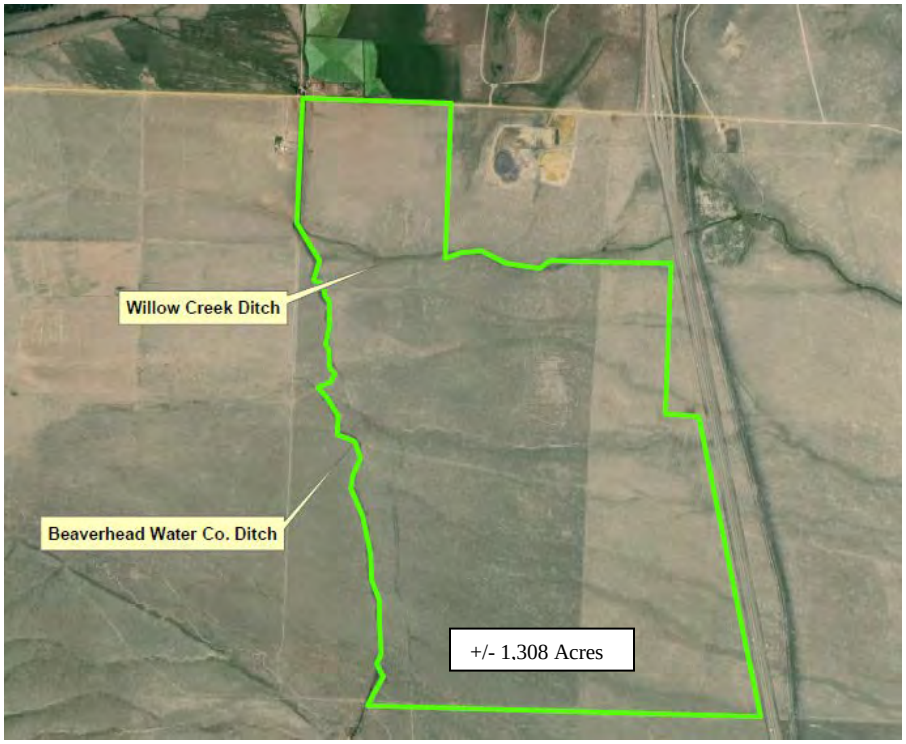
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR COMMERCIAL LEASE OF STATE TRUST LAND

APEX

Trust Land, Beaverhead County, Montana



Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
July 16, 2018

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EXHIBIT A - Map

EXHIBIT B – *Sample Lease Document

EXHIBIT C – Option to Lease Agreement

***** A sample lease is attached to this RFP as Exhibit B. DNRC reserves the right to modify or impose specific lease terms based on the proposed use, and lease terms provided in the sample are subject to change prior to final execution.

CHAPTER 1 – INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST

1.1 Instructions

It is the responsibility of each proposer to:

Follow the format required in the RFP when preparing your response. Provide responses in a clear and concise manner.

Provide complete answers and descriptions. Read and answer all questions and requirements. Proposals are evaluated based solely on the information and materials provided in your written response.

Submit your response on time. Note all the dates and times listed in the Schedule of Events. Late proposals are never accepted.

1.1.1 Submitting the Proposal

To be eligible for consideration, lease proposals must be mailed or delivered so that they are physically received by the DNRC Project Manager by 4:00 p.m., Mountain Time, on October 15, 2018 at:

Tim Egan, Manager
DNRC, Dillon Unit
840 North Main
Dillon, MT 59725

Three paper copies and one digital copy of the proposal should be mailed or delivered in a sealed envelope. A label must be attached to the outside top left corner beneath the bidder's return address, stating that the contents are: "Response to RFP –- Do Not Open until 4:00 p.m., October 15, 2018."

DNRC assumes no liability for incorrect addresses or failed delivery of Lease Proposal packages by public or private carriers.

1.1.2 Proposal Requirements

The following items must be included in the proposal. Failure to include any of these items may result in a nonresponsive determination, and the proposal will not be scored.

- ☐ **Initialed Checklist** found on page 5 of this RFP.
- ☐ **Transmittal Letter** which lists the complete name and address of the Proposer, and contact information for an authorized representative who can be contacted by DNRC concerning the proposal. It shall also include the notarized signature of the individual authorized to bind the Proposer. This letter shall serve as the application for lease.
- ☐ **Proof of authorization to sign** on behalf of another or corporation must be provided if applicable.
- ☐ **Conflict of Interest statement per section 4.14**
- ☐ **Compatibility with Lease Terms acknowledgement per section 4.7**
- ☐ **Detailed Response to Sections 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1**.
- ☐ **$50 Application Fee;** nonrefundable.
- ☐ **10% Bid Deposit** of the proposed annual lease fee, paid via cashier's check drawn on any Montana bank.
- ☐ **Correct proposal quantity and format:** three hardcopies AND one digital copy.

1.2 Checklist

Proposer must acknowledge that he or she has read, understands, and will comply with each section/subsection listed below by initialing the line to the left of each. If proposer cannot meet a particular requirement, provide a detailed explanation in his/her proposal.

This initialed checklist must be submitted as part of any proposal.

____ Chapter 1 – Instructions and Checklist

____ Chapter 2 – Schedule of Events

____ Chapter 3 – Overview

____ Chapter 4 – RFP Standard Information

____ Chapter 5 – Limitations

____ Chapter 9 – Proposal Evaluation

____ Exhibit A – Map

____ Exhibit B – Sample Lease Document

____ Exhibit C – Option to Lease Agreement

CHAPTER 2 – SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Release of Request for Proposals	July 16, 2018
Optional Site Visit (call to arrange)	July and August – call to arrange
Deadline for Questions	August 6, 2018
Distributions of RFP Amendments if applicable	August 14, 2018
Deadline to Submit Proposal	October 15, 2018

CHAPTER 3 - OVERVIEW

3.1 Objective

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is the land management agency for trust lands in Montana, and is responsible for managing the trust land to generate revenue for trust beneficiaries. The designated beneficiary of the subject property is Common Schools trust, and Pine Hills School trust. They will receive revenue from the lease fees paid for the use of this land.

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals to lease approximately 1,308+/- acres of school trust land in Beaverhead County, Montana.

3.2 Description of Land for Lease

The legal description of the land available for lease through this RFP is generally depicted on Exhibit A and further described as:

Township 5S, Range 9W
All of Section 28, excluding the area north of Willow Creek Ditch in the NE ¼ & SE ¼'s and the area West of Beaverhead Water Company Ditch in the SW ¼.
West half of Southwest ¼ of Section 27.
All of Section 33 excluding transmission easement and the area West of Beaverhead Water Company Ditch in the NW ¼ & SW ¼'s.
All of Section 34 West of Interstate 15.

The land within the RFP area is generally flat, and is currently used for grazing activities. Portions of the land are adjacent to Interstate 15 to the east, and access is available through the bordering county road to the north of the property. The land includes an easement for overhead powerlines and may include preexisting ditch rights.

It is ultimately the proposer's responsibility to ensure that the site is compatible for their proposed use.3.3

3.3 Project Manager

Proposals must be delivered to the Project Manager listed below. For information concerning the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, required format and the schedule of events, please direct your questions to the Project Managers:

Tim Egan, Manager	**Jeff Bollman, Planner**
DNRC, Dillon Unit	DNRC, Southern Land Office

840 North Main
Dillon, MT 59725
Phone: 406-683-6305
Email: tegan@mt.gov

1371 Rimtop Drive
Billings, MT 59105
Phone: 406-247-4404
Email: jbollman@mt.gov

3.4 Optional Site Visit

An on-site inspection of the property is recommended. The site visit date is prescheduled and listed in the Schedule of Events. Contact the Project Manager for details.

CHAPTER 4 – RFP STANDARD INFORMATION

4.1 Authority

This RFP is issued under 77-1-904, Montana Code Annotated.

4.2 Costs of Preparing Lease Proposal

It is the responsibility of the successful Proposer to finance, or obtain private financing for all costs associated with the design, construction and operation of the proposal. The Proposer assumes the risk of loss in the submission of any proposal or its operation. DNRC is not liable for any costs or consequential damages incurred by Proposers in proposal preparation, negotiations, or any other costs that may result from activities in connection with this Lease Proposal.

4.3 Modification or Clarification of the Lease Proposal

All recipients of this RFP should review its contents for defects and questionable matter. A recipient may make a **written** request for clarification of the RFP. Requests should be submitted in an envelope marked "**Questions Related to the RFP"** and to the attention of the Project Manager no later than the date specified in the Schedule of Events. At its option, DNRC will issue addenda to modify or clarify the RFP in response to submitted questions. When applicable, DNRC will distribute addenda in writing to all parties who have requested the same of the Project Manager. Protests based upon omissions, error, or the contents of the RFP will be disallowed if the procedures outlined in this paragraph are not followed. No interpretation made to any proposer as to the meaning of the RFP shall be binding on DNRC unless repeated in writing and distributed as an attachment by DNRC.

4.4 Confidentiality of Proposals

All proposals and material submitted become the property of DNRC, but may be returned to the proposer upon request at the discretion of DNRC. All confidential information must be clearly identified as confidential on a dedicated Confidential Exhibit to their proposal and referenced in their proposal. It shall be the proposer's responsibility to see that all confidential information is on the Confidential Exhibit to the proposal. As such, all information in the proposal, other than the Confidential Exhibit, shall become public information. Such request for confidentiality must be in writing and specify the reason for the request. Trade secret requests will be reviewed for applicability and approval by DNRC's legal counsel. All information deemed not to be trade secrets or personally identifiable information will become public information at bid opening. The entire proposal may not be marked confidential.

4.5 Lease Format & Term

A sample lease agreement is included as Exhibit B to this RFP. DNRC may issue a lease to the successful Proposer for a term of up to 99 years; however, it is typical that the lease be an initial term followed by renewal terms, not to exceed 99 years in total. A lease for less than ten years is not desirable. The lease will contain the entire agreement between the parties, and the lease proposal shall not be deemed to be a part of the agreement between the parties unless so designated in the lease.

4.6 Statutory Minimum Lease Fee

The *minimum* lease fee will be calculated per Section 77-1-905(2), MCA, which provides, in part, that: The annual Base Rent may not be less than the product of the appraised value of the land multiplied by a rate that is 2 percentage points a year less than the rate of return of the unified investment program administered by the board of investments pursuant to 17-6-201.

4.7 Compatibility with Lease Terms

Proposer shall identify any required or desired changes to the sample lease terms provided in Exhibit B, and include an explanation for the purpose of the change. DNRC reserves the right to request additional information and data from the proposer to ascertain the proposal's compatibility with the terms of the draft lease.

4.8 Bid Deposit

A bid deposit of 10 percent of the proposed annual lease must be submitted by cashier's check drawn on any Montana bank. The deposit will be applied to the first year's lease rent for the successful proposer. The bid deposit will be refunded to unselected proposers. If the successful proposer fails to enter into a lease with DNRC then the Proposer will forfeit the bid deposit.

4.9 Proposer Oral Presentation

Proposers selected for final evaluation may be required to make an oral presentation of their proposal. Such presentations provide an opportunity for the proposer to clarify their proposal to ensure mutual understanding.

4.10 Evaluation

All proposals will be deemed either responsive or non-responsive based on their completeness and adherence to mandatory requirements laid out in this RFP. The evaluation process is further explained in the Proposal Evaluation chapter.

4.11 Land Board

Lease proposals may require approval by the Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) at their monthly meeting. This requirement may delay or halt lease execution. If the proposed lease is not approved by the Land Board, the bid deposit will be refunded to the proposer.

4.12 Contract Execution

A commercial lease will be offered to the highest scoring proposer if it is in the best interest of the state, and if it is not rejected by the Land Board per section 4.11. The highest scoring proposer will be expected to accept and agree to the lease by signing the lease or option to lease within 60 days of the lease offer. If the highest scoring proposer does not accept the lease document, or sign within 60 days, the DNRC may move to the next highest scoring proposer, or cancel the RFP. More time may be allowed for due diligence at the discretion of the DNRC. Work under the lease contract may begin when the lease contract is signed by all parties.

4.13 Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

The level of MEPA analysis required for the lease will vary based on the proposed activity and the proposed location. Some locations may have had MEPA already conducted for commercial development, in which case, further MEPA may not be necessary. If it is necessary to contract for MEPA work for the proposed lease, the Project Manager will contract with a consultant, at the proponent's expense. DNRC will be the primary contact for the MEPA contractor and will have final authority over the management of the consultant and the MEPA document.

4.14 Conflict of Interest

Pursuant to Section 77-1-113, MCA, it is unlawful for members of the State Board of Land Commissioners and officers and employees of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to purchase or lease, directly or indirectly, any lands of the State. Proposers shall disclose whether such a member, officer or employee:

1. Has assisted the proposer as counsel, consultant, representative, or agent at any time; or
2. Has a financial interest in the Lease Proposal; or,
3. Has solicited or accepted employment with the Proposer; or,
4. Has engaged in any financial transaction for private purposes with the Proposer.

Failure to disclose any of the above-described facts where they have occurred shall result in cancellation of the lease if awarded to the proposer.

4.15 State's Rights Reserved

DNRC reserves the right to reject any and all bids if the proposal is not in the best interest of the State and Trust beneficiaries, and the right to reoffer the tract for lease if the bids received are not acceptable to the DNRC and the Land Board.

CHAPTER 5 - LIMITATIONS

5.1 Lease Proposal Limitations

All Lease Proposals must comply with the following limitations and requirements:

a. Per MCA 77-1-903, the Land Board shall determine how the development of state trust land for commercial purposes is to proceed before any state trust land is offered for lease. Per MCA 77-1-904(2) the Land Board may enter into contracts with lessees of state trust land for commercial purposes upon terms and conditions that the board may reasonably determine to be in the best interests of the beneficiary.

b. The use of the property must not reduce the value of the tract.

c. Storage or disposal of any toxic, hazardous or deleterious substances must comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

d. The use of the property must comply with state, federal, and local laws and regulations. It is the sole responsibility of the proposer to ensure that the proposed use meets the requirements of this section.

e. The Lessee will be solely responsible for all costs to be incurred in the design, development, construction, operation and maintenance of all improvements upon the tract consistent with MCA 77-1-906(1). The State will not be held liable for any costs incurred by the Lessee or any proposer in the preparation of any proposal, negotiation for lease, or procurement of financing for any portion of the Lease Proposal or lease.

f. The Lessee will be solely responsible for all design, installation, and construction of infrastructure and improvements, such as public roads, parks, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, or utilities, if they were required by a local government as a condition of development. A credit may be allowed against the annual rental due for payments made by the lessee on behalf of the state of Montana for construction of improvements required under this section in accordance with 77-1-905(2).

g. If site development results in excess native materials (topsoil, fill dirt, boulders, etc…) DNRC may within the terms of the lease agreement: 1) reserve those materials and require transport of materials to a designated stockpile area on nearby Trust lands; 2) establish a market price and sell the material to the developer/contractor for use elsewhere, or: 3) require developer to remove the material for off-site disposal.

h. The lessee will be responsible for the payment of all taxes, assessments, levies, fees, or other charges assessed upon any property owned by the lessee, in addition to any beneficial use taxes levied under MCA 15-24-1203. The lessee is also responsible for payment of any and all Special Improvement District (SID) or Rural Improvement District (RID) fees that may be assessed.

i. Any proposal not meeting these limitations or other criteria set out in this offering will be rejected at the discretion of DNRC and the Land Board per MCA 77-1-904(2) and (3).

j. DNRC reserves the right to waive technical defects in this RFP.

k. Upon expiration or cancellation of the lease, consistent with MCA 77-1-906(2), the title to all permanent improvements and fixtures located on the leased property and used in the operation and maintenance of the enterprise vests in the state. The lease must describe in detail the manner and subject matter of the transfer to the state. The DNRC also reserves the right to require the Lessee to remove and or reclaim all improvements constructed on the parcel during the term of this lease, at the expense of the Lessee.

l. Per MCA 77-1-907 (1) prior to executing a commercial lease, the Land Board may require the posting of bonds, sureties, guarantees, or a letter of credit sufficient to ensure that the commercial purposes will be conducted as proposed with no harm to the financial interests of the beneficiaries. All commercial leases of which the commercial purpose includes the use of a hazardous substance as defined in MCA 75-10-602 must be bonded to ensure a degree of cleanup of the hazardous substance that ensures protection of public health, safety, and welfare and of the environment in a manner that protects the long-term financial interest of the beneficiaries.

m. DNRC reserves the right to request additional information and data from the proposer to ascertain proposer's capabilities and desire to develop the property. Any request for information by DNRC to the proposer is solely for the purpose of selecting a proposal and understanding its terms. Such a request shall not be considered to constitute a binding agreement or commitment by DNRC in any manner.

n. DNRC further reserves the right to reject, at any time before a lease is executed, any application, proposal, or bid determined by DNRC to be contrary to the best interests of the State.

o. Per MCA 77-1-911 (1) The lessee of a commercial lease on state trust land shall furnish to the department:

(a) officially certified descriptions of all state trust land included within the boundaries of a city or county improvement district that is the subject of the commercial lease; and

(b) a description and listing of the amount of assessments and charges of every character made against the leasehold interest of the lessee and the leasehold interest of the state, as soon as the assessments or charges are levied

(2) A promise by the lessee to make timely payment of all assessment charges and an acknowledgment of the assessment must be inserted in any lease for state trust land.

