#### BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION	)
FOR THE LOCATION APPROVAL OF THE	)
CORONA WIND NORTH PROJECT AND FOR THE	)
RIGHT-OF-WAY WIDTH APPROVAL PURSUANT	)
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY ACT, NMSA 1978, §62-9-	) Case No. 22-000UT
3	)
	)
DAHLIA WIND LLC, GALLINAS MOUNTAIN	)
WIND LLC, PASTURA WIND LLC, AND PATTERN	)
SC HOLDINGS LLC,	)
	)
	)
JOINT APPLICANTS.	)
	)

# JOINT APPLICATION FOR LOCATION SITE APPROVAL OF THE CORONA WIND NORTH PROJECT AND <u>REQUEST FOR RIGHT OF WAY WIDTH DETERMINATION</u>

Dahlia Wind LLC, El Corazon Wind LLC, Gallinas Mountain Wind LLC, Pastura Wind LLC, and Pattern S C Holdings LLC, (collectively, the "Joint Applicants") respectfully move the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission ("Commission") to approve this Joint Application to authorize the Joint Applicants to: a) locate wind turbines in the areas designated herein and more specifically referred to as the "Corona Wind North Generation"; b) locate an associated Gen-Tie System and related transmission facilities ("Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System") within the study area identified in this Joint Application; and, c) provide the necessary approval to the extent required by law, for the 180-foot right-of-way ("ROW") width for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System that is the subject of this Joint Application. The Corona Wind North Generation for which Commission approval is sought in this Joint Application is more specifically described in Exhibit JA-1, attached hereto. The Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System for which Commission approval is sought is more specifically described in Exhibits JA-2 and JA-3, attached hereto. Collectively, the Corona Wind North Generation and the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System are referred to as the "Corona Wind North Project."

### I. <u>BACKGROUND.</u>

### A. <u>THE JOINT APPLICANTS.</u>

1. The Joint Applicants are limited liability companies, organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. and are indirectly held subsidiaries of Pattern Energy Group 2 LP (together with Pattern Energy Group LP, referred to as "Pattern Energy"). Pattern Energy has developed and constructed wind projects of significant size and scope throughout the world, including in New Mexico.

2. The Joint Applicants and Pattern Energy are not public utilities under New Mexico law, NMSA 1978, §62-3-3(G), and none of these entities are regulated by the Commission.

## B. <u>THE CORONA NORTH WIND PROJECT.</u>

3. In this proceeding, the Joint Applicants propose to expand the wind generation in New Mexico which is, or will be, owned and operated by Pattern Energy and its affiliated entities, including the Joint Applicants. Previously Pattern Energy and related business entities have filed for location approval by the Commission in NMPRC Case Nos. 18-00065-UT, NMPRC Case No. 20-00008-UT, and NMPRC Case No. 21-00281-UT. Additionally, Pattern Energy and related entities have acquired and incorporated into their wind portfolio generation and associated transmission facilities for which location approval was granted to other developers in NMPRC Case No. 17-00221-UT and NMPRC Case No. 19-00139-UT. Collectively Pattern Energy and its related entities have applied for and, in all but one proceeding which is still pending, received location approval 3,200 MW of wind generation in the state of New Mexico, as well as for the location of the associated Gen-Tie Systems. The Corona Wind North Project will add 1500 MW to the portfolio, located on over 327,895 acres of land, including 210,419 acres of private land and 117,476 acres of state land in the Counties of Guadalupe, San Miguel and Torrance in New Mexico. The Joint Applicants are also proposing to obtain location approval for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System which will have a linear length of approximately 69.3 miles or 365,904 linear feet.

4. To produce the desired energy, it is anticipated that there will be up to 919 turbines with a nameplate capacity ranging from 2.6 MW to 4.5 MW. Each of the turbines will be connected by 34.5-kV collection lines to up to three new substations to be located within the Corona Wind North Project area. A final determination of the number of turbines to be used and the specific siting of turbines, collection lines, and substations will be made over time, and such information will be provided to the Commission, as has been Pattern Energy's practice and commitment for each of its wind projects for which location approval has been obtained from the Commission. The proposed inservice date for the Corona Wind North Project is the end of 2026.

5. An environmental analysis has been performed by the Joint Applicants' consultant, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., and is sponsored by and submitted as an exhibit to the Testimony of Nathan Olday. This comprehensive environmental analysis was performed throughout the entire area of the proposed Corona Wind North Generation and the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System. Collectively, the areas covered by the environmental analysis are referred to herein as the "Corona Wind North Project Study Area."

6. Although the Joint Applicants broadened the region which was evaluated as part of the environmental review, this Joint Application still identifies a narrower corridor which contains the proposed route ("Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System Study Corridor"). The Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System Study Corridor is generally one-mile wide, although it is narrower in some segments and wider in one segment where the proposed route would pass through the existing Avangrid El Cabo Wind Farm. Joint Applicants are requesting that the Commission approve the location of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System to be sited within the broader Corona Wind North Project Study Area because of the expanded scope of the environmental review and analysis performed over this broader region.

7. Joint Applicants have not identified any provision in statute or regulation which requires or limits the scope of the environmental review of a proposed transmission line to a narrow one-mile corridor. Joint Applicants believe that the time and expense of performing a detailed environmental review of the broader Corona Wind North Project Study Area is actually cost-effective to the extent that it provides more flexibility in making final siting decisions and eliminates the need for subsequent environmental analysis and possible delays caused by additional regulatory proceedings, if reasonable and prudent siting determinations require movement of the Corona Wind North Study Area.

8. Notwithstanding the detailed analysis performed for the entire Corona Wind North Project Study Area, the Joint Applicants are seeking, at a minimum, approval of the locations identified for the Corona Wind North Generation and the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System Study Corridor identified in Exhibits JA-1, JA-2 and JA-3 submitted with this Joint Application, with the realization that any subsequent adjustments required during the construction phase of the project as a result of unanticipated or previously unknown environmental issues will be identified for the Commission.

### II. LOCATION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS AND RIGHT-OF-WAY.

### A. LOCATION STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS, NMSA 1978, §62-9-3.

9. The purpose of NMSA 1978, §62-9-3 ("Siting Statute"), is to provide for the supervision and control by the Commission of the location within this state of new plants, facilities, and transmission lines for the generation and transmission of electricity for sale to the public. NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(A).

10. Under the Siting Statute, the Commission may approve an application without a formal hearing if no protests are filed within sixty (60) days of the date the notice is given. NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(K). An application is deemed to be approved if the Commission fails to issue an order within six (6) months after filing. NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(L).

11. The Joint Applicants respectfully request that the Commission proceed to an expedited decision without a hearing if no valid protests are filed within sixty (60) days of the date of publication notice. A proposed form of notice is attached as Exhibit JA-4 to this Joint Application.

### 1. <u>GENERATION PLANT.</u>

12. The Siting Statute provides the Commission with specific and limited jurisdiction over the siting of power plants within the State of New Mexico with a "capacity of three hundred thousand kilowatts [300 MW] or more for the generation of electricity for the sale to the public within or without [the state of New Mexico.]" NMSA 1978, §62 -9-3(B). With respect to the various projects located in New Mexico, the Joint Applicants have always aggregated the capacity of the proposed wind turbines in concluding that the Commission may have jurisdiction to approve the location of these individual generation facilities as a single generation plant.

13. The Commission is required to approve an application for the location of the generating plant unless it finds that the operations of the facilities for which approval is sought will not comply with all applicable existing air and water pollution control standards and regulations. NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(E). However, the Commission is precluded by the Siting Statute from requiring "compliance with performance standards other than those established by the agency.

14. The Joint Applicants have evaluated the air and water pollution control standards in connection with the proposed Corona Wind North Project and have determined that the Corona Wind North Project will comply with these standards. Furthermore, as was the case in in NMPRC Case Nos. 18-00065-UT, 20-00008-UT and 21-000281-UT, each of which involved Pattern Energy and some of the

other Joint Applicants in this filing, the Joint Applicants shall voluntarily implement and extend the best management practices ("BMPs") and other protection measures addressing sensitive resources as identified in the Commission's standard of review for location control of transmission facilities to the entire Corona Wind North Project Study Area and not limit such measures to only the areas where the transmission facilities would be located. For more detailed information, please refer to the Direct Testimonies of Nathan Olday and Adam Cernea Clark and the environmental report performed by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company Inc., which is attached as Exhibit NO-1 to the Direct Testimony of Nathan Olday ("Environmental Report").

## 2. TRANSMISSION LINES.

15. The Siting Statute gives the Commission jurisdiction over "transmission lines in connection with ... a [generating] plant, on a location within [New Mexico] ...." NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(B). For purposes of this statute, transmission line "means any electric transmission line and associated facilities designed for or capable of operations at a nominal voltage of two hundred thirty kilovolts or more...." *Id*.

16. The Commission is required to approve an application for the location of transmission lines unless it finds the location will unduly impair important environmental values or that the operation of the proposed transmission lines will unduly impair power system reliability. NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(F). Past Commission decisions have held that environmental values will not be unduly impaired if the requirements under Commission Rule 17.9.592.10 NMAC are met. *In the Matter of Sw. Pub. Serv. Company's Application Requesting: (1) Issuance of A Certificate of Pub. Convenience & Necessity Authorizing Constr. & Operation of A 345-Kv Transmission Line & Associated Facilities in Eddy & Lea Ctys., New Mexico; (2) Approval of the Location of the 345-Kv Transmission Line; (3) Determination of Right of Way Width; & (4) Authorization to Accrue an Allowance for Funds Used During Constr. for the Transmission Line & Associated Facilities Sw. Pub. Serv. Company,* 

Case No. 16-00126-UT, 2016 WL 6678978, at 6 (Nov. 9, 2016); In the Matter of Sw. Pub. Serv. Co.'s Application for: (1) Issuance of A Certificate of Pub. Convenience & Necessity Authorizing Constr. & Operation of Two 230 Kv Transmission Lines & Associated Substation Facilities in Curry & Roosevelt Ctys., New Mexico; (2) Approval of the Location of the 230 Kv Transmission Lines & Associated Facilities; & (3) Authorizing Accrual of an Allowance for Funds Used During Constr. For the Transmission and Associated Facilities Sw. Pub. Serv. Co.'s Applicant, Case No. 12-00027-UT, 2012 WL 10937016, at 1 (June 20, 2012). The operation of the proposed transmission lines will not impair power system reliability.

