

49 As discussed throughout the Environmental Report, the Timbermill Line has been
50 sited to avoid and minimize natural and human environmental impacts. Table 2.3-1
51 provides a summary of quantitative impacts on each resource described throughout the
52 Environmental Report. Detailed Route Maps (Figures 7a-7d) provide a detailed review of
53 the Timbermill Line Preliminary Alignment, preliminary transmission structures, the
54 transmission ROW, Collector Substation, Switching Station, and access road on 2020
55 aerial photography with environmental features. Timbermill has committed to complying
56 with all applicable regulatory and permit requirements, implementing resource-specific
57 minimization and mitigation measures, and utilizing best management practices during
58 construction, restoration, and operation.

59 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

60 A. Yes.



BRIE ANDERSON, M.S.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ms. Brie Anderson is a Senior Project Manager with over 13 years of environmental consulting experience in the energy industry. Brie leads local, state, and federal permitting processes for wind, solar, and transmission line throughout the upper Midwest. She has assisted renewable energy developers in acquiring permits for over 3 gigawatts of wind and solar energy since 2016. She specializes in natural resource issues related to energy development. Additionally, her extensive GIS background has proven to make a key difference in managing projects. She understands the complex analyses, data manipulation, and data management associated with Projects as they evolve through the development process. Brie has also provided expert witness testimony for numerous wind and solar projects.

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Nobles Repower Project, Minnesota (2020-present)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application Amendment to repower the existing 134-turbine, 200-megawatt wind project. Ms. Anderson is leading the environmental permitting strategy and application development and well as supporting public hearings.

Grand Meadow Repower Project, Minnesota (2020-present)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application Amendment to repower the existing 67-turbine, 100-megawatt wind project. Ms. Anderson is leading the environmental permitting strategy and application development and well as supporting public hearings.

Big Bend Wind and Red Rock Solar Projects, Minnesota (2019-present)

Project Manager leading permitting strategy and permit development for the first proposed hybrid wind and solar project in Minnesota. The project includes three applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission: a Site Permit Application for an up-to-314-megawatt large wind energy conversion system, a Site Permit Application for a 60-megawatt solar energy conversion facility, and a Route Permit Application for an 18-mile 161 kilovolt gen-tie transmission line.

Bowman Wind Project, North Dakota (2019-present)

Project Manager leading development of a Certificate of Site Compatibility to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for a 200-megawatt wind project. Ms. Anderson is leading the environmental permitting strategy and will provide expert witness testimony at the evidentiary hearing.

Plum Creek Wind Farm, Cottonwood, Redwood, and Murray Counties, Minnesota (2018- present)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a 414-megawatt large wind energy conversion facility and Route Permit Application for approximately 35 miles of 345 kV transmission. The Project includes three turbine models under consideration and supporting environmental analyses for each, including noise, shadow



flicker, wildlife, rare and unique natural resources, recreation, soils, geology, cultural resources, socioeconomics, land-based economies, and surface waters. Ms. Anderson is responsible for the applications and expert witness testimony.

Crocker Wind Farm, Clark County, South Dakota (2016-2018)

Project Manager leading development of a Facility Permit to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for a 400-megawatt large wind energy conversion facility and associated 6.5-mile 345 kV transmission line. The Project included four turbine models under consideration and supporting environmental analyses for each, including noise, shadow flicker, wildlife, rare and unique natural resources, recreation, soils, geology, cultural resources, socioeconomics, land-based economies, and surface waters. Ms. Anderson also provided expert witness testimony at the evidentiary hearing in May 2018.

Ms. Anderson also managed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that tiered off the Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to allow placement of proposed facilities on USFWS grassland easement lands. This Project was the first to utilize the PEIS to place wind project facilities on grassland easements. Brie led agency coordination with the USFWS, drafting of the EA, recording and responding to public comments, and finalizing the EA.

Blazing Star Wind Farm, Lincoln County, Minnesota (2016-present)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a 200-megawatt large wind energy conversion facility. The Project included four turbine models under consideration and supporting environmental analysis.

Blazing Star 2 Wind Farm, Lincoln County, Minnesota (2017-present)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a 200-megawatt large wind energy conversion facility and Route Permit Application for 7.5 miles of 115 kV transmission. The Project included four turbine models under consideration and supporting environmental analysis.

Sherco Solar Project, Minnesota (2020-present)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and two 345 kV transmission lines for a 460-megawatt solar energy conversion facility. Ms. Anderson is responsible for the permit development, Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan, Vegetation Management Plan, and expert witness testimony.

Wild Springs Solar Project, Pennington County, South Dakota (2018-present)

Project Manager leading development of a 128-megawatt solar facility. Ms. Anderson is responsible for the Facility Permit to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and an Environmental Assessment for the project's interconnection to a Western Area Power Administration substation. Ms. Anderson is also providing expert witness testimony.

Elk Creek Solar Project, Rock County, Minnesota (2019-2020)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for an 80-megawatt solar energy conversion facility. Ms. Anderson was responsible for the permit development, Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan, and expert witness testimony.



Regal Solar Project, Benton County, Minnesota (2019-2021)

Project Manager leading development of a Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a 100-megawatt solar energy conversion facility. Ms. Anderson is responsible for the permit development, Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan, and expert witness testimony.

Harmony Solar Project, Cass County, North Dakota (2018-2019)

Project Manager that led development of a Certificate of Site Compatibility to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for a 200-megawatt solar project. The Project was the first utility scale solar project in North Dakota. Ms. Anderson led the environmental analysis and provided expert witness testimony at the evidentiary hearing.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

M.S. Geographical Information Systems for Natural Resources, St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 2015

B.S., Ecology and Field Biology with an emphasis in Wildlife Biology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Minor; St. Cloud State University, 2006, Magna Cum Laude