(3) If assessments have been levied against any state trust land prior to commercial lease, the board shall require that all unpaid installments on assessments be paid to the improvement district before executing a lease.

(4) If an installment on an assessment or charge against the leasehold interest of the lessee of

land subject to a commercial lease is not paid when due, the nonpayment constitutes a breach of the lease.

CHAPTER 6 - QUALIFICATIONS

6.1 Statement of Qualifications, Training, Experience, and Education

Each proposer shall list and describe the general partner, managing entity, or principal employees who will directly oversee the development, operation and maintenance of the proposed project. The proposal shall include a statement of qualifications for each such individual. Each statement of qualifications must discuss the person's training, experience, or education that relates to the proposed project. Proposer may provide names and addresses of references. In any instance where a proposal indicates that separate legal entities will possess combined management, fiscal, or legal responsibilities, the proposer shall describe the legal relationship between the entities.

Where the proposer and their affiliates have experience in a project similar to that proposed, the proposer shall describe the prior project, its current status and profitability. The Proposer may list the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of references that have knowledge of the prior project and the Proposer's involvement therein.

The business, if organized as something other than a sole-proprietorship, must be registered with the Montana Secretary of State Office to be eligible for a Commercial Lease.

6.2 Financial Ability and Cash Flow Analysis

Per MCA 77-1-907(1) before accepting any offer for a commercial lease, the board shall establish, to its satisfaction, the financial capability of the person or entity seeking the commercial lease (proposer) and the legal authority of the proponent to conduct business in the state. **The proposal must include:**

1. Financial Ability of the Proposer
   - Statement of net worth.
   - Profit and loss statement dated within 90 days of RFP release date.
   - Disclosure of any past bankruptcy or loan defaults.
   - Certificate from the Secretary of State to do business in the State of Montana.
   - Operating agreement (when applicable)
   - FICO Credit Summary(s)

2. Cash Flow Analysis

   - Pro forma forecasting income, costs and debt service, and earnings for the first five years of the operation of the proposed project, along with a discussion of the economic assumptions upon which the projections are based.

The proposer is encouraged to include any other relevant information that will allow DNRC to fully evaluate the proposer's financial ability to construct, operate, and maintain its proposed project.

CHAPTER 7 – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Summary of Proposal

The proposer shall provide the following information as a summary of the proposal:

1. Description of proposed use;
2. Demand within the community and community benefit for the proposed project;
3. Compatibility of proposed project with surrounding uses;

4. Acknowledge responsibility for payment of all costs associated with developing the property.
5. BONUS POINTS: 200 bonus points are available to proposals that include a multiple land-use management strategy for the lease area.

7.2 Site Plan, Construction, and Operation

All proposed buildings, infrastructure, landscaping and other improvements to the property must conform with all land use regulations of the appropriate jurisdictional authority. Proposals must also be planned with adequate access, drainage and storm water run-off retention/detention so as to meet any jurisdictional authority's requirements.

The proposal shall include conceptual plans of the following:

1. Proposed lease development area.
2. The activities to be conducted, and a site plan to include the following:
    - Proposed uses, location, and scale;
    - Typical rendering or elevation of improvements including building materials & color;
    - Location of roads and sidewalks;
    - Other infrastructure to be installed such as water, sanitary, and storm sewer
    - Open space and landscaping features
    - Estimated cost of proposed improvements to the site.
    - Information on plans to transmit power, if proposal includes energy generation.

2. Proposals shall include detailed information regarding any improvement district or assessments that the property will become subject to as a result of the proposed development.

3. The anticipated schedule and plan for construction of the improvements on the property.

4. Any request for a Lease Option Agreement shall be included in this section. Option Agreements may be issued for a term not to exceed two years, at the discretion of the DNRC. An annual fee of not less than 1.5% of the land value will apply during the Option period.

5. The proposed reclamation plan upon decommissioning of the site.

DNRC retains site plan review and approval authority. Proposer should be aware that DNRC may require additional development standards over and above local standards, for example lighting standards, signage standards, landscaping standards, building architecture, parking, and others, depending on design and site planning.

CHAPTER 8 – LEASE FEE

8.1 Proposed Lease Fee

The minimum annual Base Rent is calculated by applying the minimum Lease Rate Percentage to the land value. The proposal shall include an annual rental fee that is greater than or equal to the minimum annual Base Rent as further described in section 8.1.1. A response to this section should include a fee schedule table similar to the example table provided in section 8.2 that is filled out according to the rental fee the proposer wishes to offer. If the proposed use is for an energy generating facility, additional Operating Fees must also be factored into the lease fee schedule. See the attached lease document in Exhibit B.

8.1.1 **Standard Rental Fee**; the proposer should detail the planned compensation to DNRC for lease of the site based on:

1. Proposed Base Rent

- The minimum annual Base Rent is calculated by applying the minimum Lease Rate Percentage to the land value.

2. Proposed Lease Rate Percentage
   - The minimum Lease Rate Percentage for this proposal is **4%**
   - The current land value is **$700 per acre.**

   A proposal at the minimum Lease Rate Percentage for all 1,308 acres would result in Base Rent for the first full lease year of $36,624.00.
3. A minimum 2% annual rental escalator to account for changing land valuations and inflationary factors.
4. The minimum initial lease term of 20 years with renewal options up to 99 years.
5. Market value adjustments based on reappraisal to "true up" the lease fee to the market value occurring at 15 year intervals through the initial term, and a maximum of 15 year intervals thereafter.
6. A rental payment period of either annual or semi-annual.

8.1.2 Energy Generation Facility Rental Fee

An energy generation facility will pay an annual fee of the greater of these three amounts: percentage of land value (Base Rent, as described in section 8.1.1), percentage of gross annual income or a fixed amount of each installed megawatt capacity. If the proposed use is for a renewable energy facility, the proposer should detail the planned compensation to the DNRC for lease of the site based on:

1. Proposed Installation Fee based on nameplate capacity installed on the leased area.
   - A onetime fee, not to be less than $1,000 per MW
2. Minimum Base Rent as described in Section 8.1.1; AND
3. Proposed Annual Operating Fees:
   - Annual rental fee based on a percent of Gross Annual Revenues of renewable energy facilities located on Trust land. **Minimum of 3%.** Proposal should identify projected revenue; and
   - Annual rental fee based on a set dollar amount per megawatt installed capacity from energy generation facilities located on Trust land. **Minimum of $3,000/MW installed**.
4. Proposed Lease Option Fee
   - The minimum Lease Option Fee is an annual fee of 1.5% of the land value.

8.1.3 Communications Site Rental Fee

If the proposed use is for a communications site, the proposer should detail the planned compensation to the DNRC for lease of the site based on:

1. Annual rent based on number and types of users as calculated using the current BLM fee schedule.
   - Base fee established by use and population served.
   - Additional fee for additional users by use and population served.
2. Consult with Project Manager for an exact calculation by use.
3. Rental based on number and types of users shall not be less than the minimum provided in 77-1-905(2) and described in section 8.1.1.

8.2 Example Standard Rental Fee Schedule Table

The following example demonstrates the minimum Standard Rental Fee from section 8.1.1.

Lease Year	Calendar Period	*Adjustment Period Escalator*	Adjusted Base Rent
1	October 1 – September 30	0	$36,624.00

Supplemental Billing period	November 1 – February 28 (4 Months)	0	$12,040.77
2	March 1 – February 28	2%	$37,356.48
3	March 1 – February 28	2%	$38,103.61
4	March 1 – February 28	2%	$38,865.68
5	March 1 – February 28	2%	$39,643.00
6	March 1 – February 28	2%	$40,435.86
7	March 1 – February 28	2%	$41,244.57
8	March 1 – February 28	2%	$42,069.46
9	March 1 – February 28	2%	$42,910.85
10	March 1 – February 28	2%	$43,769.07
11	March 1 – February 28	2%	$44,644.45
12	March 1 – February 28	2%	$45,537.34
13	March 1 – February 28	2%	$46,448.09
14	March 1 – February 28	2%	$47,377.05
15	March 1 – February 28	2%	$48,324.59

CHAPTER 9 – PROPOSAL EVALUATION

9.1 Evaluation of Proposals

An evaluation committee will evaluate and score all responsive proposals based on stated criteria. The committee may come to a final score by consensus. Proposals may be deemed nonresponsive for failing to fully comply with any of the instructions from Chapter 1. A nonresponsive proposal will not be scored.

9.2 Minimum Score

There are 2,000 points available. Any proposal that fails to achieve 70% of the total available points, or 1,400 points will be eliminated from further consideration. A "fail" for any individual evaluation criteria may result in proposal disqualification at the discretion of the DNRC.

9.3 Scoring Guide

In awarding points to the evaluation criteria, the evaluation committee will consider the following guidelines:

Superior Response (95-100%): A superior response in an exceptional reply that completely and comprehensively meets all of the requirements of the RFP. In addition, the response may cover areas not originally addressed within the RFP and/or include additional information and recommendations that would prove both valuable and beneficial to the agency.

Good Response (75-94%): A good response clearly meets all the requirements of the RFP and demonstrates in an unambiguous and concise manner a thorough knowledge and understanding of the project with no deficiencies noted.

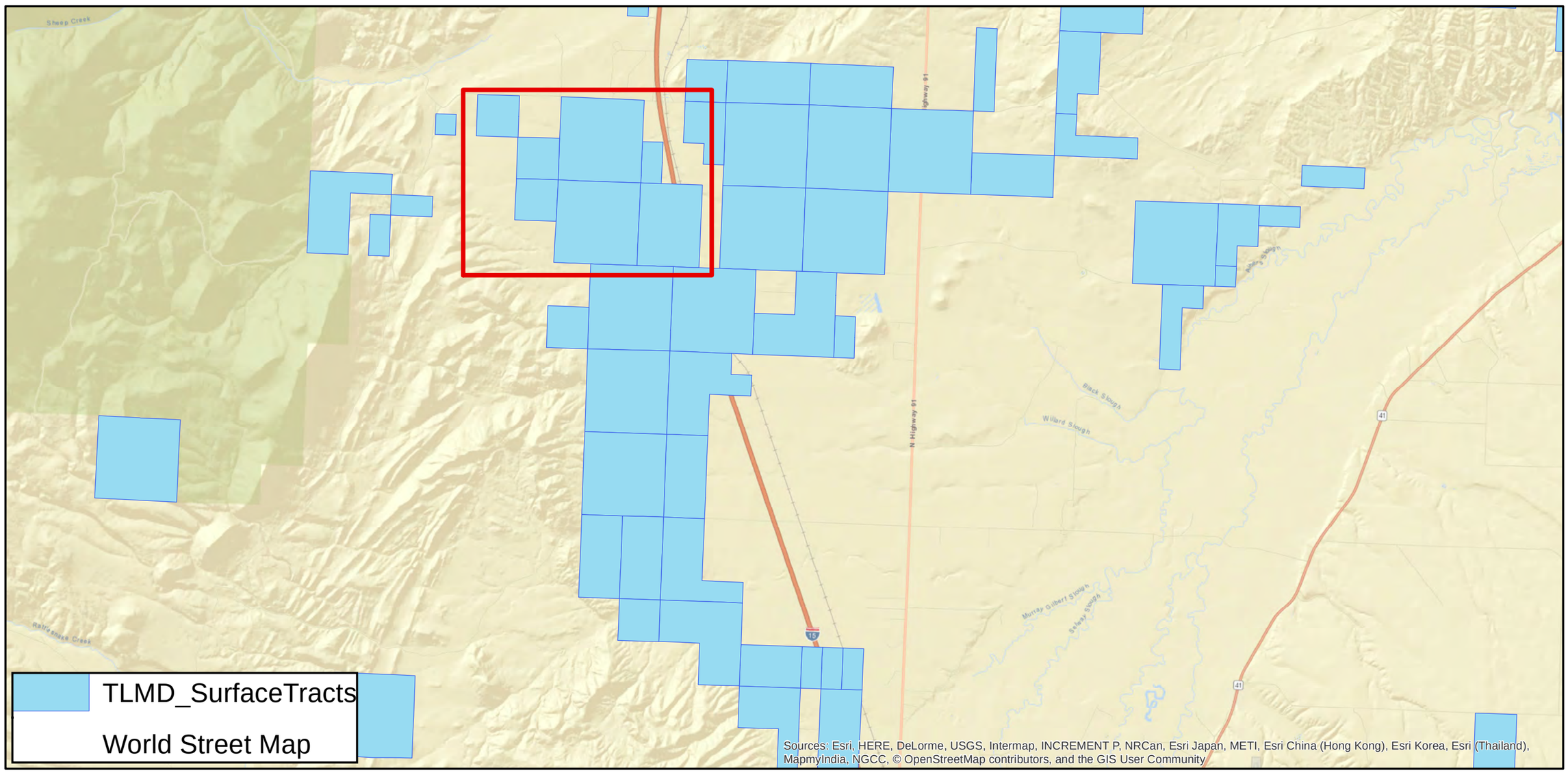
Fair Response (60-74%): A fair response minimally meets most requirements set forth in the RFP. The proposer demonstrates some ability to comply with guidelines and requirements of the project, but knowledge of the subject matter is limited.

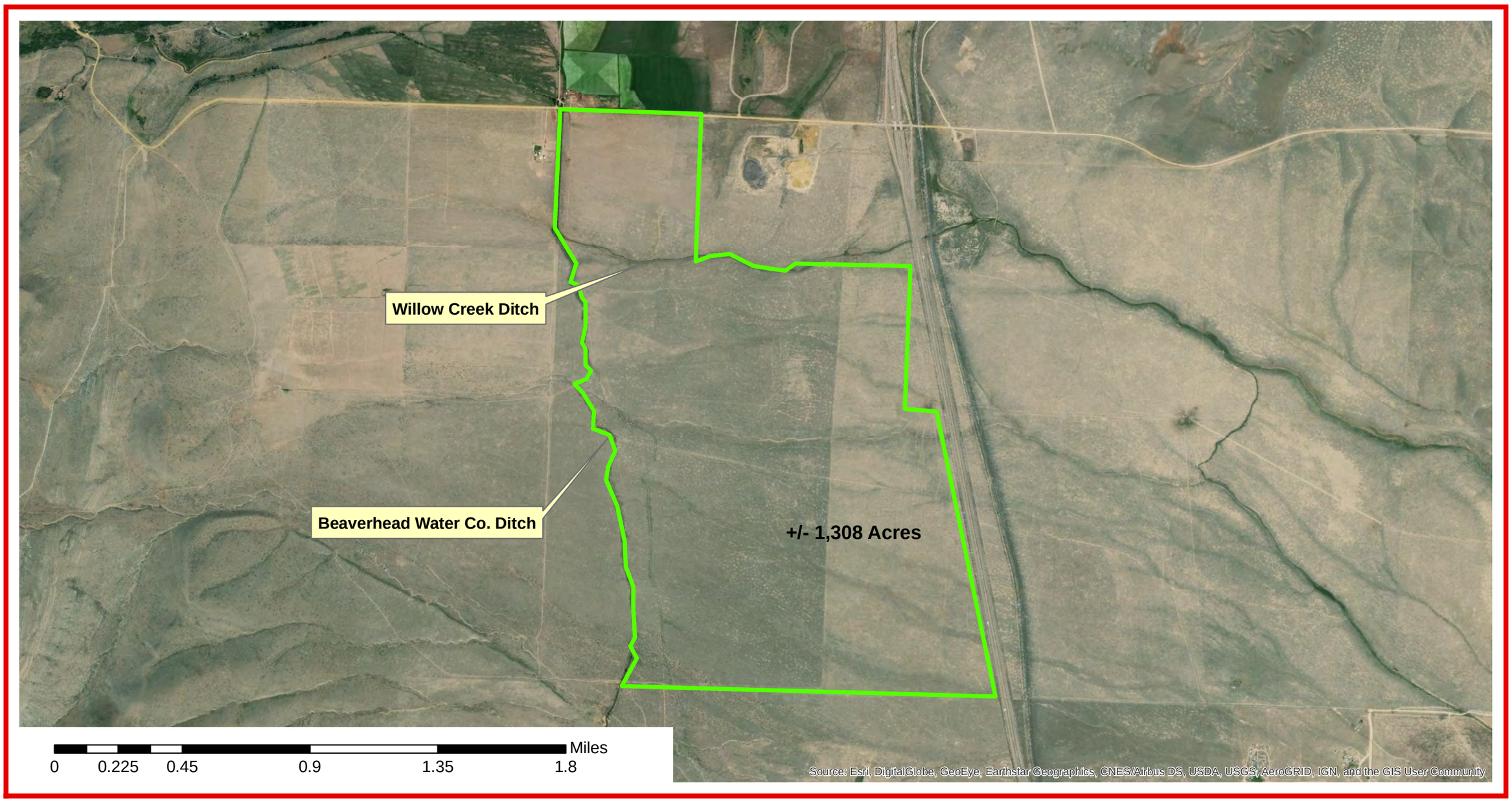
Failed Response (59% or Less): A failed response does not meet the requirements set forth in the RFP. The proposer has not demonstrated sufficient knowledge of the subject matter.