17. The Commission also has the discretion to consider certain additional factors under NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(M) to determine if a proposed transmission line unduly impairs important environmental values. These additional factors are:

- existing plans of the state, local government, and private entities for other developments at or in the vicinity of the proposed location: fish, wildlife, and plant life;
- (2) noise emission levels and interference with communication signals;
- (3) the proposed availability of the location to the public for recreational purposes, consistent with safety considerations and regulations;
- (4) existing scenic areas, historic, cultural or religious sites and structures or archaeological sites at or in the vicinity of the proposed location; and;
- (5) additional factors that require consideration under applicable federal and state laws pertaining to the location.

18. The Joint Applicants have evaluated these factors in connection with the proposed Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System and have determined that the statutory and regulatory requirements for siting a transmission line or associated facilities are or will be satisfied.

#### 3. <u>ROW WIDTH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS, NMSA 1978, §62-9-3.2.</u>

19. NMSA 1978, §62-9-3.2 ("ROW Statute") provides that "unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, no person shall begin the construction of any transmission line requiring a width for ROW of greater than one hundred feet without first obtaining from the Commission a determination of the necessary right-of-way width to construct and maintain the transmission line." NMSA 1978, §62-9-3.2(A). The Joint Applicants have included a request for a 180-foot ROW width approval with this Joint Application to assure that the Joint Application is deemed complete to the extent that the Commission determines that ROW width approval is necessary for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System.

20. Under the ROW Statute, "the applicant shall cause notice of the time and place of hearing on the application for the [ROW] determination to any owner of property proposed to be taken." NMSA 1978, §62-9-3.2(D). Notice shall be given by first class mail at least twenty (20) days before the time set for hearing, and the applicant shall file proof of notice on or before the hearing. *Id.* 

21. The ROW Statute further provides that the Commission shall act upon the application, after public hearing, within six (6) months of the date the application was filed, and failure to do so is deemed to be approval of the application. NMSA 1978, §§62-9-3.2(E) and (F).

# 4. <u>REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, COMMISSION RULE 17.9.592</u> <u>NMAC.</u>

22. The Commission's Location of Large Capacity Plants and Transmission Lines Rule 17.9.592 NMAC ("Location Rule") states the requirements for an application for location approval of a large capacity generation plant and a transmission line, pursuant to the Siting Statute, NMSA 1978, §62-9-3. The Joint Application, including the supporting testimonies and exhibits, provide all the required information for Commission review.

#### 5. <u>GENERATION PLANT—CORONA WIND NORTH GENERATION.</u>

23. Location Rule 17.9.592.9 NMAC for generating facilities ("Generation Location Rule") lists the requirements for a generating plant capable of operation at a capacity of 300 MW or greater:

A. a description of the large capacity plant, including, but not limited to:

- a legal description of the property upon which the large capacity plant will be located;
- (2) the size of the large capacity plant;
- (3) fuel specifications including, but not limited to, the type of fuel to be used; and,
- (4) a map showing the location of the large capacity plant;

B. identification of all applicable land use statutes and administrative regulations and proof of compliance or a statement of noncompliance with each;

C. identification of all applicable air and water pollution control standards and regulations and proof of compliance or a statement of noncompliance with each;

D. all written air and water quality authorizations necessary to begin construction of the large capacity plant;

E. all written air and water quality authorizations necessary to begin operation of the large capacity plant; if any such authorization cannot be obtained until after construction of the large capacity plant, proof of application for such authorization;

F. the expected date that the large capacity plant will be online;

G. proof that the application has been served on all local authorities in each county and township where the large capacity plant will be located, the New Mexico attorney general, the New Mexico environment department, and the New Mexico State Engineer; H. any other information, including photographs, which the applicant wishes to submit in support of the application.

# 6. <u>TRANSMISSION LINES—CORONA WIND NORTH GEN-TIE</u> <u>SYSTEM</u>

24. Under Commission Rule 17.9.592.10 NMAC for approval of the location of transmission lines ("Transmission Location Rule"), an applicant must file an application supported by written testimony and exhibits that contain the following information for transmission lines for which location approval is required:

A. a description of the transmission line including, but not limited to:

- (1) the location of the transmission line;
- (2) identification of the ownership of the land (such as private, bureau of land management, United States Forest Service, state trust, etc.) the transmission line will cross and the number of feet the transmission line will cross over each owner's land;
- (3) the total length of each transmission line in feet;
- (4) a description of interconnection facilities;
- (5) a map showing the location of the transmission line; and
- (6) a schematic diagram showing the transmission line and the interconnection of the transmission line to the transmission grid;

B. identification of all applicable land use statutes and administrative regulations and proof of compliance or statement of noncompliance with each;

C. if required under NEPA, an environmental assessment prepared in connection with the transmission line;

D. if required under NEPA, an environmental impact statement and record of

decision or a finding of no significant impact, prepared in connection with the transmission line;

E. if preparation of a federal environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is not required under NEPA in connection with the transmission line, then a report, comparable to an environmental impact statement, in the format prescribed in 40 C.F.R. Section 1502.10;

F. all written federal, state, and local environmental authorizations necessary to begin construction of the transmission line;

G. all written federal, state, and local environmental authorizations necessary to begin operation of the transmission line; if any such authorization cannot be obtained until after construction of the transmission line, proof of application for such authorization;

H. testimony demonstrating that the transmission line will not unduly impair important environmental values; important environmental values include, but are not limited to, preservation of air and water quality, land uses, soils, flora and fauna, and water, mineral, socioeconomic, cultural, historic, religious, visual, geologic and geographic resources;

I. the expected date that the transmission line will be online;

J. proof that the application has been served on all local authorities in each county and township where the transmission line will be located, the New Mexico Attorney General ("NMAG"), the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED"), and the New Mexico State Engineer;

K. any other information, including photographs, which the applicant wishes to submit in support of the application.

# III. <u>ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REQUESTED APPROVAL ARE</u> <u>SATISFIED.</u>

25. The Corona Wind North Project will satisfy all the requirements of NMSA 1978,

(3) §62-9-3 and Commission Rule 17.9.592 NMAC for location approval of a generation facility and a transmission line because: (1) the Joint Applicants will cause the Corona Wind North Generation and the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System to comply with all applicable requirements under the Siting Statute and Location Rule; (2) existing state, county, and municipal land use statutory and administrative regulations allow for the installation of these projects; and, the proposed 180-foot ROW width is necessary for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System. If the Commission grants the location approvals sought in this proceeding, the Joint Applicants agree to implement all the conditions for the Corona Wind North Project, including the BMPs and voluntary protective measures, that were agreed to and incorporated as conditions of approval in the Commission's Final Orders in NMPRC Case Nos. 18-00065-UT and 20-00008-UT and which Pattern Energy has agreed to implement in connection with the requested location approvals in NMPRC Case No. 21-00281-UT, which is currently pending before the Commission.

#### A. <u>THE CORONA WIND NORTH PROJECT.</u>

26. As renewable energy generation facilities, the Corona Wind North Project will result in environmental benefits and will not negatively impact air or water quality during the operating life of the generating facilities. The Corona Wind North Project will produce zero-emission electricity using state-of-the-art wind turbine technology and may even displace electricity generated from non-renewable sources causing a reduction in greenhouse gas emission and regulated air pollutants. The Corona Wind North Project will also have a *de minimis* effect on water quality during the construction of the projects and will conserve water that would otherwise be used in cooling thermal power plants during the operation of the projects.

27. Pursuant to NMSA 1978, §62-9-3, the Joint Applicants will cause the Corona Wind North Project to comply with all applicable: (1) water pollution control standards and regulations of the NMED; and (2) air pollution control standards and regulations of the NMED. The Direct Testimony of Adam Cernea Clark explains the applicable requirements and summarizes how the Joint Applicants intend to comply with these standards.

28. The types of construction activity permits needed to construct the Corona Wind North Project are typically applied for and issued shortly before the start of construction and are anticipated to consist of air quality permits from NMED for concrete batch plants and mobile rock crushing. No other air or water pollution permits are required from NMED.

29. All air and water quality permits associated with environmental impacts due to construction activities will be acquired by the balance of plant ("BOP") contractor from the NMED prior to the initiation of construction of such project. Issuance of these permits by NMED and compliance with their terms by the Joint Applicants will satisfy applicable state water and air pollution control standards and regulations.

# B. <u>WATER POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS OF</u> <u>THE NMED.</u>

30. The Joint Applicants will not need any water quality permits from NMED to comply with all water quality performance standards and regulations of NMED. However, they will obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit from the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA").

31. The purpose of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Act ("New Mexico Water Act") is to prevent the impairment of New Mexico's groundwater quality. NMSA 1978, §§74-6-1 et seq. Because turbines do not require water to produce electricity, the Corona Wind North Project will not impair groundwater quality. Joint Applicants will not transfer any surface or ground water rights for project use. The BOP contractor may elect at the approval of the State Engineer to temporarily transfer water rights during the construction period. Since the Joint Applicants do not intend to adversely affect surface or groundwater at the site, they will not

require a permit under the New Mexico Water Act.

32. The Joint Applicants will acquire one or more NPDES permits from the EPA under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, as amended, more commonly referred to as the "Clean Water Act." *See* 33 U.S.C. §1342. This permit will ensure that storm water discharge from construction activities that disturb one or more acres are managed through best management practices. The Corona Wind North Project is also expected to qualify for a storm water Construction General Permit ("CGP").