9.4 Evaluation Criteria

Required Items Scored as Responsive or Unresponsive		
Checklist		
$50 Application Fee		
10% Bid Deposit, cashier's check		
Transmittal Letter		
Conflict of Interest Statement		
Proposal - Possible 2200 Points		
Category	**Section of RFP**	**Point Value**
Compatibility with Lease Terms	4.7	300
Statement of Qualifications, Training, Experience, and Education	6.1	250
Financial Ability and Cash Flow Analysis	6.2	300
Summary of Proposal	7.1	350
Site Plan, Construction, Operation	7.2	300
Lease Fee	8.1	500
BONUS POINTS: Multiple Land-Use Management Strategy	7.1	200

APEX RFP - EXHIBIT A





MONTANA DNRC

Legend

Apex RFP

Trust Land Tracts

Inset Area from top map shown in bottom map

Location: Beaverhead County, MT
Date: 7-16-2018
Prepared By: REMB Staff Member
Projection: NAD83 Montana State Plane

N

EXHIBIT B –LEASE DOCUMENT
(ENERGY GENERATION LEASE TEMPLATE)

LESSEE NAME

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION, MONTANA

LEASE NO. XXXXX

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THIS COMMERCIAL LEASE AGREEMENT (this "Lease") is entered into as of the _____ day of _____, _____, (the "Commencement Date"), by and between the **State of Montana by and through its Board of Land Commissioners**, whose address is P.O. BOX 201601 Helena, MT 59620-1601 (hereinafter referred to as "Lessor"), and _____, whose address is_____ (hereinafter referred to as the "Lessee").

1. LEASE TERM AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Lease Number	Commencement Date	Term of Lease	Expiration Date

Land Located in _____ County

Description	Sec.	Twp.	Rge.	Acres

2. RENT SCHEDULE

The rental fee prior to the Operations Date will be the Base Rent. The rental fee for any year after the Operations Date shall be the greater of either: Base Rent; Percentage Rent; or Capacity Rent.

Lease Year	Description	Due Date Pre-Operations	Due Date Post-Operations	Base Rent (Minimum Rent)	Operating Fees	
					Percentage Rent	Capacity Rent
Installation Fees	One-time Fees	NA	45 days after Operations Date	NA	NA	NA
1	Reduced Rent – 12 Months	*Commencement Date*	NA		NA	NA
2	Reduced Rent – 12 Months	*Anniversary of Commencement*	NA		NA	NA
3	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
4	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
5	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
6	Paid in Arrears Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
7	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
8	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
9	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
10	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD

11	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
12	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
13	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
14	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD
15	Base Rent until Operations Date	*Anniversary of Commencement*	*March 1*		TBD	TBD

3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Lease is for the use of state trust land described in Section 1 of this Lease for the Operations of a wind farm and associated Wind Power Facilities.

4. DEFINITIONS..

In this Lease, the following defined terms have the meanings set forth for them below:

"Adjustment Period" is a multi-year lease period, as specified in the Base Rent Schedule outlined in Section 2 of this Lease, during which an Adjustment Period Escalator is applied annually to the prior year's Base Rent.

"Adjustment Period Escalator" is two percent compounded annually and applied to the prior year's Base Rent as demonstrated in the Base Rent Schedule. The Adjustment Period Escalator will not be applied to Base Rent for the First Lease Year or the first year that any Market Adjustment is applied.

"Base Rent" means the amount obtained by multiplying the Land Value by the applicable Lease Rate Percentage and as periodically adjusted by the Adjustment Period Escalator. The Base Rent is the minimum rental due annually.

"Capacity Rent" means the amount obtained by applying the Capacity Rent Rate per megawatt Installed Capacity on the Land.

"Capacity Rent Rate" means $x,xxx for the first Production Year, and increased by x percent each subsequent Production Year.

"Commencement Date" means the date this Lease goes into effect, legally binding the Lessor and Lessee to the terms of the Lease.

"Commercial Purpose" per MCA 77-1-902(3)(a) means an industrial enterprise, retail sales outlet, business and professional office building, warehouse, motel, hotel, hospitality enterprise, commercial or concentrated recreational use, multifamily residential development, and other similar business. Lessor acknowledges and deems that the use of the Land by Lessee for the purposes permitted and contemplated under this Lease constitutes a Commercial Purpose hereunder and under said statute.

"Default Rate" shall mean one percent compounded monthly.

"Department" means the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

"Environmental Claims" means any and all administrative, regulatory or judicial actions, suits, demands, demand letters, claims, liens, notices of non-compliance or violation, investigations or proceedings relating in any way to any Environmental Laws (hereafter, "Claims"), or any permit issued under any such Environmental Laws, including without limitation: (a) any and all Claims by governmental or regulatory authorities (acting within their authority with respect to the enforcement of Environmental Laws) for enforcement, cleanup, removal, response, remedial or other actions or damages pursuant to any applicable Environmental Laws; and (b) any and all Claims by any third party seeking damages, contribution, indemnification, cost recovery, compensation or injunctive relief resulting from Hazardous Substances or arising from alleged injury or threat of injury to health, safety, or the environment.

"Environmental Laws" means any existing and future Laws relating to, or imposing liability or standards of conduct concerning, the protection of human health, the environment or natural resources, or relating to the manufacture, processing, distribution, use, treatment, storage, disposal, transport, handling, Releases or threatened Releases of Hazardous Substances, including without limitation: (a) the Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act (CECRA), 75-10-701, et seq., MCA; (b) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, et seq.; (c) the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, as amended, 49 U.S.C. § 5101, et seq.; (d) the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6901, et seq.; (e) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1251, et seq.; (f) the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2601, et seq.; (g) the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401, et seq.; (h) the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f, et seq; and (i) the Major Facility Siting Act, Mont. Code Ann. §§ 75-20-101 et seq.

"Expiration Date" means the last day of the Term as provided in Section 1of this Lease.

"First Lease Year" means the first 12-month period starting on the Commencement Date.

"Foreclosure Transferee" means any foreclosure purchaser or other transferee of Lessee's interest under this Lease who acquires such interest at the sale conducted by virtue of, or otherwise in connection with, a foreclosure of any Leasehold Mortgage, or any conveyance in lieu of such foreclosure.

"Gross Revenues" for the purposes of calculating Percentage Rent, shall mean the aggregate total revenue actually received by Lessee during the applicable Production Year, from the sale of electrical energy (other than test electricity) generated from Wind Power Facilities located on the Land or owned or operated by Lessee and metered at the point of interconnection collectively with (and including) the Turbines located on the Land, as applicable, net of all sales and use taxes and wheeling, integration, transmission and/or congestion charges (if any) imposed thereon or attributable thereto. Gross Revenues will also include payments received by Lessee from: (a) the sale of, renewable energy credits or pollution credits or greenhouse gas reduction credits that directly result from, generation of electrical energy from such Operational Turbines; and (b) from any power purchaser, if such payments are made specifically in lieu of revenues from the normal operation of such Operational Turbines. Gross Revenues shall not include production tax credits, other tax benefits and credits, or any reimbursement thereof or a payment elected instead of production tax credits pursuant to Section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (or any extension or renewal thereof, or any successor program). If Lessee sells the production, energy, electricity or capacity from the Wind Power Facilities to a person or entity affiliated with, or in any way related to, Lessee, then "Gross Revenues" shall mean all consideration paid for said production, energy, electricity or capacity, regardless of time or place of receipt, under the first contract which is an arms' length bona fide transaction or **$_____** per megawatt-hour (provided that such dollar amount shall be increased annually after the Commencement Date on each anniversary thereof by two percent per year), whichever is greater. Gross Revenues shall be calculated on a cash basis as opposed to an accrual basis, meaning that Gross Revenues shall not include revenues that are not actually received during the billing period.

"Hazardous Substances" means any and all substances, materials or wastes that are declared to be, or defined or regulated as, hazardous or toxic in CECRA, §75-10-701, et seq., MCA, or under any Environmental Laws.

"Improvements" mean any structures or Wind Power Facilities installed or constructed by Lessee upon the Land.

"Installed Capacity" means the installed nameplate capacity of the energy generating equipment as determined by the manufacturer.

"Land" means the real property described in Section 1of this Lease.

"Land Value" means the full market value of the Land as determined by the applicable appraisal in accordance with any Market Adjustment. The original Land Value used to set the Base Rent and Reduced Rent is $1,273,100.

"Laws" means any and all present or future federal, state, or local laws (including common law), statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, decrees, or requirements of any and all governmental or quasi-governmental authorities having jurisdiction over the Land described in this Lease.

"Lease Rate Percentage" means a percentage that is applied to the Land Value to determine Base Rent (minimum rent) for a given year. The percentage may be modified at any scheduled Market Adjustment, and is not to be below that rate established per § 77-1-905, MCA. During the Reduced Rent Period, the Lease Rate Percentage shall be x percent of the Land Value. After the Reduced Rent Period, and through the end of the Term, the Lease Rate Percentage shall be x percent of the Land Value.

"Lease Year" means each calendar year during the Term, except that the first Lease Year shall be the First Lease Year, and unless the First Lease Year shall itself end on the last day of a calendar year, the Second Lease Year shall extend from the end of the First Lease Year until the end of the then current calendar year.

"Leasehold Mortgage" means any mortgage, deed of trust, assignment of rents, assignment of leases, security agreement or other hypothecating instrument (including any sale-leaseback arrangement documentation entered into for financing purposes) encumbering Lessee's interest under this Lease or the leasehold estate in the Premises hereby created, or any interest hereunder, Lessee's rents and other sums due from any Sublessees, Lessee's rights under Subleases and any other agreements executed in connection with Lessee's use or operation of the Premises, or Lessee's interest in any fixtures, machinery, equipment, Land, buildings, Improvements or other property constituting a part of the Premises.

"Leasehold Mortgagee" means the holder(s) of any promissory note or the obligee(s) of any other obligation secured by a Leasehold Mortgage.

"Lessee's Address" means:

Lessee's Address

"Lessor's Address" means:

Montana Department of Natural
Resources and Conservation
Attn: Real Estate Management Bureau Property Mgmt Section
1539 Eleventh Avenue

PO BOX 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

With copies to:
Montana Department of Natural
Resources and Conservation
Eastern Land Office
321 Main Street
Miles City, MT 59301

"Market Adjustment" means a review of current Base Rent factors, conducted at scheduled intervals during the term of the Lease, which will be used to determine the Base Rent Schedule for the next period. It includes consideration of the minimum Lease Rate Percentage at the time, as well as an appraisal process to update the Lease area Land Value. The Market Adjustment Schedule and Provisions are found in **Exhibit C**.

"Operations Date" means the date a power purchasing utility or other entity first receives power (other than Test Electricity) produced from any of the Turbines located on the Land or included within each Project that includes Turbines located on the Land. Lessee shall provide written notice to Lessor of the Operations Date, within 30 days of said date.

"Operations" means (a) determining the feasibility of wind energy conversion for any such Projects, including studies of wind speed, wind direction and other meteorological data; (b) converting wind energy into electrical energy, and collecting and transmitting the electrical energy so converted; (c) developing, constructing, reconstructing, erecting, installing, improving, replacing, relocating and removing from time to time, and using, maintaining, repairing, operating and monitoring, Wind Power Facilities; (d) vehicular and pedestrian ingress, egress and access to and from Wind Power Facilities, including by cranes and other construction equipment, over and across the Land by means of roads and lanes thereon if existing, or otherwise by such roads and ways, including but not limited to turning radius from public roads, if necessary, as Lessee or anyone else may construct from time to time; and (e) conducting surveys, tests and studies, including but not limited to biological, cultural, geotechnical and environmental, testing, drilling, and sampling and studies.

"Operational Turbine" means a Turbine that (a) has been installed and is producing electric energy (other than Test Electricity) pursuant to this Lease, and (b) which has not been removed by Lessee.

"Percentage Rent" means a share of Gross Revenues derived from Turbines located on the Land.

"Premises" means the Land and all Improvements.

"Production Year" means the 12 calendar month period during the Term beginning with the Operations Date and ending on December 31 of each year. The first Production Year may be less than a 12-month period.

"Project" means one or more Turbines and associated Wind Power Facilities that are constructed, installed and/or operated on the Land and/or on other real property in the vicinity of the Land, by or on behalf of Lessee, as an integrated energy generating and delivery system.

"Qualified Mortgagee" means any Leasehold Mortgagee who notifies Lessor in writing of its name, its address for notices, and the fact that it is a Leasehold Mortgagee and includes with such notice a copy of any Leasehold Mortgage by virtue of which it became a Leasehold Mortgagee.

"Reduced Rent" means rental starting on the Commencement Date and continuing through the Second Lease Year, for the amount equal to x percent of the Land Value, unless the Operations Date occurs prior to the end of the Second Lease Year.

"Release" means disposing, discharging, injecting, spilling, leaking, leaching, dumping, emitting, escaping, emptying, seeping, placing or the like, into or upon any land, surface water, groundwater or air, or otherwise entering into the environment.

"Rent" means Base Rent and all other amounts, including installation fees, required to be paid by Lessee under this Lease.

"Second Lease Year" means the period between the end of the First Lease Year and the last day of the current calendar year.

"Security Deposit" means a dollar amount equal to $10,000.00, to be held by Lessor as security for Lessee's performance of Lessee's obligations under this Lease, as herein provided, separate from the required reclamation bond.

"Sublease" means a sublease, license, concession, or other agreement (whether written or oral) according to which Lessee grants any party the right to use or possess all or any portion of the Premises, subject and subordinate to Lessee's retained interest in this Lease.

"Sublessee" means any party to whom Lessee grants the right to possess all or any portion of the Premises according to a Sublease.

"Substantial Damage" means harm to the Premises that renders the Premises inoperable for its intended use for more than 180 days.

"Substantial Taking" means a Taking of at least 15percent of the Land or Improvements which, in Lessee's and Lessor's reasonable judgment, will materially and adversely interfere with any development or use of the Premises that Lessee is then conducting or intends in good faith to conduct in the future.

"Taking" means the taking of all or any portion of the Premises as a result of the exercise of the power of eminent domain or condemnation for public or quasi-public use, or the sale or conveyance of all or part of the Premises under the threat of condemnation.

"Taking Date" means, with respect to any Taking, the date on which physical possession of the portion of the Premises that is the subject of such Taking is transferred to the condemning authority.

"Term" means the duration of this Lease as set forth in Section 1 of this document as the same may be extended or earlier terminated as herein provided.

"Test Electricity" means _____.

"Turbine(s)" means wind turbine generator(s).

"Turning Radius" means _____.

"Wind Power Facilities" means (a) Turbines, wind energy conversion systems and wind power generating facilities (including associated towers, foundations and other structures and equipment and other power generation facilities) to be operated in conjunction with wind turbine installations, in each case of any type

or technology; (b) transmission facilities, including overhead and underground transmission, distribution and collector lines, wires and cables, splice and junction boxes, switch panels, conduits, footings, foundations, towers, poles, crossarms, guy lines and anchors; (c) substations, interconnection and/or switching facilities, circuit breakers and transformers; (d) operational and maintenance building; (e) overhead and underground control, communications and radio relay systems and telecommunications equipment, including microwave towers, dishes, and control, fiber, wires, cables, conduit and poles; (f) meteorological towers, guy wires, braces and wind measurement equipment; (g) roads and erosion control facilities; (h) temporary laydown yards; (i) signs; (j) fences and other safety and protection facilities; and (k) other minor or incidental improvements, facilities, appliances, machinery and equipment associated with any of the foregoing.

5. EXHIBITS.

The Exhibits listed below are attached to and incorporated into this Lease. In the event of any inconsistency between such Exhibits and the terms and provisions of this Lease, the terms and provisions of the Lease will control. The Exhibits to this Lease are:

Exhibit A – Memorandum of Lease

Exhibit B – Approved Map

Exhibit C – Market Adjustment Schedule and Provisions

Exhibit D – Reclamation Plan

Exhibit E – Post-Construction Environmental Monitoring

[*Exhibit D and Exhibit E are dependent on the Lease Proposal and subsequent Environmental Analysis.*]

6. LEASE TERM, RENEWAL, TERMINATION, AND RELEASE.

6.1 Term.

Subject to the terms, covenants, conditions and provisions of this Lease, Lessor leases to Lessee and Lessee leases from Lessor the Land for the Term of thirty-five (35) years starting on the Commencement Date.

6.2 Renewal Option.

Unless at the time of renewal a default by Lessee (as defined below) shall be continuing following the expiration of any notice and cure period hereunder, Lessee may renew the Lease, extending the Term, for one period of ten (10) years and, thereafter, Lessee may renew this Lease, extending the Term, for a second period of ten (10) years. Lessee must provide Lessor written notice of Lessee's intention to renew the Lease delivered at least 12 months prior to the expiration of the original or extended term. The Base Rent will be adjusted at renewal according to the process outlined in Exhibit C.

6.3 Lessee Right to Terminate; Release.

Lessee shall have the right, in accordance with the terms of this Lease, at any time and from time to time during the Term, to surrender or terminate all or any portion of its right, title and interest in this Lease, provided that no partial surrender or termination of this Lease shall be for less than tracts of approximately forty (40) acres or a governmental lot corresponding to a quarter-quarter section, by giving Lessor not less than sixty (60) days written notice thereof and by executing and causing to be acknowledged and recorded a release describing with particularity the portion of such right, title or interest so released and the part of the Land to which it applies. Upon any such release by Lessee, the parties' respective rights and obligations hereunder (including as to

the rental payments) shall cease as to the portion of the Land or the right, title or interest herein as to which such release applies, but in no case shall surrender or termination be effective until Lessee shall have made complete restoration, reclamation and protection of the surface rights of the Land as may be determined by Lessor in accord with the terms of this Lease. This Lease and the parties' respective rights and obligations hereunder shall remain in full force and effect as to any right, title, and interest of Lessee not so released.

7. RIGHTS; COVENANTS; CONDITION OF PREMISES; RESERVATIONS.

7.1 Lessor's Rights.

The Land leased by this Lease shall be used and occupied for the Operations of Wind Power Facilities, as those terms are defined above. In addition:

a) Lessee shall have the exclusive right to develop and use the Land for wind energy purposes and to convert all of the wind resources of the Land; provided, however, that nothing expressly or impliedly contained in this Lease or represented to Lessee shall be construed as requiring Lessee to: (i) continue operation of any Wind Power Facilities from time to time located on the Land or elsewhere or (ii) generate or sell any minimum or maximum amount of electrical energy from the Land; and the decision when and to what extent to construct, install or operate Wind Power Facilities, or to generate or sell electrical energy, shall be solely in Lessee's discretion, subject to Section 20.1(b) of this Lease.

b) Lessee shall have an exclusive right to use, convert, maintain, and capture the free and unobstructed flow of wind over and across the Land.

c) Lessee shall have a non-exclusive right for audio, visual, view, reflective light, shadow flicker, noise, shadow and any other effects attributable to the Operations on the Land.

7.2 Lessor and Lessee Covenants.

Lessor covenants that Lessee will have quiet and peaceful possession of the Land subject only to the terms, conditions, and reservations of this Lease, including prior existing rights. Lessor covenants to observe and perform all of the terms, covenants, and conditions applicable to Lessor in this Lease. Lessor covenants and agrees that neither Lessor's activities nor those activities authorized by Lessor upon the Land will interfere with, impair or materially increase the cost of (i) the construction, installation, maintenance or operation of any Improvements or any Project, (ii) vehicular or pedestrian access to, or the transmission of energy from, the Land, any Improvements or any Project, (iii) any Operations of Lessee on the Land or with respect to any Project or (iv) the undertaking of any other activities or the free enjoyment and exercise of any other rights or benefits given to or permitted Lessee hereunder, or (v) in any other way, unreasonably interfere with the free and unobstructed flow of wind over and across the Land. Lessee covenants to pay the Rent when due, and to observe and perform all of the terms, covenants, and conditions applicable to Lessee in this Lease.

7.3 Condition of Land.

Except as expressly set forth in this Lease, Lessee accepts possession of the Land on the Commencement Date in the then-current condition on an "AS IS, WHERE IS, AND WITH ALL FAULTS" basis. Lessor makes, and Lessee affirms that Lessor has made, no representations or warranties of any kind whatsoever with regard to the condition of the land or its fitness or suitability for any particular purpose. Lessee acknowledges that it is solely responsible for performing its own due diligence and for becoming fully familiar with the condition of the Land and any applicable rights, reservations, restrictions, uses, or other conditions that might affect its development or use for a particular purpose.

7.4 Lessor Reservation of Rights.

Lessor reserves the following rights, subject to the terms and conditions of this Lease:

a) All rights and privileges of every kind and nature, except as are herein specifically granted;

b) The right to lease all or any portion of the Land to other persons for the purposes of exploring for and removing timber, minerals, ores, metals, coal, asphalt, oil, gas, sand, gravel, clay, quarry products, peat, geothermal resources, and all other naturally occurring resources, together with reasonable and adequate rights of entry and surface rights necessary and convenient to exercise such reserved rights. Such new grants shall be compatible with the rights and privileges granted to Lessee herein, and shall be subordinate to the rights of Lessee. Any new grant as described in this part (b) shall include provisions requiring that such third-party grantee indemnify Lessee for any and all damages caused to any structures or Wind Power Facilities placed upon the surface of the Land by Lessee subsequent to the Commencement Date;

c) The right at all times during the life of this Lease to go upon the Land and every part thereof for the purpose of inspecting same to ascertain if said Lessee and those holding thereunder by and from it are carrying out the terms, covenants, and agreements of this Lease;

d) The right at any time to grant an easement or right-of-way upon, over, under, though, or across all or any part of the Land for any ditch, reservoir, communication system, electric power line, pipeline, or other lawful purpose. Such new grants shall be compatible with the rights and privileges granted to Lessee herein, and shall be subordinate to the rights of Lessee. Any new grant of easement or right-of-way upon, over, or across the Land shall include provisions requiring that such third-party grantee reimburse Lessee for any and all damages caused to any structures or Wind Power Facilities placed upon the surface of the Land by Lessee subsequent to the Commencement Date; and

e) The right to use the Land, and grant permits or licenses to use the land, for other surface uses including agriculture, livestock grazing, ranching, and other purposes, provided, however, that within the setback area of the Turbines consisting of approximately a 250-foot diameter circle around each Turbine which shall be exclusive to Lessee, Lessor shall have no right to use the Land for any purposes except for the growing of crops, grazing of livestock, and pedestrian activities.

7.5 Reservation of Oil, Gas, and Minerals; Existing and Future Leases.

No transfer of mineral ownership, mineral rights, or pore space rights, including sand, gravel, scoria, or stone, is intended or granted to Lessee by or through this Lease. Rather, Lessor expressly excepts and reserves from this Lease all rights to all oil, gas, and other minerals in, on or under the Land and that might be produced or mined from the Land. Lessor reserves the right to develop the minerals on the Land owned by Lessor as long as such development (including any drilling or mining) does not interfere with Lessee's use of the Land with the exception of the prior rights of existing leases and does not materially diminish the amount of land surface of the Land available for the Lessee's Wind Power Facilities. Lessee acknowledges receipt of information from Lessor that there are existing mineral leases that cover part of the Land. Lessor has had and will have a full opportunity to investigate the status of all existing leases, and the past, present and any future (or potential) mining activities under the existing leases. Lessee enters into and accepts this Lease subject to the prior rights of existing leases. Lessor shall include as a term and condition to any conveyance on or after the Commencement Date of any interest in the mineral estate in the Land, including any lease thereof, that any owner or lessee, as applicable, of any mineral interest in the Land (a) shall use the surface of the Land only in a manner that reasonably accommodates Lessee's surface use as described herein and with due regard for the rights of Lessee with respect to the surface use, (b) shall make only such use of the surface of the Land as to avoid material impairment of Lessee's actual or anticipated surface use as described herein, and (c) shall limit any activity to occur only on those areas of the surface of the Land that are not closer to any wind turbine or proposed wind turbine of Lessee than the greater of (i) twenty (20) times the height of any building or other structure to be installed by such owner or lessee, as applicable, or (ii) two hundred and fifty (250) feet; provided, however, that temporary or permanent equipment for oil and gas exploration or production, such as drilling and workover rigs, may be installed on the Land so long as it is installed at least two hundred and fifty (250) feet from the base of any wind Turbine or proposed wind Turbine of Lessee. No minerals of any kind, including but not limited to sand, gravel, or

stone, found on the Land, shall be sold by the Lessee unless purchased from Lessor.

7.6 Reservation of Right to Evaluate Recreational Use.

As of the Commencement Date, the Land will be closed to general recreational use due to categorical exclusion for recreational use of state lands under an active commercial lease pursuant to ARM 36.25.150(1). However, the Department reserves the right to evaluate any petition to exclude a specific leased tract from such categorical exclusion pursuant to ARM 36.25.150(2). Lessor will notify the Lessee of a petition to re-open the Land and may restrict the recreational use that is permitted on the Land, including appropriate limitations on the discharge of firearms. Lessee shall post all such categorically closed Land at all customary access points with signs provided by the Department or duplicated from signs provided by the Department pursuant to ARM 36.25.150(3).

The ARM for recreational use and categorical exclusions is currently under review and is may be changed in the near future. This lease is subject to all laws and rules as they may be changed over time. If the referenced ARM language is modified prior to lease execution, this section may be modified accordingly.

8. RENT; INSTALLATION FEES; OTHER PAYMENT TERMS; AUDIT RIGHTS.

8.1 Base Rent and Operating Rent.

All Rent due to Lessor will be paid in lawful money of the United States of America, at Lessor's Address, post-marked on or before the due date, without notice or demand and without right of deduction, abatement, or setoff. Lessee shall provide written notice to Lessor of Operations Date, and shall pay to Lessor basic and operating rent, as follows:

a) Pre-Operations Date Rent. Lease fees due prior to the Operations Date shall be paid annually, in advance, on the Commencement Date, and each anniversary of the Commencement Date thereafter. The Lease fee for the First Lease Year must be paid through a cashier's check drawn on a Montana bank, or through a wire transfer. The lease fee shall be the Base Rent provided in the Rent Schedule in Section 2 of this Lease, including a Reduced Rent period of two (2) years, until the Operations Date. Should the Operations Date occur in the middle of a payment cycle under this subsection, a credit would be calculated and applied to the next invoice accordingly.

b) Post-Operations Date Rent. Following the Operations Date, the annual lease fee for each Production Year will be payable in arears, due on or before March 1anually. The annual amount due shall be the greater of the Base Rent, Capacity Rent, or Percentage Rent. Along with each payment of Rent under this subsection, Lessee shall deliver to Lessor a report detailing calculation data for Capacity Rent and Percentage Rent values for each year. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, specific information on installed capacity and Operational Turbines upon the Land by date, and Gross Revenue calculations, for the applicable Production Year upon the Land.

i) Base Rent. The amount obtained by multiplying the Land Value by the applicable Lease Rate Percentage and as periodically adjusted by the Adjustment Period Escalator. The Base Rent is the minimum rental due annually.

ii) Capacity Rent. Capacity Rent is calculated annually based on Operational Turbines located on the Land during the applicable Production Year. It is calculated as the product of the Capacity Rent Rate as multiplied by the number of megawatts of Installed Capacity of all Operational Turbines located on the Land during the applicable Production Year. The Capacity Rent Rate is $x,xxx for the first Production Year, and is increased by x percent annually each year thereafter.

iii) Percentage Rent. Percentage Rent is calculated annually based on Gross Revenues derived from Wind Power Facilities located on the Land. The percentage applied to the Gross Revenues to calculate the Percentage Rent is x percent for years one (1) through five (5); x percent for years six (6) through ten (10); x percent for years eleven (11) through fifteen (15); x percent for years sixteen (16) through twenty (20); and x percent for years twenty-one (21) through the remainder of the

lease term. It is the intent of the Lessor and the Lessee that Gross Revenues shall not include any revenues other than those set forth in the definition of Gross Revenues in this Lease.

8.2 Installation Fees.

Unless specified otherwise, all installation fees are due within forty-five (45) days after the Operations Date.

a) Turbine Capacity.

Lessee shall pay to Lessor a one-time installation fee equal to $x,xxx per megawatt of Installed Capacity for Turbines installed on the Land. Should the Project not be fully installed by Operations Date, payment must be made for the remaining Installed Capacity within sixty (60) days of operation as to the applicable Turbine. Additional installation fees will be due for replacement of any existing Turbines only if the installed capacity is increased, in which case Lessee shall pay for an installation fee for the difference between the originally Installed Capacity and the new Installed Capacity. This provision would be applicable when a Turbine is replaced due to damage or Lessee elects to repower the project.

b) Roads, Transmission Lines, and Underground Cabling.

Lessee shall pay to Lessor the following one-time installation fee payments:

i) New Roads: $x.00 per lineal foot of new roads constructed by or for Lessee on the Land;

ii) Improved Existing Roads: $x.00 per lineal foot of private roads existing on the Land as of the Commencement Date that are improved by or for Lessee;

iii) Transmission Lines: $x.00 per lineal foot of overhead transmission lines installed by or for Lessee on the Land; and

iv) Underground Cabling: $x.00 per lineal foot of underground cabling installed by or for Lessee on the Land.

Overhead or underground lines, cabling and wires (which shall be deemed to include any electrical lines, communications lines, fiber optic cables and grounding wires) that are bundled or co-located with, adjacent or parallel to, or stacked along with other overhead or underground lines, cabling and wires on an integrated set of poles or in a single trench shall be considered a single line, cable or wire for purposes of determining the total distance that such line, cable or wire traverses the Land and calculating the amount due hereunder. No additional installation fee payment shall be due upon any replacement of an existing road, transmission line, or underground cable upon the Land during the term of this Lease. In instances of co-located, parallel or adjacent roads, lines, or cables, the installation will be treated as a single installation and the highest applicable per lineal foot installation fee described within this subsection shall apply.

c) Meteorological Tower.

If a meteorological tower is installed by Lessee on the Land, Lessee shall pay to Lessor a one-time installation fee equal to $x,xxx per meteorological tower installed, payable within forty-five (45) days of the date the meteorological tower is installed. No additional installation fee payment shall be due upon any replacement of an existing meteorological tower during the term of this Lease.

d) Temporary Laydown Yard.

If a portion of the Land is used by Lessee as temporary laydown yard for temporary storage of Lessee's equipment and materials in connection with the construction of the Improvements, then Lessee shall pay to Lessor a one-time use fee equal to $xxx per acre occupied by such temporary laydown yard. No additional installation fee payment shall be due upon any replacement of such temporary laydown yard during the term of this Lease, except to the extent of any increase in occupied acreage resulting therefrom. Any temporary laydown yard shall be reclaimed to its original condition and reseeded with a seed mix approved by the Lessor within six (6) months of the completion of construction.

e) Turning Radius.

If a portion of the Land is used by Lessee as a Turning Radius area for Lessee's equipment in connection with the construction of the Improvements, then Lessee shall pay to Lessor a one-time use fee equal to $xxx per acre occupied by such turning radius. No additional installation fee payment shall be due upon any replacement of such turning radius during the term of this Lease, except to the extent of any

increase in occupied acreage resulting therefrom.

f) Substations and Operation and Maintenance Building.

Any substations, interconnection and/or switching facilities, or similar high voltage transmission facility or any operation and maintenance buildings installed on the Land shall require an installation fee of $x,xxx per acre occupied.

8.3 Additional Payment to State Agricultural and Grazing Lessees.

Lessee shall be liable and agrees to pay Lessor's surface lessee(s) for damage to improvements of such surface lessee(s), potentially including the breaking of land. Lessee agrees to work closely with the Department and any surface lessee to meet this requirement. This obligation shall not be interpreted to create third-party beneficiary rights in favor of such surface lessee.

8.4 Late Charge.

Lessee hereby acknowledges that late payment by Lessee to Lessor of Rent will cause Lessor to incur costs not contemplated by this Lease, the exact amount of which will be extremely difficult to ascertain. Accordingly, if Lessor does not receive the full amount of any Rent postmarked on or before the due date, Lessee shall pay a late charge to Lessor. The late charge will be an amount equal to ten percent of any overdue Rent for Lessor's cost of collecting and handling such late payment due as additional Rent. If payment of the Rent and late charge are not made in full within thirty (30) days of the due date, the outstanding balance of the unpaid Rent and the late fee shall accrue interest at the Default Rate. Interest on all delinquent amounts shall be calculated from the original due date to the date of payment. Lessor retains sole discretion to apply payments received to past due Rent, including any late charge(s) and interest, before applying a payment to current Rent. The parties hereby agree that such late charge represents a fair and reasonable estimate of the cost that Lessor will incur due to the late payment by Lessee.

8.5 Lien for Unpaid Rent.

Lessor shall have a lien upon all Lessee Improvements for payment of all Rent specified herein.

8.6 Additional Rent.

Lessor will not be required to pay any costs or expenses or provide any services in connection with Lessee's use of the Land. Accordingly, Lessee covenants and agrees to separately pay, in addition to the Rent, all utilities and services attributable to Lessee's use of the Land and all taxes and special assessments levied against Lessee's Improvements, whether assessed separately or not, as provided in Sections 11 and 12 below.