33. The Joint Applicants will obtain coverage under a NPDES CGP from the EPA pursuant to 33 U.S.C. §1342. This construction phase permit requires the management of storm water discharge from the site during construction, including implementation of standard erosion control measures and best management practices. Further, project facilities will be sited to avoid and/or minimize fill in Waters of the U.S. so that any fill, if necessary, would be within the thresholds allowed under the Nationwide Permit Program under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *See* 33 U.S.C. §1344. The Corona Wind North Project facilities will be sited to minimize placement in the floodplain.

## C. <u>AIR POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS OF THE</u> <u>NMED.</u>

34. With respect to applicable air pollution standards, construction activities will be required to comply with General Construction Permits ("GCP"). The Joint Applicants will require air quality general construction permitting from NMED to comply with all air quality performance standards and regulations of NMED.

35. The New Mexico Air Quality Control Act applies to the Corona Wind North Project NMSA 1978, §§74-2-1 et seq. The Joint Applicants will require the BOP contractor to obtain a GCP before the start of construction, for concrete batch plants and a general construction permit for

aggregate facilities (permits GCP-5 and GCP-2, respectively) from the Air Quality Bureau of NMED. The Joint Applicants will provide copies of these permits to the Commission upon request before construction activities associated with these permits begin.

36. The application for the GCP will demonstrate that the construction of the Corona Wind North Project complies with applicable air pollution control standards and regulations. Once the Corona Wind North Project is in operation, there will be no adverse impact to air quality. Instead, the Corona Wind North Project will benefit the air quality by displacing sources of electricity in the Southwest which adversely impact air quality.

### D. <u>THE GENERATION LOCATION RULE.</u>

37. The Joint Application and supporting testimony and exhibits provide the information required by the Generation Location Rule and the necessary information needed for the Commission's evaluation of this Joint Application to construct the Corona Wind North Project.

38. The Joint Applicants will require the Corona Wind North Project to comply with local land use statutes and administrative regulations.

39. The Joint Applicants will obtain New Mexico State Land Office ("SLO") approval for use of any state trust land, in compliance with Commission Rule 17.9.592.9(B) NMAC.

40. The necessary authorizations to begin construction and operation of the wind facilities are typically obtained immediately prior to the start of construction and will be obtained prior to construction.

41. The Joint Applicants intend to put the wind facilities into operation no later than the end of 2026.

42. The Joint Application and supporting testimony and exhibits have been served on all local authorities in Guadalupe, San Miguel and Torrance Counties in New Mexico, the New

Mexico Attorney General, the New Mexico Environment Department, and the New Mexico State Engineer. A copy of the Joint Application and testimony is available at the public libraries in the City of Santa Rosa, New Mexico, which is the county seat of Guadalupe County, the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, which is the county seat of San Miguel County, and the Town of Estancia, New Mexico which is the county seat of Torrance County. This Joint Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are also available on the Joint Applicants' website, https://patternenergy.com/en/project-documents, all in compliance with Commission Rule 17.9.592.9(G) NMAC, and Commission Rule 17.9.592.13 NMAC.

### E. <u>THE TRANSMISSION LOCATION RULE.</u>

43. The location of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will not unduly impair any important environmental values. A more detailed discussion of environmental aspects of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System is provided in the Direct Testimonies of Adam Cernea Clark and Nathan Olday, as well as in the Environmental Report.

44. The Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will comport with existing plans of the state and local government. *See* NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(M)(1). The Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System is being constructed in connection with the Corona Wind North Generation in Guadalupe, San Miguel and Torrance Counties in the State of New Mexico.

45. The proposed Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will also comport with and enhance existing land uses (farming and ranching) near and adjacent to the site and the line will have limited impacts on natural resources. *See* NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(M)(2). This conclusion is supported by extensive studies and fieldwork performed for the Corona Wind North Project and surrounding area and inclusive of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System.

46. The Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will not produce significant noise emission levels or interference with communication signals. *See* NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(M)(3). A more detailed discussion is provided in the Direct Testimony of Nathan Olday.

47. The majority of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System is located on private land that is not open to the public. The Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will not impact public access to the portion of the line passing through state trust land, except to the extent restricted by the SLO. *See* NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(M)(4). A more detailed discussion is provided in the Direct Testimony of Nathan Olday.

48. The Joint Applicants have conducted extensive, voluntary cultural and archaeological studies and incorporated protection measures into this process and determined that the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will not unduly impair "existing scenic areas, historic, cultural or religious sites and structures or archaeological sites at or in the vicinity of the proposed location" of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System. *See* NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(M)(5). A more detailed discussion is provided in the prepared Direct Testimony of Nathan Olday, as well as the Environmental Report.

49. The Joint Application, including supporting testimony and exhibits, provides the information required by the Transmission Location Rule and the necessary information needed for the Commission's evaluation of this Joint Application.

50. The Joint Applicants will cause the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System to comply with local land use statutes and administrative regulations.

51. The Joint Applicants will obtain SLO approval for use of any state trust land, in compliance with Commission Rule 17.9.592.10(B) NMAC.

52. The necessary authorizations to begin construction and operation of the Corona

Wind North Gen-Tie System are typically obtained and will be obtained by the Joint Applicants immediately prior to the start of construction.

53. The Joint Applicants intend to put the complete Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System into operation no later than the end of 2026. The Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will not unduly impair important environmental values in compliance with Commission Rule 17.9.592.10(I) and (H) NMAC. See the Direct Testimonies of Adam Cernea Clark and Nathan Olday.

54. The Joint Application and supporting materials have been served on all local authorities in Guadalupe, San Miguel and Torrance Counties in New Mexico, the NMAG, the NMED, and the New Mexico State Engineer. A copy of the Joint Application and testimony is available at the public libraries in the City of Santa Rosa, New Mexico, which is the county seat of Guadalupe County, the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, which is the county seat of San Miguel County, and the Town of Estancia, New Mexico which is the county seat of Torrance County. This Joint Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are also available on the Joint Applicants' website, https://patternenergy.com/en/project-documents, all in compliance with Commission Rule 17.9.592.10(J) NMAC, and Commission Rule 17.9.592.13 NMAC.

55. The existing state, county, and municipal land use statutory and administrative regulations allow for the installation of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System. These projects are also supported by local landowners, business leaders, and officials as explained in the testimony of Joint Applicants' witness, Jeremy Turner.

56. Torrance County does have a zoning ordinance that regulates the zoning of wind projects. The Torrance County Zoning Ordinance requires approval of a Special Use District for wind energy projects. The Joint Applicants will apply for the Special Use District approval and adhere to all requirements of the Torrance County Zoning Ordinance. Guadalupe County does not have a zoning ordinance or other land use statutory or administrative regulation that would apply to the Corona Wind

North Project. The portion of the Corona Wind North Project that is to be located in San Miguel County is entirely on state trust land and not subject to any county land use regulations such as zoning ordinances.

57. The Corona Wind North Project is supported by landowners, local businesses, and community leaders. This is discussed in more detail in the testimony of Jeremy Turner.

58. The Joint Applicants will cause the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System to comply with the conditions for use of state trust lands. The Joint Applicants have submitted or will submit applications to the SLO for lease agreements for 117,476 acres of state trust land. State trust land use for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System is further discussed in the Direct Testimony of Jeremy Turner.

# F. <u>THE PROPOSED ROW WIDTH IS NECESSARY FOR THE CORONA</u> WIND NORTH GEN-TIE SYSTEM

59. A minimum 180-foot ROW width is necessary for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System to connect the Corona Wind North Project to the electric transmission grid in a safe and reliable manner. The 180-foot ROW width provides sufficient space for variation in design, while addressing electrical safety code requirements and construction and operation considerations according to prudent and standard industry practice.

60. No land will be "taken" as the location, construction, and operation of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will be dependent upon landowner agreements, including agreements with the SLO. Accordingly, since all the underlying landowners have or will consent to the proposed ROW width, the Joint Applicants do not believe that Commission approval is needed under the ROW Statute in the situation as presented here and request such determination.

61. To the extent that the Commission finds the requested ROW width approval is still necessary, the Joint Applicants request such approval pursuant to NMSA 1978, §62-9-3.2.

# IV. <u>THE CORONA WIND NORTH PROJECT HAS THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL</u> LANDOWNERS, COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES, AND POLITICAL FIGURES.

62. The Corona Wind North Project has received letters of support from landowners and the New Mexico business community.

63. The Joint Applicants have also engaged in outreach to economic development organizations, potential construction partners, and vendors that may participate in the construction of the Corona Wind North Project. There is strong interest in the opportunity these projects afford.

## V. <u>NOTICE AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS.</u>

64. Attached to this Joint Application as Exhibit JA-4 is a proposed form of Notice of Application that the Joint Applicants propose, upon order of the Commission, to publish in a newspaper of general circulation in Guadalupe, San Miguel and Torrance Counties.

## VI. <u>TESTIMONIES.</u>

65. In support of its Joint Application, the Joint Applicants accompany their Joint Application with the following testimonies:

Witness	Subjects
Crystal Coffman	Project overview
Greg Parent	Right-of-Way Issues
Nathan Olday	Project Environmental Report analysis and methodology
Adam Cernea Clark	Pattern's environmental values, regulatory compliance, and environmental report
Jeremy Turner	Pattern's agreements with landowners and local governmental approvals

## VII. <u>CONCLUSION.</u>

The Joint Applicants have demonstrated that the Corona Wind North Project meets or exceeds all applicable requirements of NMSA 1978, §§62-9-3, 62-9-3.2 and Commission Rule 17.9.592 NMAC.

Specifically, (1) the location of the Corona Wind North Project will comply with applicable statutes and environmental regulations under NMSA 1978, §62-9-3 and Commission Rule 17.9.592 NMAC; (2) the existing state, county, and municipal land use statutory and administrative regulations allow for the installation of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System, NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(G); and, (3) the proposed ROW necessary for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System.