8.7 Most Favored Nations.

When constructed by Lessee, the Lessee Improvements will be a part of a single, integrated wind power Project. Lessor and Lessee agree that if Lessee has entered into, or hereafter enters into one or more wind energy agreements or similar instruments with other landowners in the Project area under which Lessee agrees to pay such other landowner(s): (a) a dollar amount per megawatt of installed capacity used to calculate fees similar to Capacity Rent, (b) a percentage amount used to calculate royalties similar to the Percentage Rent, (c) a dollar amount per acre used to calculate a minimum annual fee similar to Base Rent, or (d) installation fees similar to the installation fees described in Section 8.2 above, which are more favorable to such other landowner(s) than such amounts hereunder, then Lessee shall notify Lessor and prepare and deliver to Lessor for execution an amendment, which Lessor reserves the right to sign at its discretion, to this Lease modifying the payment terms hereunder to match those more-favorable corresponding terms. Lessee shall also submit payment, along with an accounting, to Lessor for the difference between the amount actually paid to date and the amount that would have been paid had the amended terms been in effect since the Commencement Date of the Lease.

8.8 Lessor Audit Rights.

Lessor shall have the right to observe and review a copy of Lessee's power purchase agreement at a convenient place somewhere within the state of Montana, as determined by Lessor, though Lessor shall not be a party to Lessee's negotiation for a power purchase agreement. Lessee shall, and shall require every affiliate of Lessee, any assignee and Sublessee to keep true, accurate, and complete books, records, accounts, contracts, and data sufficient to support and verify the calculation of all amounts due under this Lease for a period of eight years after such amounts are due. Lessee agrees that Lessor, or any representative of Lessor, legislative auditors, or the legislative fiscal analyst shall have the right at all reasonable times, and upon provision of reasonable notice, to inspect such books, accounts, contracts, records, documents, and any other relevant data in the possession or control of Lessee, any affiliate of Lessee, any assignee and/or any Sublessee, and pertaining to the calculation of amounts due under this Lease, including, without limitation, statements, documents, records, or other data from third parties which verify price paid for, or quantity of, electricity generated by the Project, as applicable. Documents may include information relating to the production of energy generated under this lease, the price thereof, or agreements thereto, as well as any other pertinent information reasonably necessary for any audit of operations to review Lessee's performance of its obligations under this Lease. Such records, reports, and other documents may be audited at any reasonable time at a convenient place somewhere within the State of Montana, as determined by Lessor. Lessee agrees that it shall require every affiliate, assignee, successor, and Sublessee to agree to and abide by the provisions of this section with respect to any contract relating to the purchase and/or sale of power generated from the Project.

If the audit determines that Rent has been underpaid, then Lessee shall pay Lessor the amount of the deficiency. Lessee shall pay Lessor any deficiency within thirty (30) days of final determination of the amount of the deficiency. If the audit determines that Rent has been overpaid, then the overpayment shall be credited against Lessee's next payment(s) due, or, if this Lease has expired, the overpayment shall be refunded to Lessee in accordance with Lessor's refund policy and procedures in place at the time the refund is due.

9. SITE PLAN; IMPROVEMENTS; RESTORATION.

9.1 Site Plan.

Within thirty (30) days after the appropriate governmental agency has approved plans for any construction or grading activities upon the Land, the Lessee shall provide the Lessor with a copy of the approved Site Plan. The Site Plan shall include a legal description and survey of the pertinent portion of the Land locating the Wind Power Facilities, utilities and grading, and a drawing of the elevation of the energy generating equipment and transmission facilities. The Site Plan shall also identify any and all planned improvements, including improvements necessary to calculate installation fees under this Lease.

9.2 Construction of Improvements and Alterations; Approval.

Lessor acknowledges Lessor's receipt and approval of Lessee's proposed location and site plan for Lessee's Improvements on the Land attached as **Exhibit B** hereto and made a part hereof (the "Approved Map"). Lessee may construct, operate, and maintain Improvements on the Land as approximately located on the Approved Map. Except for the Improvements depicted on the Approved Map, Lessee shall not construct, install, alter, or demolish and remove, any Improvements, on the Land without approval as shown through the prior written consent of Lessor, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and shall be deemed granted unless Lessor shall deliver to Lessee written objection, with reasonable detail as to the basis for Lessor's objection and identifying the Improvements that are objectionable, within thirty (30) days after Lessee's request for approval. In the event that Lessor provides such timely written objection, Lessor and Lessee shall thereafter meet and shall use diligent and good faith efforts to resolve Lessor's reasonable objections as promptly as possible and agree upon revisions to the site plan containing any changes so agreed upon by the parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, without additional approval, Lessee may make minor deviations and adjustments to the final siting of

Improvements as reasonably necessitated by concealed conditions or other construction or engineering considerations or requirements, provided that such minor deviations do not conflict with any findings in the Lessor's final environmental review document. All expenses of constructing, installing, maintaining, repairing, altering, or demolishing any Improvements shall be the sole responsibility of Lessee. Lessee shall at all times comply with all Laws, including any applicable city and state building codes and fire codes. Lessor will have the right to post notices of non-responsibility or similar notices on the Land in order to protect the Land against any liens resulting from such work.

When Lessee commences construction of Improvements on the Land, Lessee shall diligently endeavor to cause the Operations Date to occur within eighteen (18) months. Upon completion of the initial Improvements for the Land, Lessee shall deliver to Lessor an engineer's certificate for the Premises an electronic "as-built" survey of the Premises in both .shp (or other ArcGIS compatible file) and .pdf format. The Lessee shall thereafter furnish the Lessor with copies of any updated plans showing all changes and modifications thereto. The Lessee shall also furnish to the Lessor copies of certificates of occupancy or other similar documents issued to certify completion of construction in compliance with applicable requirements.

9.3 Title to Improvements.

During the Term, Lessee will be deemed to own, and hold title to all Improvements subject only to the Lessor's reversionary interest in the Improvements upon the expiration or termination of the Lease. Lessee, with the consent of Lessor, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, shall have the right to grant liens or other security interests in the Improvements.

Upon the expiration or earlier termination of the Lease, title to all Improvements then held by Lessee that remain upon the Land, except moveable personal property not constituting fixtures, will automatically vest in Lessor without representation or warranty per MCA §77-1-906(2).

9.4 Removal of Lessee Improvement and Restoration.

Prior to the expiration, surrender, or termination of this Lease, including early termination, whether as to the entire Land or only as to a part thereof, Lessee shall fulfill all obligations provided within the Reclamation Plan attached hereto as **Exhibit D**, as developed between Lessee and Lessor after completion of the appropriate environmental analysis document prior to executing this Lease. In addition to, and accordance with, the terms of the Reclamation Plan, Lessee shall (a) remove from the Land (or such part thereof, as applicable) any Improvements owned, installed or constructed by Lessee thereon, except for any roads that Lessor allows to remain on the Land; (b) leave the surface of the Land (or such part thereof, as applicable) free from debris; and (c) otherwise restore the portion of the Land affected by Lessee to a condition as close as practicable to the condition it was in before Lessee's use. Restoration includes, if applicable, the reseeding of affected areas with grasses and/or natural vegetation in accordance with reasonable and customary land care and maintenance standards in the area relating to weed control and the restoration of disturbed pastureland, as reasonably determined by Lessee upon consultation with county agricultural authorities and in coordination with Lessor, as to matters including seed types and seeding timing and processes, it being the intent that Lessor be able to utilize the Land in the same manner as before Lessee's use. Lessee shall be required to remove footings and foundations to the greater of (i) thirty-six (36) inches below the surface of the land or (ii) the depth (if any) required by applicable Law. Lessee shall provide Lessor with an electronic file, e.g. a shapefile, in the format chosen by the Lessor, which depicts the exact locations, including lat/long or UTM coordinates, of improvements that the Lessee does not entirely remove and intends to allow to revert to Lessor. The provisions of this paragraph shall survive the termination or cancellation of this Lease.

9.5 Secondary Uses and Post-Construction Restoration.

Lessee's use of the Land for Wind Power Facilities shall not unreasonably disturb grazing, agriculture,

or other permitted secondary uses of the Land, granted under one or more leases, licenses, or permits issued prior to the Commencement Date. Upon the completion of the construction of the Lessee Improvements, all Land disturbed by Lessee, its agents, contractors, and/or employees, and not required for continuing operations of the Wind Power Facilities, shall be restored to a condition and forage density reasonably similar to its original condition and forage density, consistent with the continued use of the Land pursuant to this Lease. Reclamation shall include, as reasonably required, leveling, terracing, mulching, and other reasonably necessary steps to prevent soil erosion, to ensure the establishment of suitable grasses and forbs, and to control noxious weeds and pests. After the completion of construction, no refuse, waste, or other litter of any kind shall be left on the Land by Lessee. This post-construction reclamation requirement is separate and apart from the requirements found in Section 9.4 above.

10. USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

10.1 Use and Compliance.

Lessee shall conduct its Operations under this Lease in a manner that does not reduce the value of the Land. The Lessee agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations in effect upon the Commencement Date of this Lease and those laws, rules, and regulations which may be enacted or adopted thereafter from time to time and which do not impair or impede the obligations of this Lease and which do not deprive the Lessee of an existing property right recognized by law. Lessee shall keep Lessee's Improvements in good repair, and pay all costs and expenses in connection therewith. Lessee shall not commit waste or permit impairment or deterioration of the Land, construction, installation, and removal of Improvements contemplated by this Lease, ordinary wear and tear, and damage by casualty and condemnation excepted. Excavations and Improvements shall be maintained in a safe condition to prevent injury to persons, livestock, and wildlife.

a) Noxious Weeds. The Lessee shall be responsible for controlling any noxious weeds introduced by Lessee's activity on the Premises or adjacent state-owned land. The Department Field Office that has jurisdiction for that locale must review the Lessee's methods of control. The Lessee shall comply with the Montana County Noxious Weed Management Act.

b) Construction Time Periods. All construction activities will occur during dry (non-saturated) or frozen soil conditions to minimize rutting and soil compaction after consultation with the Eastern Land Office of Lessor.

c) Resource Removal. Lessee will not cut or otherwise remove any timber or standing trees, or soil or other vegetation upon the Land unless authorized to do so by Lessor.

10.2 Compliance with Title 77, MCA.

Lessor and Lessee specifically acknowledge that the Land is state school trust land managed by the Montana Board of Land Commissioners and agree that this Lease is subject to the provisions of Title 77, Mont. Code Ann., and all associated Administrative Rules of Montana.

10.3 Post-Construction Environmental Monitoring and Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

Environmental analysis is required prior to execution of this Lease. Lessee understands that there may be additional environmental monitoring required from the Lessee after construction and/or operations, based on the project specifications and the environmental analysis conducted prior to lease execution. Any additional monitoring requirements will be made part of this Lease and attached hereto as **Exhibit E** prior to lease execution. Lessee agrees to pay all costs associated with such post-construction environmental monitoring and any MEPA as may be required.

10.4 Environmental Matters.

Lessor has made no representations to Lessee concerning the presence of toxic or Hazardous Substances within the definition of the CECRA on the Land. Lessee agrees as follows: Lessee will (a)

comply with all Environmental Laws applicable to the operation or use of the Land by Lessee or the construction, installation, alteration or demolition of any Improvements by Lessee; (b) use reasonable efforts to cause all Sublessees and other persons occupying the Land to comply with all Environmental Laws; (c) immediately pay or cause to be paid all costs and expenses incurred by Lessee in such compliance; and (d) keep or cause the Land to be kept free and clear of any liens arising from Lessee's use and occupancy of the Land imposed thereon pursuant to any Environmental Laws.

Lessee will not generate, use, treat, store, release or dispose of, or permit the generation, use, treatment, storage, Release or disposal of, any Hazardous Substances on the Land, or transport or permit the transportation of any Hazardous Substances to or from the Land, in each case in any quantity or manner which violates any Environmental Laws.

If Lessor has knowledge of any pending or threatened Environmental Claim against Lessee or the Land or has good reason to believe that Lessee or the Land are in violation of any Environmental Laws, at Lessor's written request (such request shall describe the basis for such request in reasonable detail), at any time and from time to time, Lessee will provide to Lessor an environmental site assessment report concerning the Land, prepared by an environmental consulting firm reasonably approved by Lessor, indicating the presence or absence of Hazardous Substances and the potential cost of any removal or remedial action in connection with any Hazardous Substances on the Land. Any such environmental site assessment report will be conducted at Lessee's sole cost and expense. If Lessee fails to deliver to Lessor any such environmental site assessment report within ninety (90) days after being requested to do so by Lessor pursuant to this Section, Lessor may obtain the same, and the cost of such assessment (together with interest thereon at the Default Rate) will be payable by Lessee on demand.

Lessor may, at its option, at any time and from time to time, obtain at its sole cost and expense an environmental site assessment report for the Land.

At its sole expense, Lessee will conduct any investigation, study, sampling or testing, and undertake any cleanup, removal, remedial or other action necessary to remove and clean up all Hazardous Substances from the Land, which are on the Land as a result of Lessee's activities under the Lease, which must be so removed or cleaned up in accordance with the requirements of any applicable Environmental Laws, to the reasonable satisfaction of a professional environmental consultant selected by Lessor, and in accordance with all such requirements and with orders and directives of all governmental authorities.

10.5 Survival.

The reimbursement obligations under this Section 10 will survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Lease.

11. UTILITIES; REPAIRS; WATER RIGHTS.

11.1 Installation and Repairs.

Lessee will install any water, sewer, storm water, electric, communication lines, natural gas lines, roads, sidewalks, and/or any other infrastructure as required for the development of the Land. Lessee will maintain, repair, replace and keep the Premises in reasonably good condition and repair.

11.2 Utilities.

Lessee will pay before delinquent all water, sewer, natural gas, electricity, telephone and any other utility charges related to the Premises, and arising by, through or under Lessee, including, without limitation, those which, if not paid, may be asserted as a lien or charge against the Land or Improvements.

11.3 Water Rights.

Any water right appropriated or secured on the Land by any individual or party for use on or off such Land shall be appropriated or secured in the name of the Lessor unless prior written permission to do otherwise is granted by the Lessor. Lessor shall be notified prior to such development or appropriation of water right.

12. TAXES.

12.1 Payment of Taxes.

Lessee will pay before delinquent, directly to the taxing authority, all taxes that accrue during, or are attributable to, any part of the Term and levied against Lessee's Improvements, including privilege taxes, also known as beneficial use taxes, per MCA 15-24-1203, if applicable and any other taxes levied by the State including electrical generation taxes listed in MCA 15-24-3004, et seq.

12.2 Special Assessments.

Lessee will pay all special assessments (i.e. SIDs, RIDs, etc.) and other like impositions levied, assessed, or attributable to the Land and Lessee's Improvements during the Term.

13. INSURANCE.

13.1 Types of Required Insurance.

Lessee shall procure and maintain, or cause one or more of its Sublessees to provide and keep in force and name Lessor as an additional insured, the following:

a) Commercial General Liability Insurance: For the duration of this Lease and until the Lessor certifies that reclamation is complete, Lessee shall purchase an maintain commercial general liability insurance within limits of $1,000,000 per occurrence / $2,000,000 aggregate per year protecting Lessee and the Lessor, their elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, against all claims for bodily injury, death, personal injury, property damage, contractual liability, violation of or non-compliance with any laws, regulations, or rules, and financial or other loss of any kind that in any way, directly or indirectly, arise or allegedly arise out of, in connection with, or on account of this Lease, any act or omission of Lessee, or any act or omission of Lessee's officers, agents, employees, or subcontractors. This provision is intended to require Lessee to purchase and maintain general liability insurance that includes protection for (a) Lessee's own acts or omissions, alleged acts or omissions, negligent conduct, and alleged negligent conduct, and (b) the Lessor's own acts or omissions, alleged acts or omissions, negligent conduct, and alleged negligent conduct.

b) Property Insurance. For the duration of this Lease and until the Lessor certifies that reclamation is complete, Lessee shall purchase a maintain all-risk fire and extended coverage property insurance (including standard extended endorsement perils, leakage from fire protective devices and other water damage) covering loss or damage to the Improvements and betterments on a full replacement cost basis, excluding existing architectural and engineering fees, undamaged excavation, footings and foundations.

c) Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance. For the duration of this Lease and until the Lessor certifies that reclamation is complete, Lessee shall either obtain and maintain an independent contractor exemption or shall purchase and maintain worker's compensation and employer's liability insurance covering Lessee and its employees and agents. Lessee shall also require each of its sub-contractors, for the duration of this Lease and until the Lessor certifies that reclamation is complete, to either obtain and maintain an independent contractor's exemption or to purchase and maintain workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance covering each sub-contractor and its employees and agents.

d) Environmental Impairment Liability Insurance. For the duration of this Lease and until the Lessor certifies that reclamation is complete, Lessee shall purchase and maintain environmental impairment liability insurance with limits of $1,000,000 per occurrence/ $2,000,000 aggregate per year protecting Lessee and the State, their elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, against all

claims for bodily injury, death, personal injury, property damage, contractual liability, violation of or non-compliance with any laws, regulations, or rules, and financial or other loss of any kind that in any way, directly or indirectly, arise or allegedly arise out of or in connection with this Lease. This provision is intended to require Lessee to purchase and maintain environmental impairment liability insurance that includes protection for (a) Lessee's own acts or omissions, alleged acts or omissions, negligent conduct, and alleged negligent conduct, and (b) the Lessor's own acts or omissions, alleged acts or omissions, negligent conduct, and alleged negligent conduct. If Lessee can obtain environmental impairment liability insurance only on a "claims made" basis, it shall obtain the longest retroactive date and extended reporting periods available.

e) Automobile Liability Insurance. For the duration of this Lease and until the Lessor certifies that reclamation is complete, Lessee shall purchase and maintain business automobile liability insurance covering any automobile - including all owned, hired and non-owned automobiles – used in connection with Lessee's business. Business automobile liability insurance shall have limits of not less than $500,000 per person, $1,000,000 per accident, and $100,000 for property damage. Lessee shall require each of its sub-contractors to purchase and maintain business automobile liability insurance with the same limits.

13.2 Terms of Insurance.

a) Each insurance policy required by this Lease shall be written for the limits of liability specified in this Lease or required by law, whichever coverage is greater.

b) Each insurance policy required by this Lease shall be written on an "occurrence" basis (not "claims made" basis), unless otherwise agreed to by subsequent written agreement between Lessee and Lessor.

c) Each insurance policy required by this Lease shall be maintained without interruption for the time periods required by this Lease and shall contain a provision that coverage will not be canceled, allowed to expire, changed, reduced, or restricted for any reason unless and until the insurance carrier that issued the policy has given Lessor at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of cancelation, expiration, change, reduction, or restriction of coverage.

d) Lessee is responsible for paying all premiums, deductibles, and retentions applicable to each insurance policy required by this Lease.

e) All insurance coverage of any kind purchased and maintained by Lessee or any sub-contractor as required by this Lease shall be purchased only from an insurance carrier currently authorized to do business in the State of Montana with an A. M. Best's rating of no less than A-.

f) All insurance coverage of any kind purchased and maintained by Lessee or any sub-contractor as required by this Lease shall be primary coverage. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained separately by Lessor, its officers, officials, employees, or volunteers shall be excess of the Lessee's or sub-contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

g) Both Lessee and Lessor shall be identified on the declaration pages of the general liability, property, environmental impairment liability, business automobile liability, and excess/umbrella policies required by this Lease as named insureds (Lessee being identified as the primary or first named insured). These insurance policies shall provide Lessor no less coverage than is provided to Lessee and shall contain no provision limiting Lessor's coverage to claims of vicarious or general supervisory liability.

h) Lessee, its sub-contractors, or the insurance carrier issuing all insurance policies required by this Lease must provide complete certified copies of all such policies (and associated declaration pages) to Lessor prior to execution of this Lease and as a necessary condition precedent to the formation, and enforceability of any provision, of this Lease.

i) Failure to obtain and maintain all required insurance shall be considered a material breach of this Lease. Lessee shall notify Lessor immediately if any insurance required by this Lease is canceled, expires, changes, is reduced, or restricted in coverage or if any insurer notifies Lessee of its intent to cancel, allow to expire, change, reduce, or restrict the coverage of such insurance.

j) The indemnity and insurance provisions of this Lease can be modified only by subsequent written agreement between Lessee and Lessor.

14. DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION.

In the event of any Substantial Damage arising from or relating to Lessee's activities on and us of the Land or any Improvements from any causes whatsoever, Lessee shall promptly give written notice thereof to Lessor. Lessee shall promptly repair or restore the Land or remove any damaged Improvements and restore the affected portion of the Land as nearly as possible to its condition immediately prior to such damage or destruction unless Lessor and Lessee mutually agree in writing that such repair and restoration is not feasible, in which event this Lease shall thereupon terminate upon Lessee's completion of a remediation plan developed by the Department pursuant to this Section. Lessee's duty to repair any damage or destruction of the Land, and to restore or remove any Improvements and to restore the Land, shall not be conditioned upon the availability of insurance proceeds from which the cost thereof may be paid. Unless this Lease is so terminated by mutual agreement as described in this Section 14, there shall be no abatement or reduction in Rent during such period of repair and restoration. If a Default by Lessee shall have occurred and be continuing at the time such damage or destruction occurs, Lessor may elect to terminate this Lease by providing written notice of such election to Lessee and Lessee shall forfeit the Security Deposit.

15. CONDEMNATION.

15.1 Notice.

If either Lessor or Lessee learns that all or any portion of the Premises has been or is proposed to be subjected to a Taking, such party will immediately notify the other of such Taking.

15.2 Termination Option on Substantial Taking.

If a Substantial Taking occurs during the Term, Lessee may, at its option, terminate this Lease by giving notice to Lessor on or before sixty (60) days after the Taking Date. In such event, this Lease will terminate thirty (30) days after the date of Lessee's notice of termination, and all Base Rent and other Rent will be apportioned to the date Lessee surrenders possession.

15.3 Continuation of Lease.

If a Taking occurs during the Term that is not a Substantial Taking, then this Lease will remain in full force and effect according to its terms, except that effective as of the Taking Date this Lease will terminate automatically as to the portion of the Premises that is the subject of such Taking and Base Rent will be adjusted to reflect the reduced Land remaining after the Taking. If a Substantial Taking occurs but Lessee does not exercise its termination option this Lease will remain in full force and effect according to its terms, except that effective as of the Taking Date this Lease will terminate automatically as to the portion of the Premises that is the subject of such Taking and Base Rent after the Taking Date will be adjusted to reflect the reduced Land remaining after the Taking.

15.4 Awards for Permanent Taking.

If there is compensation paid as a result of any Taking of the Land or Lessee's interest therein, then the award or compensation payable therefor, whether pursuant to a judgment, by agreement or otherwise, including any damages and interest (collectively, the "Award"), will be allocated as follows: (a) any portion of the Award attributable to the Taking of or injury to this Lease, or the Improvements shall be paid to Lessee, without reduction on account of any early termination effected due to the Taking; (b) any portion of the Award attributable to any cost or loss that Lessee may sustain in the removal and/or relocation of the Improvements, or Lessee's chattels and trade fixtures, shall be paid to Lessee; (c) any portion of the Award attributable to Lessee's anticipated or lost profits, to damages because of deterrent to Lessee's business or to any special damages of Lessee, shall be paid to Lessee; and (d) any portion of the Award attributable to the Taking of the fee, and all remaining amounts of the Award, shall be paid to Lessor.

15.5 Award for Temporary Taking.

If all or any portion of the Premises shall be taken for temporary use or occupancy, the foregoing provisions shall not apply and the Lessee shall continue to pay the full amount of Rent and the Lessee shall perform and observe all of the other terms, covenants, conditions and obligations of this Lease as though the temporary Taking had not occurred, subject to any order of the condemning authority. In the event of a temporary Taking, Lessee shall be entitled to receive the entire amount of the compensation award for such taking, unless the period of temporary use or occupancy shall extend beyond the Expiration Date in which case the compensation shall be apportioned between the Lessor and the Lessee as of the Expiration Date.

16. ASSIGNMENT, SUBLETTING AND FINANCING.

16.1 Assignment.

Lessee shall not assign its interest under this Lease, in whole or as to any part, without Lessor's prior written consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed if the proposed assignee is (a) affiliate of Lessee; (b) a present or future purchaser of electricity generated by the Improvements or engaged in the transmission or distribution of such electricity; (c) a party to a merger or reorganization transaction involving Lessee or a sale or transfer involving all or substantially all of Lessee's assets, including, but not limited to, the Improvements. For other such assignments, such consent may be determined in Lessor's sole and absolute discretion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Lessor's consent will not be required for any transfer of Lessee's interest under this Lease to a Foreclosure Transferee. Lessor will recognize any Foreclosure Transferee as a substitute Lessee under this Lease and will honor all rights and interest of such substitute Lessee as if the substitute Lessee was the initial Lessee under this Lease and such Foreclosure Transferee shall be bound by the terms and conditions of this Lease. Additionally, if the Foreclosure Transferee is a Qualified Mortgagee, such Qualified Mortgagee shall have the right to assign its interest under this Lease without the consent of Lessor and, upon such assignment, Lessor shall recognize the assignee as a substitute Lessee under this Lease and the Qualified Mortgagee shall be released of any further liability under the Lease. However, any assignee must be registered with the Montana Secretary of State to conduct business in the State of Montana. If Lessee assigns its rights in this Lease, as permitted or approved pursuant to this Section 16, then Lessee shall be relieved of all liabilities hereunder accruing from and after the date of such assignment, but only if (i) the assignor gives Lessor notice of the assignment, and where consent is required obtains Lessor's written consent; (ii) the assignment is expressly made subject to this Lease; (iii) the assignee expressly assumes Lessee's obligations which arise on or after the date of such assignment; and (iv) the assignee has the resources necessary to satisfy its obligations under this Lease. An assignment as described in this paragraph shall not relieve Lessee from any liability that arose prior to the assignment.

16.2 Subletting.

Lessee may sublease the Land or portions thereof in accordance with the terms of this Section. Lessee may grant possessory or use rights under its leasehold estate under this Lease, whether by sublease, license, or other instrument. Lessee shall not enter into any sublease without Lessor's prior written consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. Lessee shall inform Lessor of all proposed subleases by delivering a copy of the sublease to Lessor. No sublease shall be effective until a valid sublease agreement with a valid attornment provision is delivered to the Lessor, as hereinafter provided. All subleases shall include an attornment provision whereby upon the early termination of this Lease or repossession of the Land by Lessor, the Sublessee shall attorn to the Lessor as its landlord under all of the terms, covenants and conditions of this Lease (prorated for the actual amount of Land used by Sublessee) for the balance of the remaining Term, with the same force and effect as if Sublessee were the Lessee under this Lease. Such attornment shall be effective and self-operative immediately upon Lessee's termination, and each Sublessee subject thereto shall agree to execute, acknowledge, and deliver to Lessor any document that Lessor reasonably requests to confirm such attornment.

16.3 Financing.

a) Lessee's Right to Encumber. Throughout the Term, Lessee may from time to time, upon written notice to Lessor, but without having to secure Lessor's consent, execute and deliver one or more Leasehold Mortgages securing any indebtedness or other obligation of Lessee. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Lessee may execute and deliver Leasehold Mortgages to secure promissory notes evidencing construction, interim or permanent financing for the Land or Improvements, or to secure Lessee's obligations under development, reimbursement or other agreements with governmental or quasi-governmental entities, utility companies or other third parties concerning matters such as sales or property tax abatement or rebate programs, public improvements or utilities. A Qualified Leasehold Mortgagee shall have the absolute right to do one, some, or all of the following things without further consent from Lessor: (a) assign its Leasehold Mortgage; (b) enforce its Leasehold Mortgage; (c) acquire title to the leasehold estate under this Lease as a Foreclosure Transferee; (d) take possession of and operate the Land and the Improvements or any portion thereof in accordance with this Lease and perform any obligations to be performed by Lessee hereunder, or cause a receiver to be appointed to do so; (e) assign or transfer the leasehold estate under this Lease to a third party; or (f) exercise any rights of Lessee hereunder.

b) Qualified Mortgagees' Cure Rights. Each Qualified Mortgagee shall have the absolute right to substitute itself for Lessee and perform the duties of Lessee hereunder, including for purposes of curing any default or alleged default by Lessee, including any uncured Default by Lessee (as defined below). As a precondition to exercising any rights or remedies as a result of any default or alleged default by Lessee, Lessor shall deliver a duplicate copy of the applicable default notice to each Qualified Mortgagee concurrently with delivery of such notice to Lessee. In the event of an uncured Default by Lessee after delivery of such notice and the expiration of Lessee's cure period, but prior to terminating this Lease or exercising any other right or remedy hereunder for a Default by Lessee, Lessor will give each Qualified Mortgagee notice of such Default by Lessee, and afford it a period of: (a) Thirty (30) days after such notice is given in which to cure such Default by Lessee if such Default by Lessee is a failure to pay Rent; or (b) Sixty (60) days after such notice is given in which to cure such Default by Lessee if such Default by Lessee is not a failure to pay Rent; provided, however, that if such Default by Lessee is not a failure to pay Rent and is susceptible of cure by a Qualified Mortgagee, but cannot reasonably be cured within such 60-day period, then so long as any Qualified Mortgagee commences a cure within such 60-day period (and notifies Lessor that it has done so), its cure period will be extended for as long as reasonably necessary for it to diligently pursue the cure to completion. However, if such Default by Lessee is not a failure to pay Rent and is susceptible of cure by a Qualified Mortgagee, but cannot reasonably be cured until the Qualified Mortgagee obtains possession of the Land, then so long as any Qualified Mortgagee commences to obtain possession of the Land within such 60-day period (and notifies Lessor that it has done so), its cure period will be extended for as long as reasonably necessary for it to obtain possession of the Land, and then promptly commence and thereafter diligently pursue the cure to completion. If a Qualified Mortgagee is prohibited by any process or injunction issued by any court or by reason of any action of any court having jurisdiction over any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding involving Lessee from commencing or prosecuting the proceedings described above, then the 60-day period specified above for commencing such proceedings shall be extended for the period of such prohibition.

c) Prohibition against Mutual Rescission. No mutual termination, cancellation, rescission or modification of a material provision of this Lease by Lessor and Lessee will be effective unless and until the same is approved in writing by each Qualified Mortgagee. All rights and remedies of the Qualified Mortgagee hereunder will be cumulative with, in addition to, and non-exclusive of one another.

d) New Lease to Qualified Mortgagee. If this Lease (a) terminates because of Lessee's uncured Default by Lessee; or (b) is rejected or disaffirmed pursuant to bankruptcy law or any other law affecting creditors' rights, then, so long as a Qualified Mortgagee has cured any such monetary Default by Lessee, and is making commercially reasonable efforts to cure any such non-monetary Default by Lessee as provided herein, Lessor shall immediately, upon written request from such Qualified Mortgagee, received within ninety (90) days after any such event, without demanding additional consideration therefor, recognize the Qualified Mortgagee's interest in this Lease, or enter into a new lease in favor of such Qualified Mortgagee. The new lease shall: (i) contain the same agreements, terms, provisions and

limitations as this Lease (except for any requirements that have been fulfilled by Lessee prior to such termination, foreclosure, rejection or disaffirmance hereinafter referred to as a "Terminating Event"); (ii) be for a term commencing on the date of such Terminating Event, and continuing for the remaining Term before giving effect to such Terminating Event; (iii) contain a lease of the Land or such portion thereof as to which such Qualified Mortgagee held a Leasehold Mortgage on the date of such Terminating Event; (iv) enjoy the same priority as this Lease over any lien, encumbrance or other interest created by Lessor. At the option of the Qualified Mortgagee, the new lease may be executed by a designee of such Qualified Mortgagee, without the Qualified Mortgagee assuming the burdens and obligations of Lessee thereunder. The provisions of this paragraph shall survive the termination or cancellation of this Lease.

16.4 Assignment by Lessor.

If Lessor sells or otherwise transfers the Land, or if Lessor assigns its interest in this Lease, such purchaser, transferee or assignee thereof shall be deemed to have assumed Lessor's obligations hereunder which arise on or after the date of sale or transfer, and Lessor shall thereupon be relieved of all liabilities hereunder accruing from and after the date of such transfer or assignment, but this Lease shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

17. LEASE EXPIRATION.

17.1 Condition at End of Lease.

Upon the expiration or termination of this Lease, Lessee shall leave the Land in good condition and shall peaceably surrender the same to Lessor. Prior to expiration or termination, Lessee shall have removed its Improvements and personal property and shall have restored the Land according to the terms of this Lease. All Improvements and personal property remaining on the Land on the day after the expiration or termination Date, shall be conclusively deemed abandoned by the Lessee and shall become property of Lessor without further notice to Lessee.

17.2 Holding Over.

If the Premises are not surrendered on the Expiration Date Lessee shall immediately indemnify Lessor against loss or liability resulting from the delay by Lessee in so surrendering the Premises, including, without limitation, any claims made by any succeeding Lessee founded on such delay. Should the Lessee remain in possession of the Premises after the Expiration Date or termination without a written agreement providing for the same, Lessee will, at Lessor's option be deemed to be a Lessee from month to month, at a monthly Base Rent, payable in advance, equal to 150% of monthly Rent that were payable during the last full "Production Year" prior to the Expiration Date or termination of this Lease, and Lessee will be bound by all of the other terms, covenants and agreements of this Lease as the same may apply to a month-to-month tenancy.

18. LIENS AND ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATES.

18.1 Liens.

Lessee will not allow any liens to be recorded, filed, claimed, or asserted against the Land. In the event a lien is recorded, filed, claimed, or asserted, the Lessee will cause the same to be released or discharged within thirty (30) days thereafter. If the Lessee defaults under the foregoing covenant, then the Lessor may, upon written notice to Lessee, cause any such claimed lien to be released of record by bonding or payment or any other means available. All sums paid and costs and expenses incurred by the Lessor in connection therewith, together with interest on all such sums at the Default Rate from the date incurred until paid, will be due and owing from the Lessee to the Lessor upon demand therefore.