1. The Corona Wind North Project will comply with all the conditions and Protective Measures set forth as an exhibit to the Testimony of Adam Cernea Clark.

2. The Joint Applicants have complied with all the applicable requirements of NMSA 1978, §§62-9-3, 62-9-3.2 and Commission Rule 17.9.592 NMAC, and respectfully request the Commission issue a Final Order as expeditiously as possible approving the Joint Application for the location of the Corona Wind North Project and, to the extent deemed necessary, the associated 180-foot ROW width, and provide such other relief as the Commission deems necessary and appropriate.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the Joint Applicants request that the Commission grant this Joint Application to the extent required by law and for such other relief as may be deemed necessary and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

#### VIRTUE & NAJJAR, PC

By: <u>/s/ Daniel A. Najjar</u> Daniel A. Najjar Jared D. Najjar 2200 Brothers Road P.O. Box 22249 Santa Fe, NM 87505 (505) 983-6101 ext. 2 <u>dnajjar@virtuelaw.com</u> jnajjar@virtuelaw.com

### **BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION	)
FOR THE LOCATION APPROVAL OF THE	)
CORONA WIND NORTH PROJECT AND FOR THE	)
<b>RIGHT-OF-WAY WIDTH APPROVAL PURSUANT</b>	)
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY ACT, NMSA 1978, §62-9-	) Case No. 22-000UT
3	)
	)
DAHLIA WIND LLC, GALLINAS MOUNTAIN	)
WIND LLC, PASTURA WIND LLC, AND PATTERN	)
SC HOLDINGS LLC,	)
	j -
	j -
JOINT APPLICANTS.	Ĵ.
	j.
	/

# AFFIDAVIT OF JEREMY TURNER

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ) GALA FL COUNTY OF

Jeremy Turner hereby deposes and states under oath that the foregoing Joint Application For Location Site Approval of the Corona Wind North Project and Request for Right-of-Way Width Determination was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and the statements therein are true and accurate based on my personal knowledge and belief.

Jeremy Turner

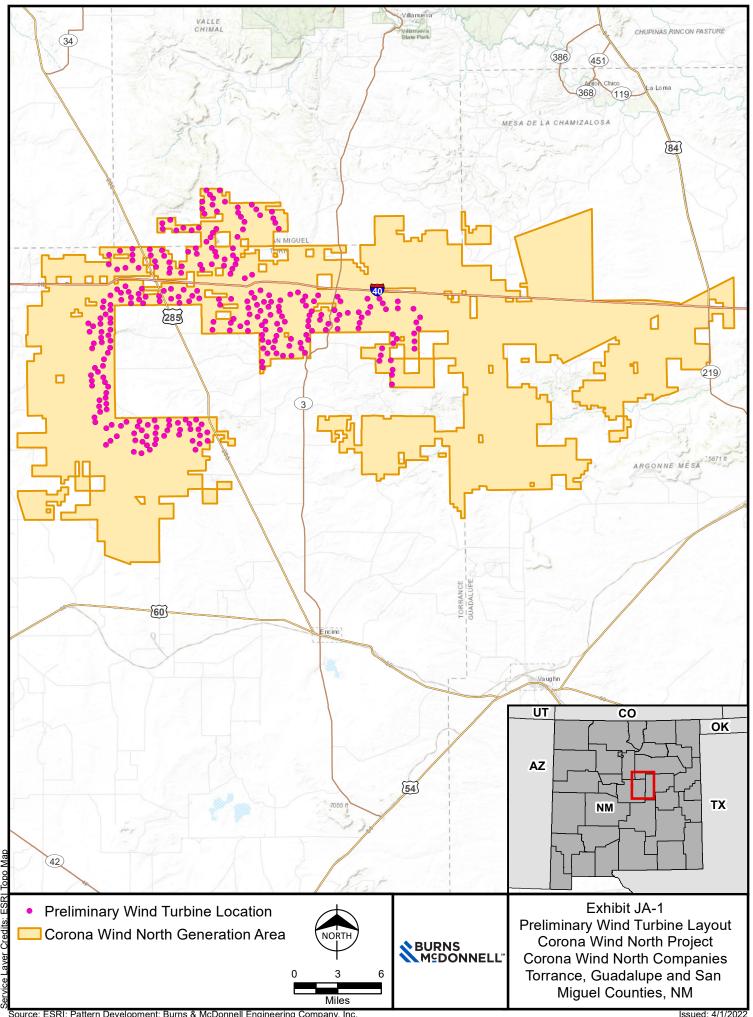
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, notary public, on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of (1971,)

My Commission expires:  $11 \cdot 12 \cdot 12$  Notary Public, State of: N1NN



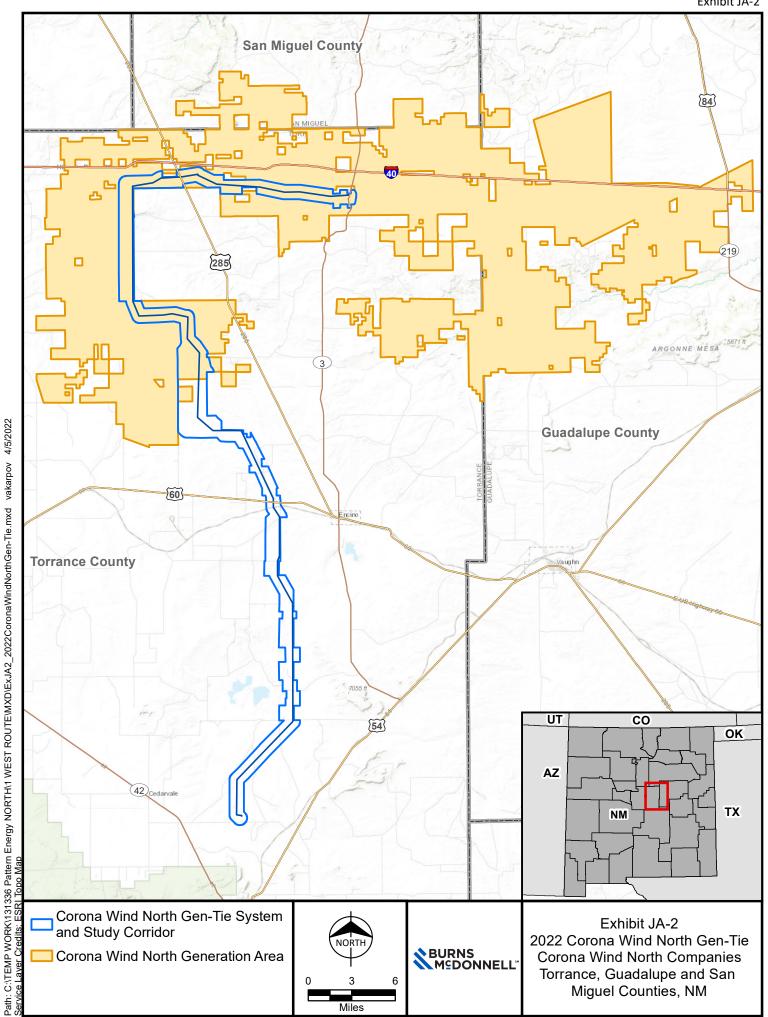
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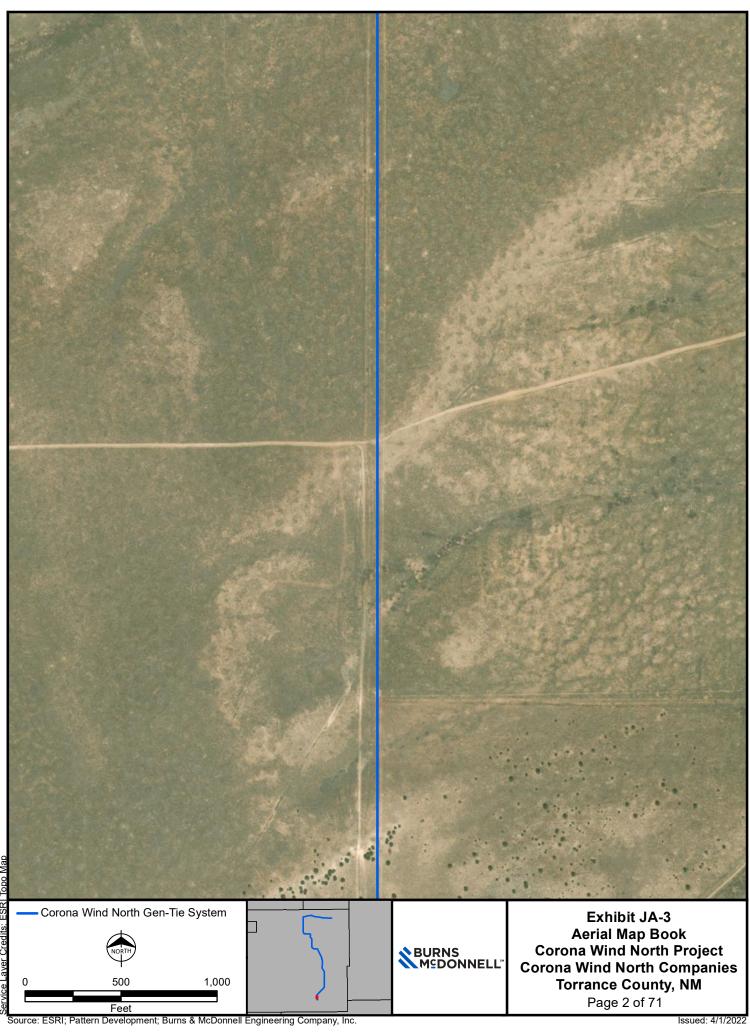
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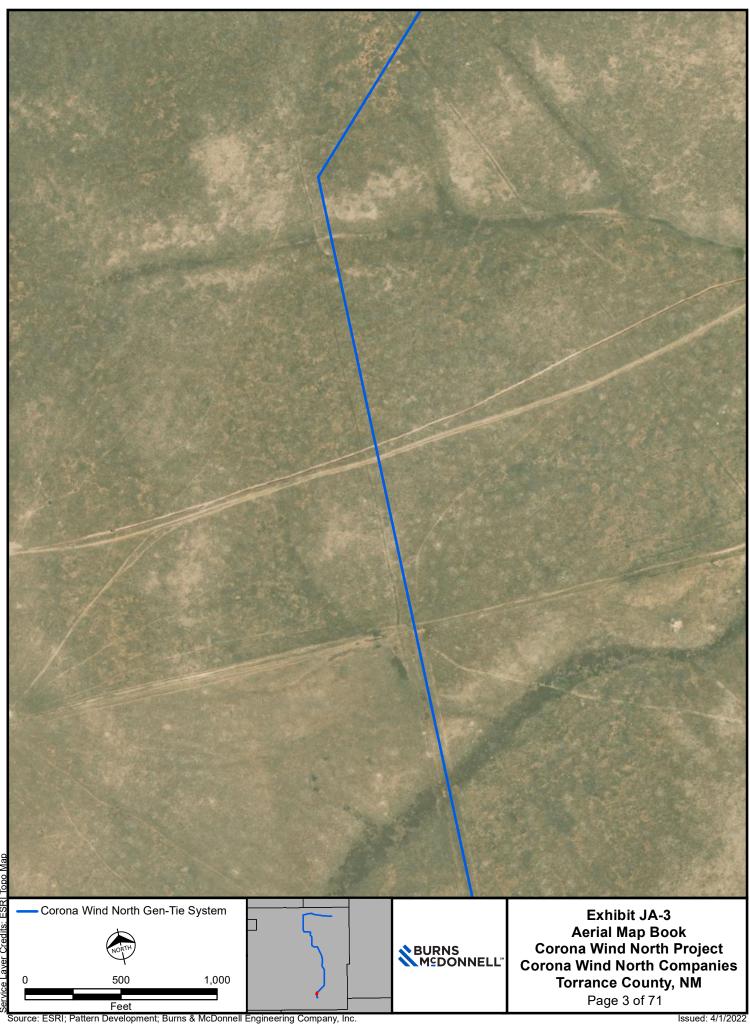
Exhibit JA-2