18.2 Lien Contests.

If Lessee has a good faith dispute as to any lien for which Lessee is responsible, Lessee may contest the

same by appropriate proceedings so long as Lessee bonds over the lien or deposits with Lessor security in an amount acceptable to Lessor (but in no event more than the amount required by applicable laws) which may be used by Lessor to release such lien and pay interest and costs if Lessee's contest is abandoned or is unsuccessful. Upon final determination of any permitted contest, Lessee will promptly pay any judgment rendered and cause the lien to be released.

18.3 Estoppel Certificates.

Lessor and Lessee agree that at any time, and on occasion (but on not less than ten (10) business days prior request by the other party), each party will execute, acknowledge and deliver to the other a certificate indicating any or all of the following: (a) the date on which the Term commenced and the date on which it is then scheduled to expire; (b) that this Lease is unmodified and in full force and effect (or, if there have been modifications, that this Lease is in full force and effect, as modified, and stating the date and nature of each modification); (c) the date, if any, through which Rent had been paid; (d) that no Default by Lessor or Default by Lessee exists which has not been cured, except as to defaults stated in such certificate; (e) that the responding party has no existing defenses or set-offs to enforcement of this Lease, except as specifically stated in such certificate; and (f) such other matters as may be reasonably requested by the requesting party. Any such certificate may be relied upon by the requesting party, and will be provided by the requesting party.

19. DEFAULTS BY LESSEE AND LESSOR'S REMEDIES.

19.1 Defaults by Lessee.

Each of the following events, which continue beyond any applicable notice and cure period, will constitute a "Default by Lessee" under this Lease:

a) Failure to Pay Rent. Lessee fails to pay any Base Rent or any other Rent, including late charges and interest accruing thereon, payable by Lessee under the terms of this Lease when due, and such failure continues for thirty (30) days after written notice from Lessor to Lessee of such failure;

b) Failure to Commence Construction. Lessee fails to commence construction of the Wind Power Facilities within ten (10) years of the Commencement Date;

c) Failure to Perform Other Obligations. Lessee breaches or fails to comply with any term, provision, or covenant of this Lease applicable to Lessee other than a covenant to pay Rent, and such breach or noncompliance continues for a period of thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from Lessor to Lessee; or, if such breach or noncompliance cannot be reasonably cured within such 30-day period, Lessee does not commence to cure such breach or noncompliance within such 30-day period and thereafter pursue such cure in good faith to completion;

d) Execution and Attachment against Lessee. Lessee's interest under this Lease or in the Premises is taken upon execution or by other process of law directed against Lessee, or is subject to any attachment by any creditor or claimant against Lessee and such attachment is not discharged or disposed of within thirty (30) days after levy; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply in the event of a foreclosure or transfer in lieu of foreclosure under a Leasehold Mortgage by a Qualified Mortgagee or to a transfer of Lessee's interest in this Lease and the Premises to a Foreclosure Transferee.

e) Fraud or Misrepresentation. Lessee's fraud or misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts relating to its procurement of this Lease, which if known to Lessor would have prevented its issuance of this Lease. Any material false certification or statement by Lessee in any other document or report required to be submitted under this Lease, which was known to be false by Lessee at the time it was made, shall, at the discretion of Lessor, be deemed a Default by Lessee under this Lease.

f) Unauthorized Use of Premises. Lessee's use, or knowledge or permission of someone else's use, of the Premises for any unlawful or unpermitted purpose, and such unlawful use continues for thirty (30) days after written notice from Lessor to Lessee to cease such use.

g) Abandonment or Non-operation. Lessee's express or implied abandonment of the Lease Premises or non-operation of Wind Power Facilities upon the Land for 12 consecutive months.

19.2 Lessor's Remedies.

Time is of the essence. If any Default by Lessee occurs, Lessor will have the right, at Lessor's election, then or at any later time while such Default by Lessee shall be continuing, to exercise any one or more of the remedies described below. Exercise of any of such remedies will not prevent the concurrent or subsequent exercise of any other remedy provided for in this Lease or otherwise available to Lessor at law or in equity.

19.3 Cure by Lessor.

In the event of a Default by Lessee, Lessor may, at Lessor's option but without obligation to do so, and without releasing Lessee from any obligations under this Lease, make any payment or take any action as Lessor deems necessary or desirable to cure any Default by Lessee in such manner and to such extent as Lessor in good faith deems necessary or desirable utilizing all appropriate care, provided that, prior to making any such payment or taking any such action, Lessor notifies Lessee in writing of Lessor's intention to do so and affords Lessee at least ten (10) days in which to make such payment or take such action. Lessee will pay Lessor, upon written demand, all advances, costs, and expenses of Lessor in connection with making any such payment or taking any such action, together with interest at the Default Rate, from the date of payment of any such advances, costs and expenses by Lessor.

a) Termination of Lease. In the event of a Default by Lessee, Lessor may terminate this Lease, effective at such time as may be specified by written notice to Lessee, and demand (and, if such demand is refused, recover) possession of the Premises from Lessee. In such event, Lessor will be entitled to recover from Lessee such damages as are allowable by applicable Laws.

b) Repossession and Reletting. In the event of a Default by Lessee, Lessor may reenter and take possession of all or any part of the Premises, without additional demand or notice, and repossess the same and expel Lessee and any party claiming by, through or under Lessee, and remove the effects of both, without being liable for prosecution for such action or being deemed guilty of any manner of trespass, and without prejudice to any remedies for arrears of Rent or right to bring any proceeding for breach of covenants or conditions. No such reentry or taking possession of the Premises by Lessor will be construed as an election by Lessor to terminate this Lease unless a notice of termination is given to Lessee. No notice from Lessor or notice given under a forcible entry and detainer statute or similar Laws will constitute an election by Lessor to terminate this Lease unless such notice specifically so states. Lessor reserves the right, following any reentry or reletting, to exercise its right to terminate this Lease by giving Lessee such notice, in which event the Lease will terminate as specified in such notice. After recovering possession of the Premises, Lessor will use reasonable efforts to relet the Premises on commercially reasonable terms and conditions. Lessor may make such repairs, alterations, or improvements as Lessor considers appropriate to accomplish such reletting, and Lessee will reimburse Lessor upon demand for all reasonable costs and expenses, which Lessor may incur in connection with such reletting. Lessor may collect and receive the rents for such reletting but Lessor will in no way be responsible or liable for any inability to relet the Premises or to collect any rent due upon such reletting. Regardless of Lessor's recovery of possession of the Premises, so long as this Lease is not terminated Lessee will continue to pay on the dates specified in this Lease, the Base Rent and other Rent which would be payable if such repossession had not occurred, less a credit for any payments actually received by Lessor through any reletting of the Premises.

c) Receiver. To properly effectuate the recovery of damages and other sums owing from Lessee to Lessor hereunder following a Default by Lessee, Lessor, in conjunction with any dispossession proceeding commenced pursuant to this Lease, may seek an appointment of a receiver by a court of competent jurisdiction to the extent provided for in and compliance with the requirements of Title 25, Chapter 14, Part 2, Montana Code Annotated, and Rule 66, Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, as they may be amended. In no event will Lessor be obligated to post a bond in connection with the appointment of a receiver.

d) Bankruptcy Relief. Nothing contained in this Lease will limit or prejudice Lessor's right to obtain adequate assurances of the Lessee's future performance under 11 USC Section 365, or other applicable laws, or any other legal rights, in any bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership, reorganization or dissolution proceeding.

20. DEFAULTS BY LESSOR AND LESSEE'S REMEDIES.

20.1 Defaults by Lessor.

Either of the following events, which continue beyond the applicable notice and cure period, will constitute a "Default by Lessor" under this Lease: (a) Lessor breaches or fails to comply with any provision of this Lease applicable to Lessor, and such breach or noncompliance continues for a period of thirty (30) days after notice thereof from Lessee to Lessor; or, (b) if such breach or noncompliance cannot be reasonably cured within such 30-day period and Lessor does not commence to cure such breach or noncompliance within such 30-day period and does not thereafter pursue such cure in good faith to completion.

20.2 Lessee's Remedies.

If any Default by Lessor occurs, Lessee will have the right, at Lessee's election, then or at any later time, to exercise the remedy described below. Exercise of such remedy will not prevent the concurrent or subsequent exercise of any other remedy otherwise available to Lessee at law or in equity. Lessee may, at Lessee's option but without obligation to do so, and without releasing Lessor from any obligations under this Lease, make any payment or take any action as Lessee deems necessary or desirable to cure any Default by Lessor in such manner and to such extent as Lessee in good faith deems necessary or desirable, provided that, prior to making any such payment or taking any such action, Lessee notifies Lessor of Lessee's intention to do so and affords Lessor at least ten (10) days in which to make such payment or take such action. Lessor will pay Lessee, upon demand, all advances, costs, and expenses of Lessee in connection with making any such payment or taking any such action, together with interest at the Default Rate, from the date of payment of any such advances, costs and expenses by Lessee.

21. SECURITY DEPOSIT.

To secure compliance with the terms of this Lease, on or before the Commencement Date, the Lessee shall deposit with Lessor a $10,000.00 Security Deposit upon lease execution, to be held by Lessor without interest. Lessor shall not be required to segregate the Security Deposit from other funds of Lessor. In the event Lessor assigns or transfers Lessor's interest in this Lease, Lessor shall transfer the Security Deposit to Lessor's successor-in-interest, whereupon Lessor shall be automatically deemed released from all liability in connection with the Security Deposit.

21.1 Security Deposit upon the Expiration Date.

Upon the Expiration Date of this Lease, Lessor may deduct the amount necessary from the Security Deposit to compensate Lessor for all tangible loss, injury, or deterioration of the Land caused by Lessee, or Lessee's guests, plus all unpaid Rent. Within sixty (60) days following Lessee's departure, Lessor will deliver to Lessee a written list of all deductions from the Security Deposit, and pay the remaining balance (if any) to Lessee. Said list and payment will be mailed to Lessee's Address of record unless Lessee provides Lessor of a new address in writing. If the Security Deposit is insufficient to satisfy the damages, and unpaid Rent, Lessor may collect the deficiency from Lessee.

21.2 Security Deposit upon Early Termination by Lessee.

Upon early termination of this Lease by Lessee for any reason other than a Taking or Substantial Damage, the parties acknowledge and agree that the Lessor will suffer damages the exact amount of which will be extremely difficult to ascertain. Accordingly, Lessee shall forfeit the entire amount of the Security Deposit and the parties hereby agree that such forfeiture represents a fair and reasonable estimate of the costs that Lessor will incur due to Lessee's early termination. If the Security Deposit is insufficient to satisfy the damages, and unpaid Rent, Lessor may collect the deficiency from Lessee.

21.3 Security Deposit upon Default of Lessee.

Upon a Default by Lessee, Lessor may, but without obligation to do so, or prejudice to or waiver of any other remedy available to Lessor, use or apply the Security Deposit in the manner and to the extent deemed appropriate or necessary by Lessor, in its sole discretion (an "Application") to remedy, cure, or otherwise address the Default by Lessee, which Application shall not cure or waive such event of Default, and shall be restored to its original amount upon request by Lessor.

22. DECOMISSIONING AND RECLAMATION PLAN AND BOND.

Prior to any construction on the Land, the Lessee shall furnish Lessor a good and sufficient corporate surety bond, or other security satisfactory to Lessor in the amount specified in the Reclamation Plan attached to this lease as **Exhibit D**. The bond shall secure the full performance by the Lessee of its decommissioning of the project and reclamation of the Land. The bond shall be in form and issued by a surety company acceptable to the Lessor. The bond shall be reviewed every five (5) years and may be adjusted by the Lessor to assure that reclamation will occur in accordance to the Reclamation Plan. A new or modified bond shall be delivered to the Lessor not less than thirty (30) days following Lessor's request for an additional bond. Upon any default by Lessee of its obligations hereunder, the bond may be revoked by Lessor, but such bond and Lessor's revocation of the bond shall not limit the liability or obligations of Lessee or the rights or remedies of Lessor. The Bond shall remain in effect until one (1) year after the expiration of the Lease Term, or one (1) year after cessation of operations for which the bond was intended, whichever is later, unless fully drawn upon earlier by Lessor or unless Lessor provides the issuer of the bond written notice authorizing the expiration of the bond. Upon (a) the expiration of the Lease Term, and (b) Lessee's compliance with its reclamation obligations, as reasonably determined by Lessor, Lessor shall be obligated to provide written notice to the issuer of the bond authorizing the termination of the bond. Any such written notice shall be provided by Lessor within ten (10) days of written request by Lessee. Lessee's failure to have a bond in effect at all times required by this Lease in the full amount required by Lessor shall constitute a material breach of this Lease unless otherwise agreed to by Lessor. The Lessee's obligation under this paragraph shall survive the termination of this Lease.

23. LESSEE LIABILITY; INDEMNIFICATION.

Lessee shall protect, defend, indemnify, and save harmless Lessor its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, while acting within the scope of their duties as such, from and against all claims, liabilities, demands, causes of action, judgments, penalties, fines, and losses, including all costs of defense and reasonable attorney fees, arising in favor of or asserted by Lessee's employees and agents, its subcontractors, its subcontractor's employees and agents, or third parties on account of property damage, personal injury, bodily injury, death, violation of or non-compliance with any laws, regulations, or rules, or financial or other loss of any kind that in any way, directly or indirectly, arise or allegedly arise out of, in connection with, or on account of this Lease, any act or omission of Lessee, or any act or omission of Lessee's officers, agents, employees, or subcontractors.

Lessee waives all claims, demands, causes of action, and recourse against Lessor, including claims of contribution or indemnity, arising in favor of Lessee on account of property damage, personal injury, bodily injury, death, violation of or non-compliance with any laws, regulations, or rules, or financial or other loss of any kind that in any way, directly or indirectly, arise or allegedly arise out of or in connection with, or on account of this Lease, any act or omission of Lessee, or any act or omission of Lessee's officers, agents, employees, or subcontractors.

24. UTILITY INSTALLATION

The Lessee, at its sole cost and expense, shall determine the availability of, and shall cause to be installed in, on, and about the Land, all facilities necessary to supply thereto all water, sewer, gas, electricity, telephone,

and other like services required in the Lessee's operations hereunder. The Lessee shall pay all connection or acreage assessments or charges levied by any public utility, agency, or municipality with respect to their services. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Lessee shall not enter into any contract or agreement with any city, county, or other governmental agency or body or public utility with reference to sewer lines or connections, water lines or connections, or street improvements relating to the Land without the prior written consent of the Lessor, which consent shall not reasonably be withheld.

25. MISCELLANEOUS

25.1 Force Majeure.

If performance of this Lease or any obligation hereunder is prevented or substantially restricted or interfered with by reason of an event of "Force Majeure" (defined below), the affected party, upon giving notice to the other party, shall be excused from such performance to the extent of and for the duration of such prevention, restriction, or interference. The affected party shall use reasonable efforts to avoid or remove such causes of nonperformance and shall immediately continue performance hereunder whenever such causes are removed. "Force Majeure" means fire, earthquake, flood, or other casualty or accident; war, civil strife or other violence; any law, order, proclamation, regulation, ordinance, action, demand or requirement of any governmental agency or utility; or any other act or condition beyond the reasonable control of a party hereto.

25.2 Notices.

All notices or other communications required or permitted under this Lease, including payments to Lessor, shall be in writing and shall be deemed properly given and received: (a) when actually given and received, if delivered in person to a party who acknowledges receipt in writing; or (b) one (1) business day after deposit with a private courier or overnight delivery service with a written acknowledgment of receipt; or (c) five (5) business days after the date postmarked on the cover of any correspondence or notice when deposited in the United States mail, certified - return receipt requested, with postage prepaid. All such notices shall be sent to the address shown in this Lease under the definitions of Lessee's Address and Lessor's Address. In the case of notices to a Qualified Mortgagee, to the address set forth in its most recent notice to Lessor. Any party may change its address for purposes of this paragraph by giving written notice of such change to the other parties in the manner provided in this paragraph.

25.3 Binding Effect.

Each of the provisions of this Lease will extend to bind or inure to the benefit of, as the case may be, Lessor and Lessee, and their respective heirs, successors, Sublessees, and assigns.

25.4 Entire Agreement; Modifications.

This Lease contains the entire agreement between the parties respecting its subject matter. Any agreement, understanding, representation, statement, promise, or inducement respecting the Premises, this Lease, or any other matter referenced herein not expressly set forth in this Lease or a subsequent writing signed by both parties is null and void. All modifications to this Lease must be in writing and signed by the Lessor and the Lessee. No purported modifications or amendments, including without limitation any oral agreement (even if supported by new consideration), course of conduct, or absence of a response to a unilateral communication, shall be binding on either party. If executed properly under this Section 25, modifications of this Lease do not need independent consideration to be legally enforceable.