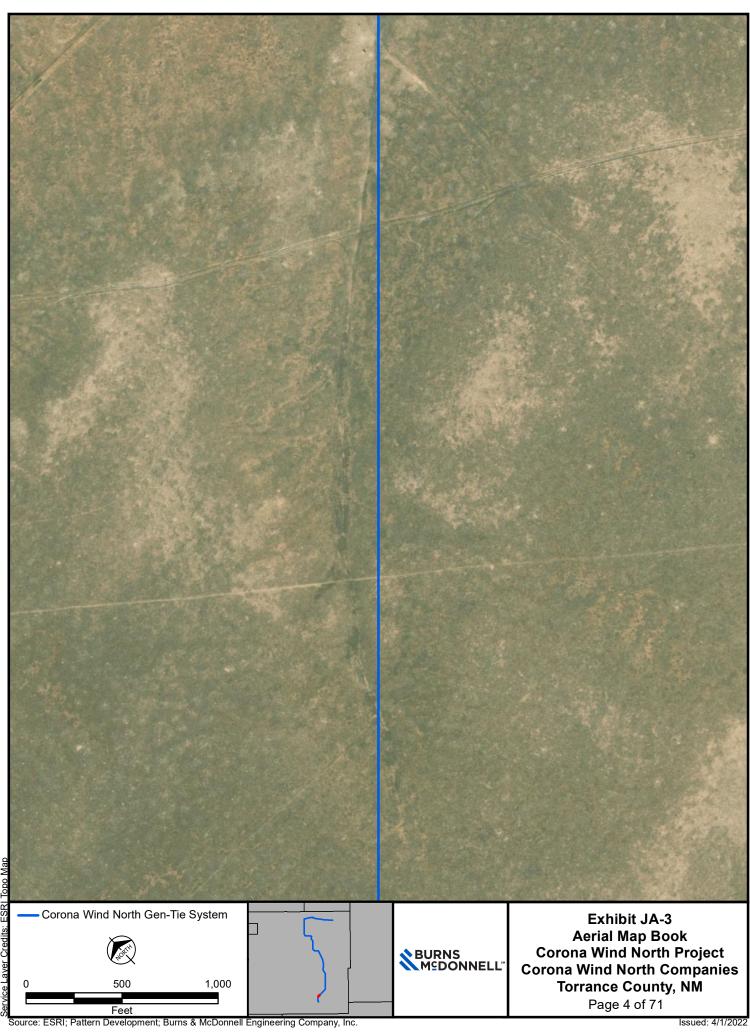


Source: ESRI; Pattern Development; Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.

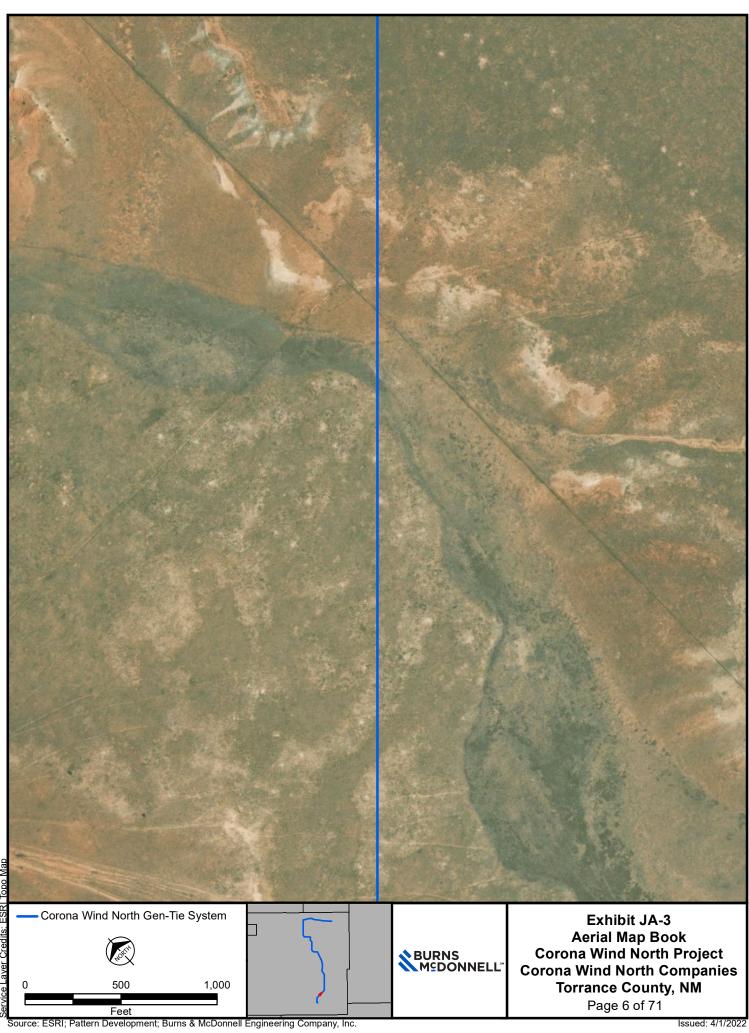


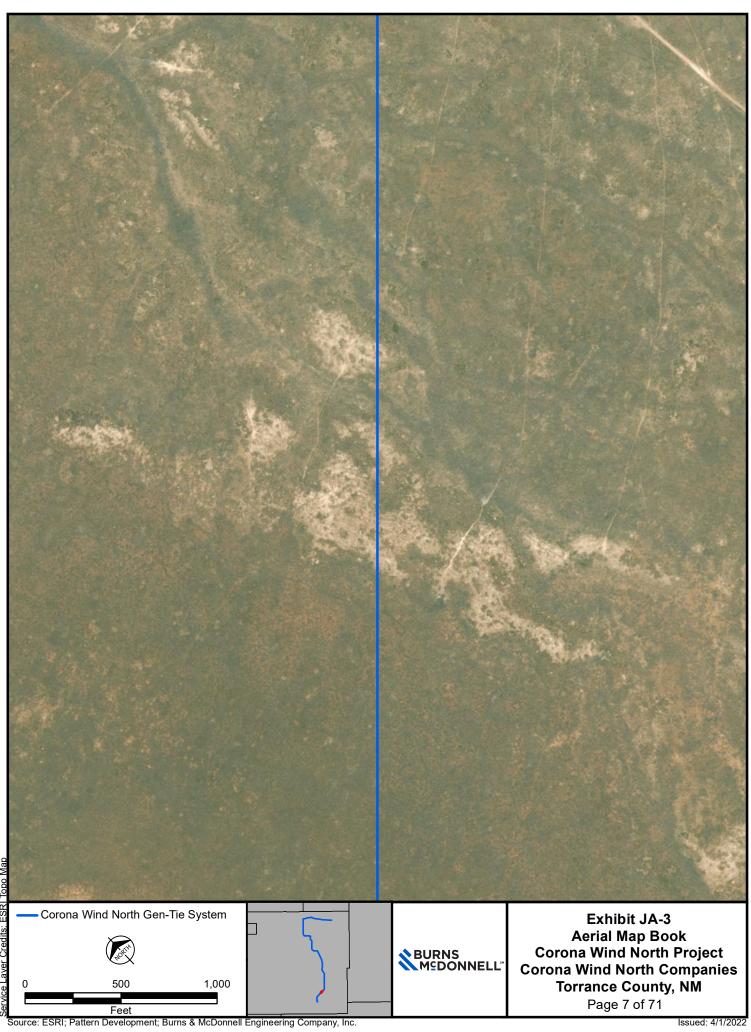


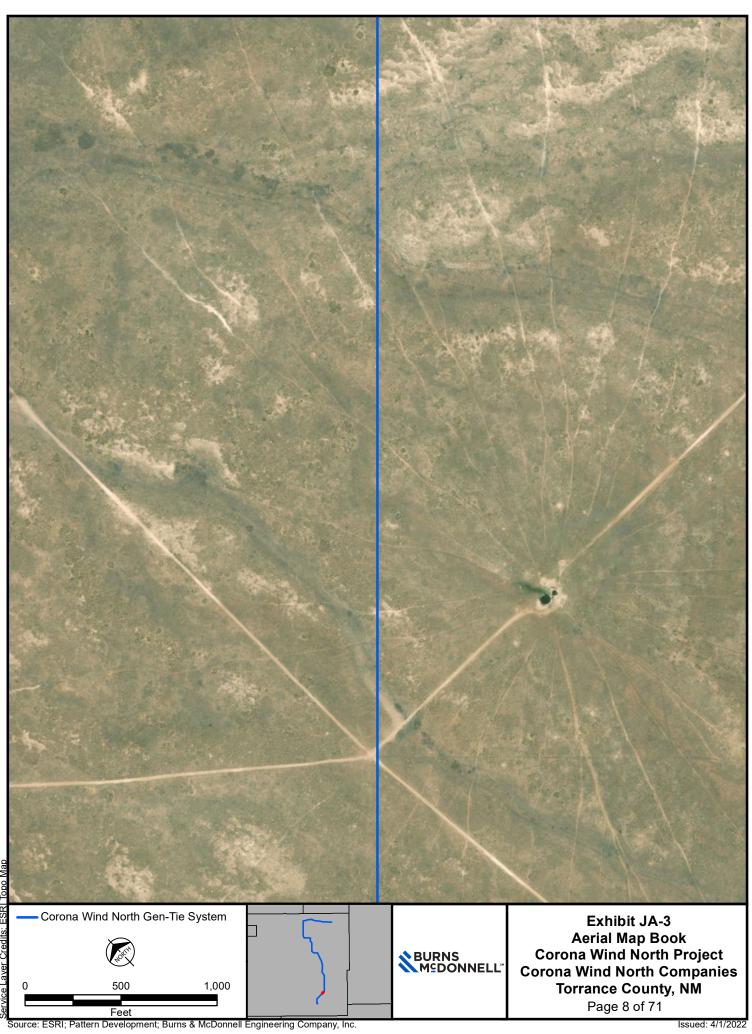




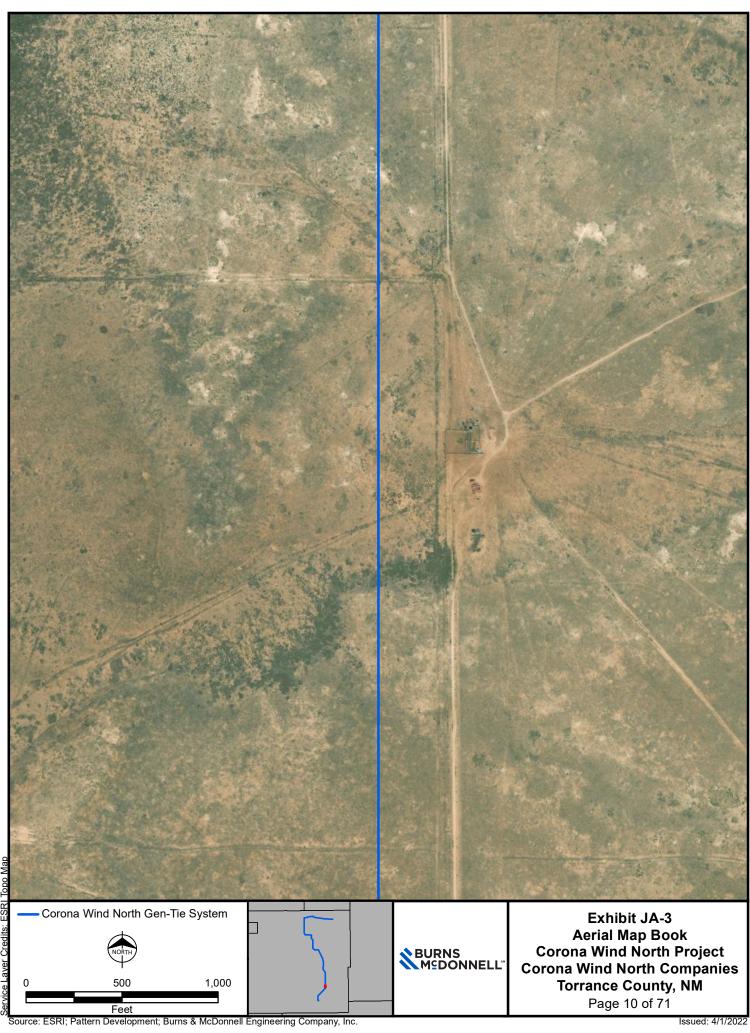


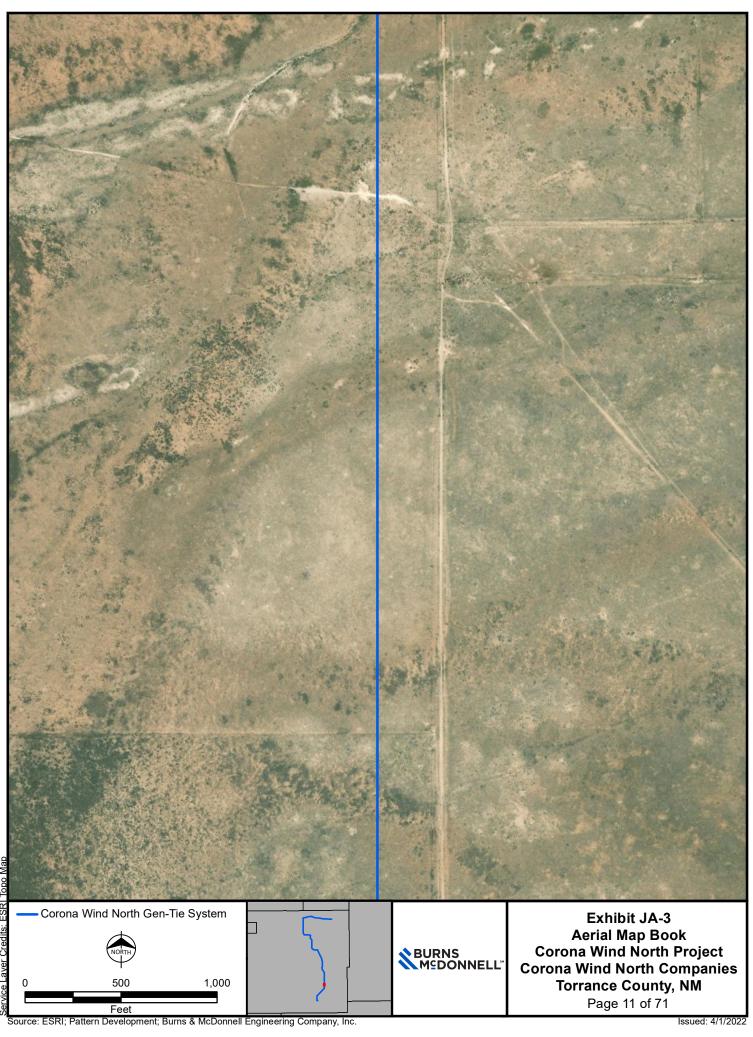