25.5 Enforcement Expenses.

Regardless of any statutory rights, each party agrees to bear their own costs, charges and expenses, including the fees and out-of-pocket expenses of attorneys, agents and others retained, incurred in successfully enforcing the other party's obligations under this Lease.

25.6 No Waiver.

No waiver of any provision of this Lease will be implied by any failure of either party to enforce any remedy upon the violation of such provision, even if such violation is continued or repeated subsequently. No express waiver will affect any provision other than the one specified in such waiver, and that only for the time and in the manner specifically stated.

25.7 Captions.

The captions of sections are for convenience of reference only and will not be deemed to limit, construe, affect, or alter the meaning of such sections.

25.8 Severability.

If any provision of this Lease is declared void or unenforceable by a final judicial or administrative order, this Lease will continue in full force and effect, except that the void or unenforceable provision will be deemed deleted and replaced with a provision as similar in terms to such void or unenforceable provision as may be possible and be valid and enforceable.

25.9 Authority to Bind.

The individuals signing this Lease on behalf of Lessor and Lessee represent and warrant that they are empowered and duly authorized to bind Lessor or Lessee, as the case may be, to this Lease according to its terms.

25.10 Only Lessor/Lessee Relationship.

Lessor and Lessee agree that neither any provision of this Lease nor any act of the parties will be deemed to create any relationship between Lessor and Lessee other than the relationship of Lessor and Lessee.

25.11 Reasonableness.

At any time during this Lease, if either party is to use reasonable judgment, it shall be deemed to mean ordinary business judgment.

25.12 Governing Law; **Venue; Jurisdiction; Rule of Construction.**

This Lease will be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Montana. In the event of litigation concerning this Lease, venue shall be in the First Judicial District in and for the County of Lewis and Clark, Montana. The parties acknowledge and agree that they have each participated in the drafting of this Lease, and therefore, any rule of construction to the effect that ambiguities are to be resolved against the party drafting a contract shall not be employed in the interpretation of this Lease and is hereby waived.

25.13 Time of Essence.

Time is expressly declared to be of the essence of this Lease.

25.14 Broker.

Lessor represents and warrants that no broker or agent negotiated, or was instrumental in negotiating or consummating this Lease on behalf of Lessor. Lessee will indemnify and hold Lessor harmless from all damages paid or incurred by the Lessee from any claims asserted against Lessor by brokers or agents claiming through the Lessee.

25.15 Cooperation.

Lessor shall fully support and cooperate with Lessee in the conduct of its Operations and the exercise of its rights hereunder, and in carrying out and otherwise giving full force and effect to the purpose and intent of this Lease, including in Lessee's efforts to obtain from any governmental authority or any other person or

entity any environmental impact review, permit, entitlement, approval, authorization or other rights necessary or convenient in connection with Operations. Lessor shall have no monetary obligation in paying any permit fees or consultant charges associated with any governmental permits required.

25.16 Recording.

This Lease may not be recorded. Lessor and Lessee shall execute in recordable form and Lessee shall then record a memorandum of this Lease in the form attached to this Lease as **Exhibit A**. Following due and proper compliance with its rules, regulations, and procedures, Lessor shall consent to the recordation of the interest of an assignee in the Land and the recordation of any documents related to the Project.

25.17 Wind Energy Rights Act.

The parties acknowledge and agree that this Lease shall be construed and given effect in accordance with §70-17-401, MCA, et seq., the Montana Wind Energy Rights Act, to the extent applicable, as follows:

a) Term Specification. The parties acknowledge and agree that, if this Lease and/or the leasehold estate demised hereunder shall not have sooner expired or terminated in accordance with the terms hereof, the Term shall expire and terminate on [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx], said date defining the specified term and date of termination contemplated under§70-17-406(1)(d), MCA.

b) Tax Liability. Nothing in this Lease shall be construed as making Lessor liable, and Lessee shall be responsible, for any property tax associated with the Wind Power Facilities and the Projects or other equipment related to the development of the Wind Power Facilities and the Projects during the Term, as required under §70-17-406(1)(f), MCA.

c) Compliance with Laws. Lessee shall comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including those applicable to the Wind Power Facilities and the Projects, as required under §70-17-406(1)(h), MCA.

d) Remedies. Notwithstanding anything in this Section or this Lease to the contrary, to the extent that this Lease or any terms hereof should fail to be in accordance with the requirements set forth in §70-17-401, MCA, et seq., including specifically, but without limitation, §70-17-406(1), MCA, this Lease shall be construed as reformed to the minimum extent necessary so as to satisfy such requirements. The parties agree that, to the fullest extent permitted by law, reformation of this Lease shall be the sole and exclusive remedy of the parties in the event of any failure or alleged failure of this Lease to be in accordance with the foregoing requirements.

25.18 Confidentiality.

Lessee understands that, in accordance with Mont. Const. art. II, § 9, and Montana's public records laws, as such laws may be amended, that Lessor must disclose to the public upon request any records it receives from Lessee. Lessor shall not disclose any information it receives from Lessee that Lessee has previously identified as confidential and that the Lessor determines in its sole discretion is protected from mandatory public disclosure under a specific exemption to the Montana public records laws.

25.19 Survival of Terms, Conditions, Restrictions Reservations, and Covenants.

Any term, condition, restriction, reservation, or covenant that gives rise to any rights or claims of Lessor against Lessee shall be deemed to survive the termination, relinquishment, or abandonment of this Lease until all claims have been settled or resolved.

26. SIGNATURES

Having read and intending to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Lease, Lessor and Lessee have signed it as of the date first stated above.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:

By: _____
AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY NAME AND TITLE

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____ by LESSEE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY NAME as authorized signatory of xxxxxxxx,, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

_____
Notary Public

LESSOR, STATE OF MONTANA, DNRC:

By: _____

MIKE ATWOOD, CHIEF
REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT BUREAU

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____ by MIKE ATWOOD, CHIEF, REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT BUREAU, State of Montana, DNRC.

STATE OF MONTANA

COUNTY OF _____

_____

Notary Public

EXHIBIT A

Form of Memorandum – Placeholder

The placeholder will be replaced with the actual exhibit prior to lease signature.

EXHIBIT B

Approved Map

This exhibit is dependent on the lease proposal and subsequent Environmental Analysis.

The placeholder will be replaced with the actual exhibit prior to lease signature.

EXHIBIT C
MARKET ADJUSTMENT
SCHEDULE AND PROVISIONS

Base Rent for the Land shall be subject to Market Adjustments determined in accordance with these provisions. The Market Adjustments will apply in Lease Year 16, 31, 46, 61, 76 and 91. The process for the Market Adjustment will commence on the date that is 90 days after the first day of Lease Years 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, and 90 as applicable (the "Market Date").

The Market Adjustment will be determined by appraisal in accordance with the following provisions:

SELECTION OF APPRAISERS

Lessor and Lessee shall each hire an appraiser meeting the qualifications set forth in these provisions and shall instruct such appraiser to prepare an appraisal of the market value of the Land based upon the assumptions and meeting the requirements set forth these provisions. The appraiser so retained by Lessor is herein referred to as "Lessor's Appraiser," and the appraisal prepared by Lessor's Appraiser is herein referred to as "Lessor's Appraisal." The appraiser so retained by Lessee is herein referred to as "Lessee's Appraiser," and the appraisal prepared by Lessee's Appraiser is herein referred to as "Lessee's Appraisal." Each appraiser shall be subject to the approval of the other party, which approval will not be unreasonably withheld. Lessor's Appraiser and Lessee's Appraiser shall each be instructed to complete their respective appraisals and deliver their results to both Lessor and Lessee.

DETERMINATION OF BASE RENT

If the difference between the dollar amount of Lessor's Appraisal and the dollar amount of Lessee's Appraisal is equal to or less than 10%, then the Land Value shall be deemed to be the mathematical average of the two appraisals. See the following example of a scheduled Market Adjustment for a 50,000 square foot lease, at a 6% lease rate with two different appraisal values:

Lessor Appraisal = $6.50 per square foot

Lessee Appraisal = $6.10 per square foot

Land Value= $6.30 per square foot

New Annual Base Rent = $6.30 x 50,000 (or applicable square footage) x 6% (or applicable Lease Rate) = $18,900.

If the difference between the dollar amount of Lessor's Appraisal and the dollar amount of Lessee's Appraisal is greater than 10%, then:

a) Lessor and Lessee shall have 30 days from the Appraisal Report Date within which to agree upon the Land Value between the two appraisals; OR
b) If Lessor and Lessee are unable to agree on the Land Value within such 30 day period, then Lessor and Lessee shall jointly select a third appraiser to prepare an appraisal of the market value of the Land utilizing the same scope of work from the Lessor's Appraisal and the Lessee's Appraisal. The third appraiser shall be provided copies of both appraisals. The third appraisal shall be prepared and delivered to both Lessor and Lessee. The Land Value shall be the mathematical average of the two appraisals that are closest in dollar amount.

The Land Value determined in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall be binding and conclusive on the parties. Base Rent for the land, as adjusted by the Market Adjustment, shall be amount obtained by multiplying the Land Value by a percentage determined in accordance with 77-1-905, MCA, or the rate bid in the lease proposal, whichever is higher.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPRAISERS; REPLACEMENT

Each of Lessor's Appraiser, Lessee's Appraiser and any third appraiser must (a) have an MAI designation by the Appraisal Institute (or similar designation available on the Market Date); (b) be a Certified General Appraiser licensed in the State of Montana; and (c) have appraised similar types of uses in the three years prior to such Market Date. If any appraiser designated to serve in accordance with these provisions shall fail, refuse, or otherwise become unable to act, a new appraiser shall be appointed by the contracting party.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Lessor shall draw up the scope of work that meets the statutory requirements at the time, and supply the scope of work to all appraisers. All appraisals conducted during a Market Adjustment shall be subject to the same scope of work.

BRIEFING SESSION

Lessor's Appraiser and Lessee's Appraiser, should either so elect, shall be entitled to require a briefing session, to be held at Lessor's offices on a day and at a time mutually acceptable to Lessor, Lessee, Lessor's Appraiser and Lessee's Appraiser but in all events not earlier than 10 nor later than 15 days following the Market Date. At such session, both such appraisers shall be present and each shall be entitled to ask such questions of Lessor and Lessee.

PAYMENT

Lessor shall pay all costs, fees and expenses of Lessor's Appraiser, and Lessee shall pay all costs, fees and expenses of Lessee's Appraiser. If a third appraiser is required, Lessor and Lessee shall share equally all costs, fees and expenses of such third appraiser.

MARKET ADJUSTMENT SCHEDULE

Lease Year	**Schedule**
16	"Market Adjustment"
17 through 30	"Adjustment Period" applied to Base Rent resulting from previous Market Adjustment.
31	"Market Adjustment"
32 through 45	"Adjustment Period" applied to Base Rent resulting from previous Market Adjustment.
46	"Market Adjustment"
47 through 60	"Adjustment Period" applied to Base Rent resulting from previous Market Adjustment.
61	"Market Adjustment"
62 through 75	"Adjustment Period" applied to Base Rent resulting from previous Market Adjustment.
76	"Market Adjustment"
77 through 90	"Adjustment Period" applied to Base Rent resulting from previous Market Adjustment.
91	"Market Adjustment"
92 through 99	"Adjustment Period" applied to Base Rent resulting from previous Market Adjustment.

EXHIBIT D

Reclamation Plan

This exhibit is dependent on the lease proposal and subsequent Environmental Analysis.

The placeholder will be replaced with the actual exhibit prior to lease signature. The final exhibit will include specific reclamation requirements, including reclamation bond amount and review schedule.

EXHIBIT E

Post-Construction Environmental Monitoring

This exhibit is dependent on the lease proposal and subsequent Environmental Analysis.

The placeholder will be replaced with the actual exhibit prior to lease signature.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

OPTION TO LEASE AGREEMENT #xxx

This Option to Lease Agreement, is entered into this ____ Day of _____, 2018, by and between the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, whose address is P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620 (hereinafter referred to as the "Department") and _____, whose address is _____ (hereinafter referred to as the "Optionee").

GRANT OF OPTION: In consideration of an annual payment of **_____ and no/100 Dollars ($xxxxx)**, the Department grants to the Optionee a non-assignable option to lease premises described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto upon those terms and conditions as in the form, terms, and conditions of that lease agreement attached hereto as Exhibit "B", and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

This Option to Lease shall remain in effect from the date of this Option to Lease Agreement for two years until 12 noon, Mountain Time on the _____ Day of _____, 2019, at which time it will expire and terminate automatically.

PAYMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AND TAXES: Optionee will pay all special assessments (i.e. SIDs, RIDs, etc.) and other like impositions levied, assessed, or attributable to the lease premises described in Exhibit "A" during the Term. The Optionee will pay before delinquent, directly to the taxing authority, all Taxes that may accrue during or are attributable to any part of the Option term, including privilege taxes, also known as beneficial use taxes, per MCA 15-24-1203.

MANNER OF EXERCISE OF OPTION: The Optionee may exercise the option granted in the preceding paragraph at any time before the expiration of the option period by giving written notice of exercise of the option to the Department, at the address of the Department set out above. The notice of exercise of the option must specify the date upon which the lease is to commence, and such date must be within the term of the option. If no date is specified, the lease term will begin immediately as of the date of the notice of exercise of the option. The notice of exercise of option must be accompanied by a check for the full amount of one year's rent plus the amount of any security deposit specified in the lease agreement attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

If the option is exercised prior to the expiration of the term of this Option to Lease Agreement, rent paid for the unused portion of the option term will be applied to the first year rental payment of the lease agreement.

EXECUTION OF LEASE AGREEMENT: Upon receipt of the notice of exercise of lease option, the Department must prepare or cause to be prepared duplicate originals of the lease agreement which is attached as Exhibit "B". The Department will deliver these duplicate originals for execution to the Optionee within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Optionee's notice of exercise of the option. The Optionee must deliver the fully executed duplicate lease agreements to the Department within fourteen (14) days after receipt by the Optionee.

DUE DILIGENCE AUTHORIZED: Through the term of this Option to Lease, Optionee is permitted to access the option to lease premises for the limited purpose of conducting due diligence activities in support of project regulatory approval, in accordance with the following:

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES:

1) Data collection, survey, geotechnical sampling and environmental research in support of project design, review and land use regulatory approval.
2) The Optionee shall obtain prior written approval, not to be unreasonably withheld, from Department for the locations of all geotechnical borings. The boring sites shall be reclaimed pursuant to the Reclamation section listed below.

At all times the Optionee will maintain the area within the Option to Lease Premises in a neat and orderly manner and will allow no waste or debris to accumulate thereon.

ACCESS TIMING RESTRICTIONS: Optionee must contact Department for approval prior to accessing the option to lease premises during the option period. Department reserves the right to restrict or preclude any activity to the extent necessary for environmental concerns, safety, or other land management reasons, provided that Department shall make a good faith effort to ensure that Optionee's due diligence activities are reasonably accommodated during the Option term.

WEEDS: Optionee shall be responsible for controlling all noxious weeds on the Premises that were introduced by Optionee's activities thereon.

RECLAMATION: Optionee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent or minimize damage to natural (i.e., vegetation, soil, water, wildlife), and cultural resources within the areas of the Option to Lease. Optionee shall reclaim any disturbed areas in the option to lease premises to the specifications of Department. Such reclamation shall include, but not be limited to the elimination of all trace of disturbances, compaction, and movement of construction equipment. Optionee shall be required to reseed all disturbed areas with native species of grasses, unless other arrangements are agreed upon between Department and Optionee in writing. The seed mix used in the reclamation shall be approved in advance by the Kalispell Unit Office. When any action requires disturbance, all soil materials shall be salvaged, safeguarded from loss due to wind or water erosion or machinery activity, and shall be replaced on all disturbed areas.

LIABILITIES: Optionee hereby assumes all responsibility for all claims, damages, and lawsuits that may result from any and all damages, injury or death to persons and/or property that occur upon or about said land caused by or arising out of Optionee's use of the subject area hereunder. The Optionee further agrees that they will be responsible for any damage caused when entering, crossing or leaving state-owned subject land.

CONTINGENCY: All terms of this Option to Lease are contingent upon an environmental review conducted in compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and associated decision document signed by Department. Department will have the sole right to determine whether MEPA compliance shall consist of the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Department shall ultimately be responsible for signing a Record of Decision (ROD) or other appropriate decision document. Optionee and Department agree that the final decision for the MEPA may require modifications to the attached lease document to ensure compliance with the MEPA decision.

Date:_____ STATE OF MONTANA, MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

By:_____

Mike Atwood, Chief
Real Estate Management Bureau

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF MONTANA
County of Lewis and Clark

This instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, ____, by _____, as _____ of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

_____
(Notary Signature)

[SEAL]

Date:_____

OPTIONEE

By:_____

Its:_____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF _____

County of _____

This instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, ____, by _____, as _____ of Optionee, _____.

_____
(Notary Signature)

[SEAL]