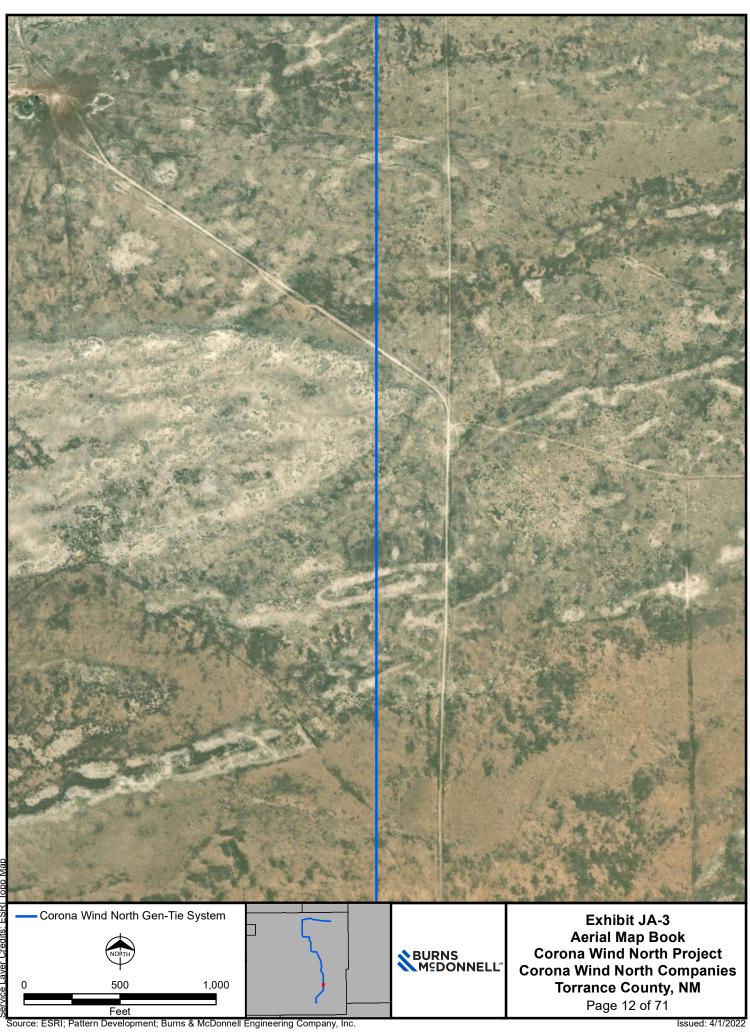


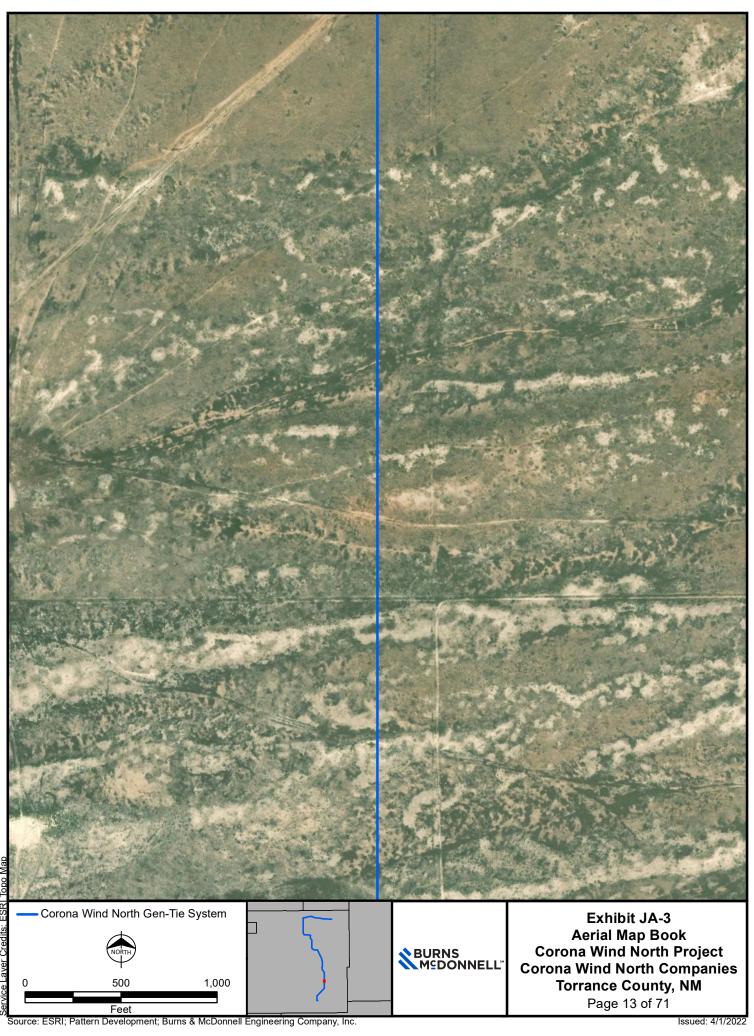


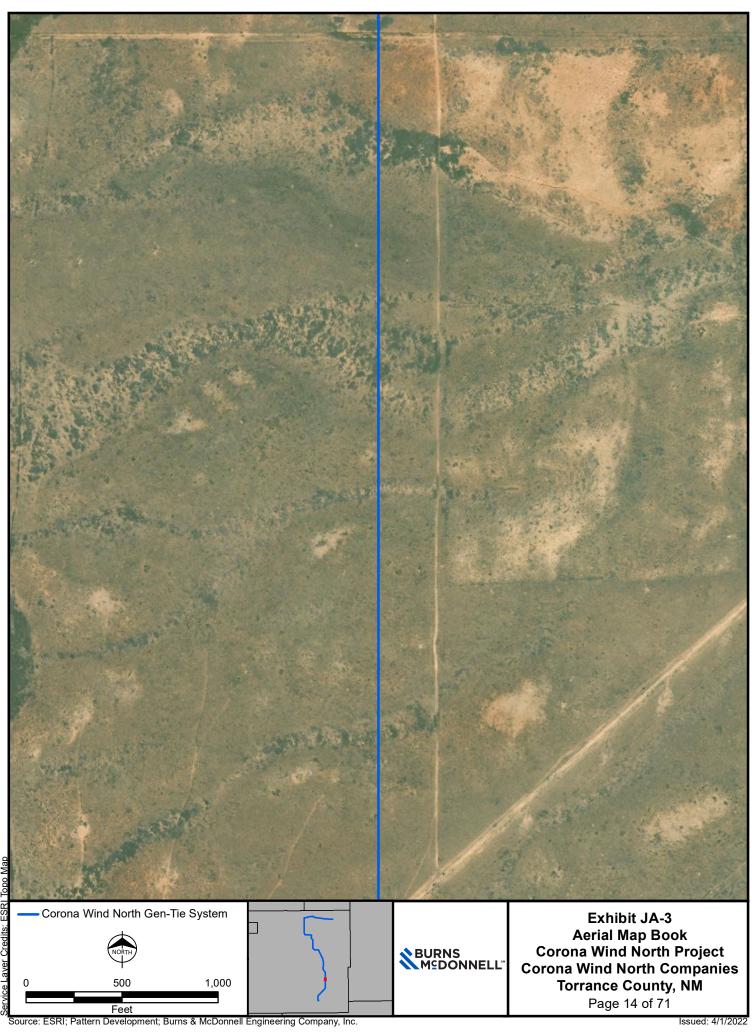






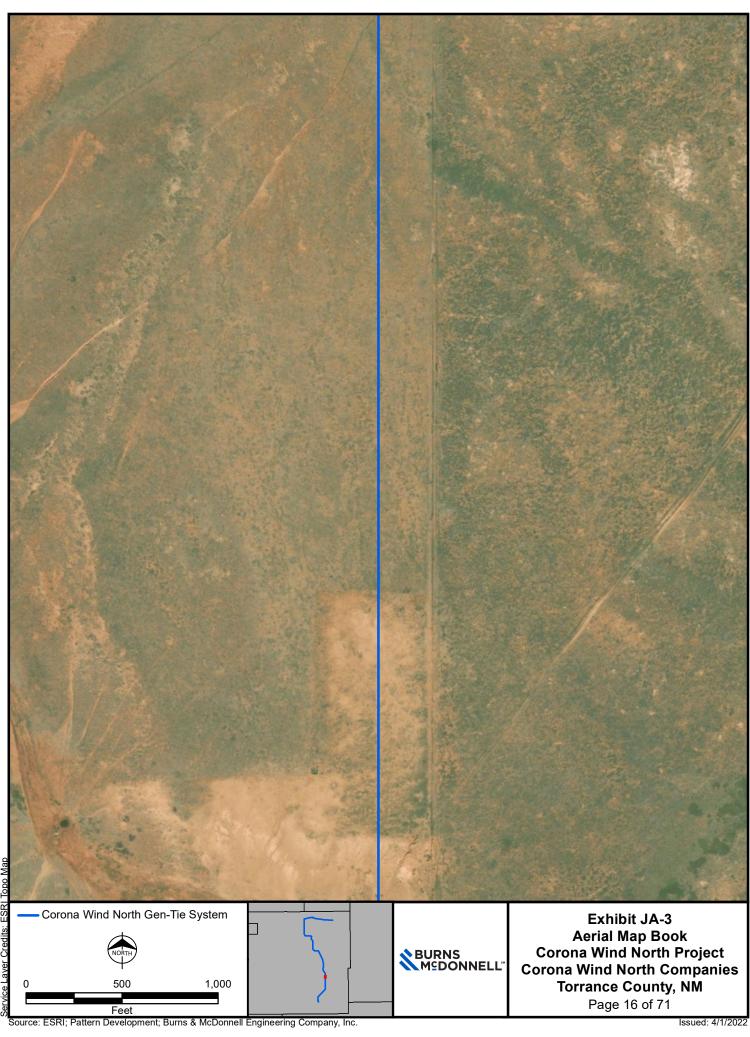


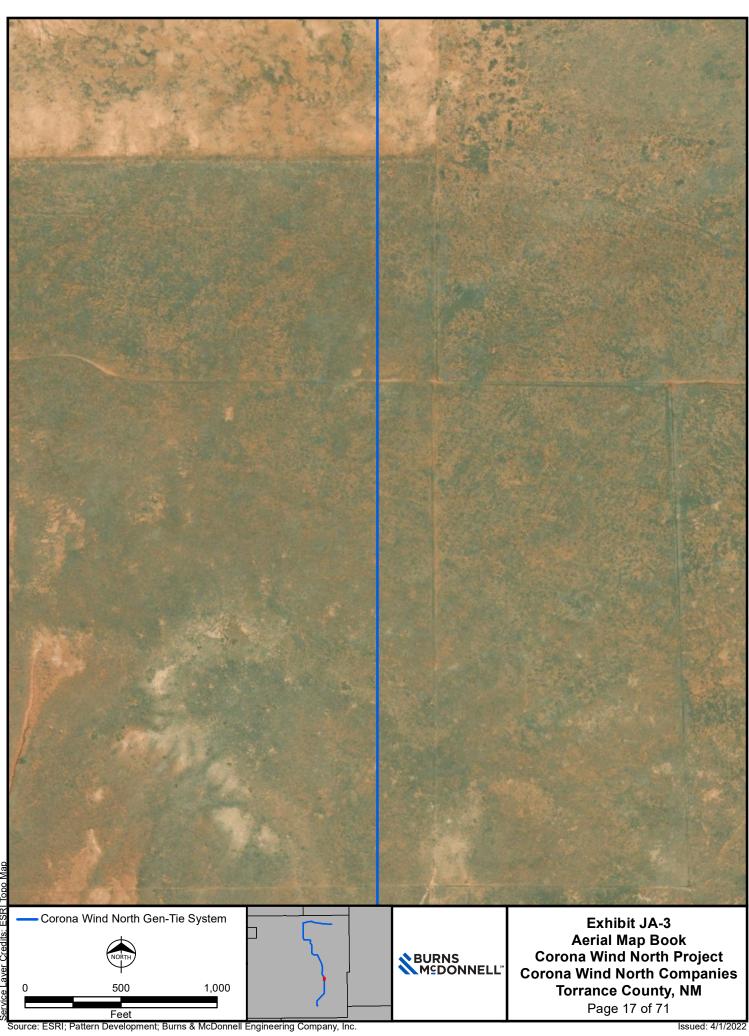


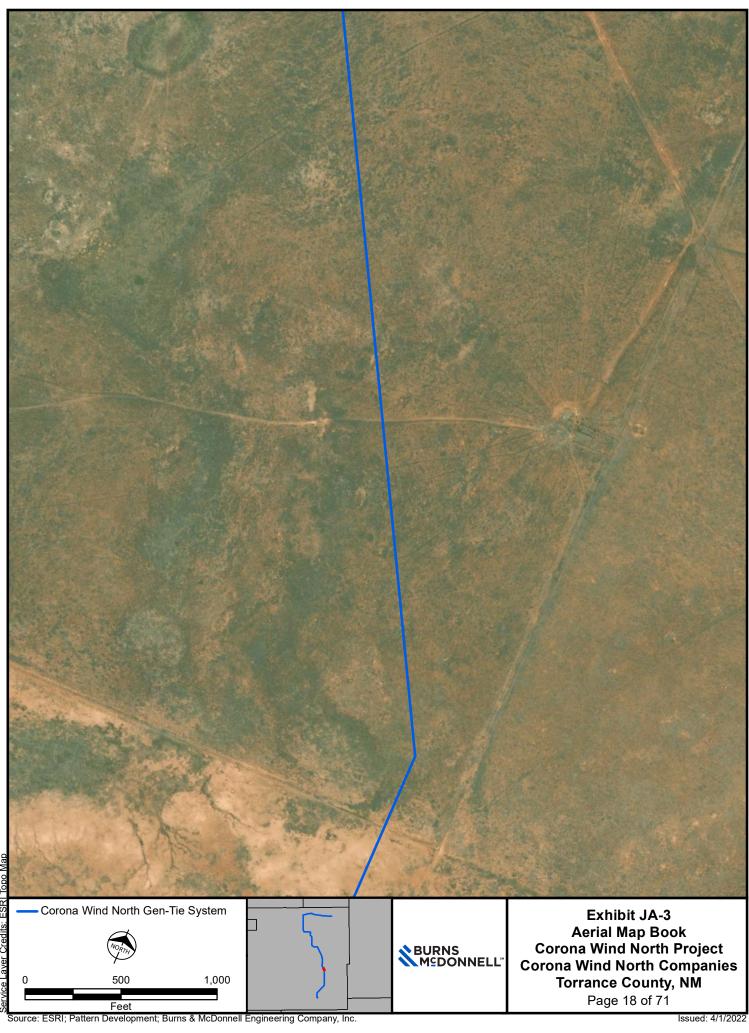


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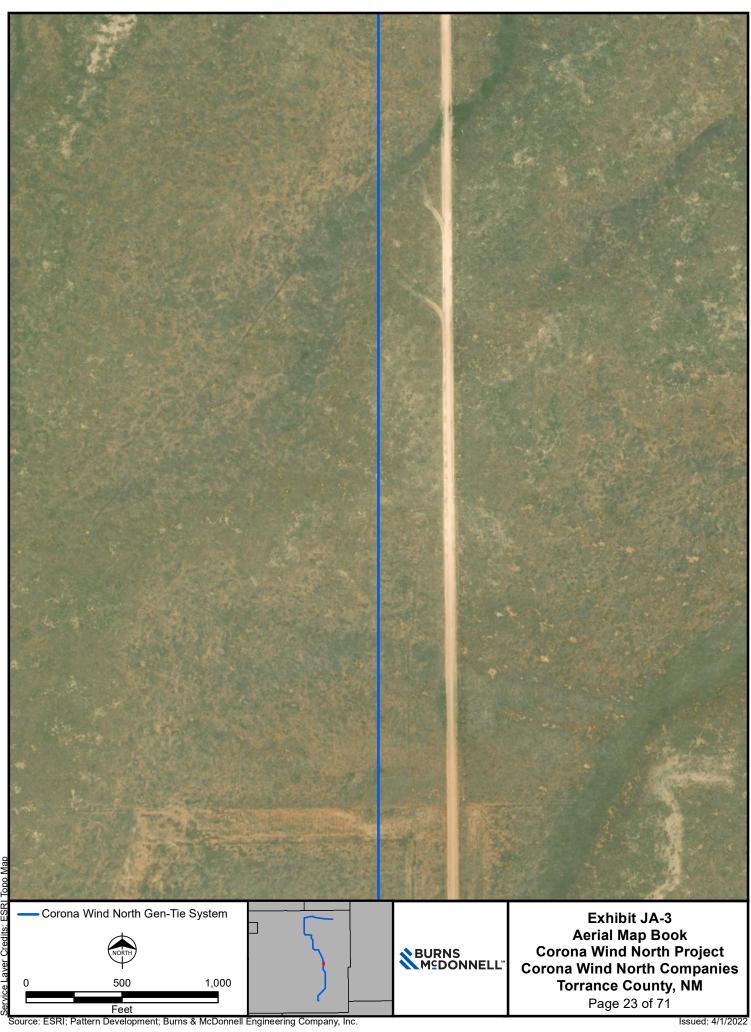




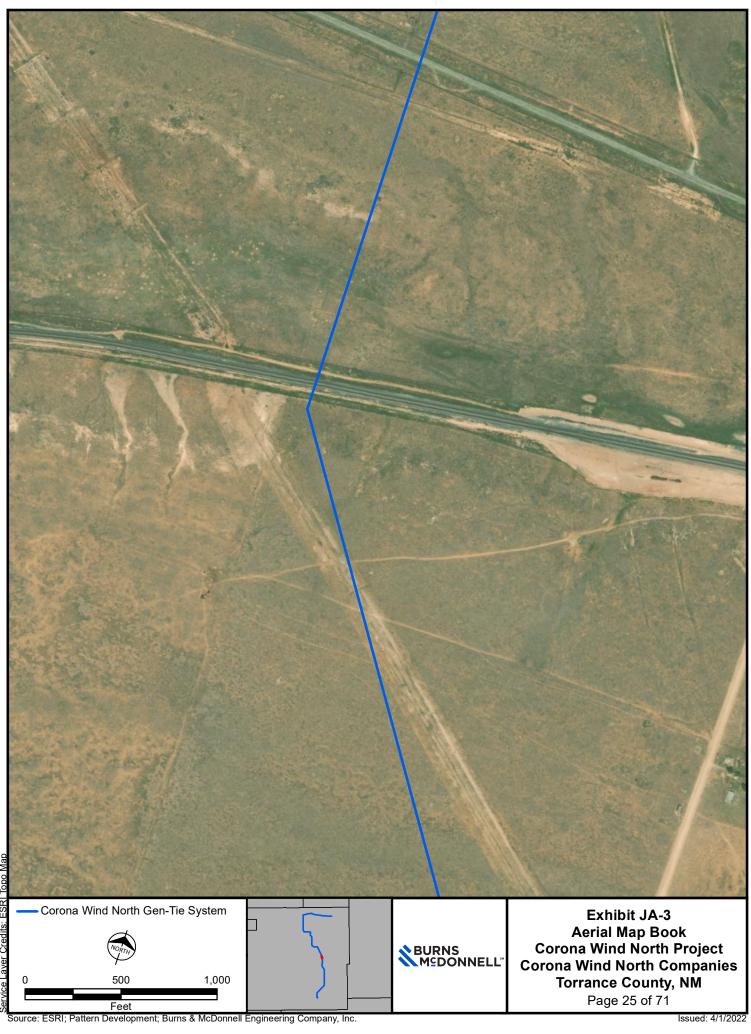


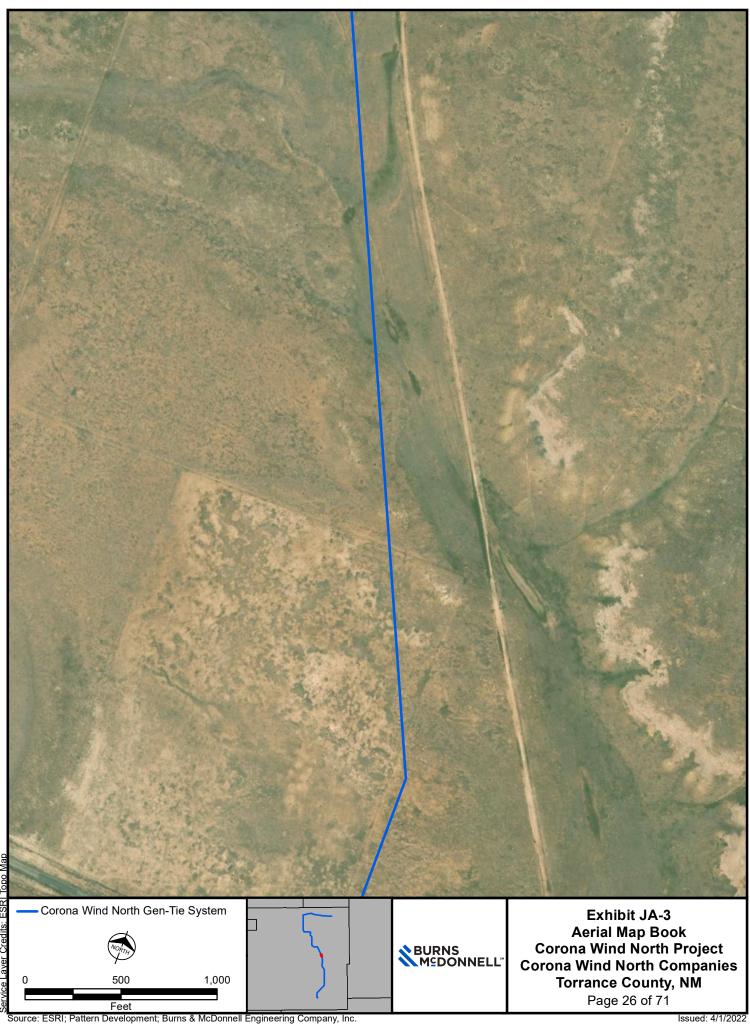








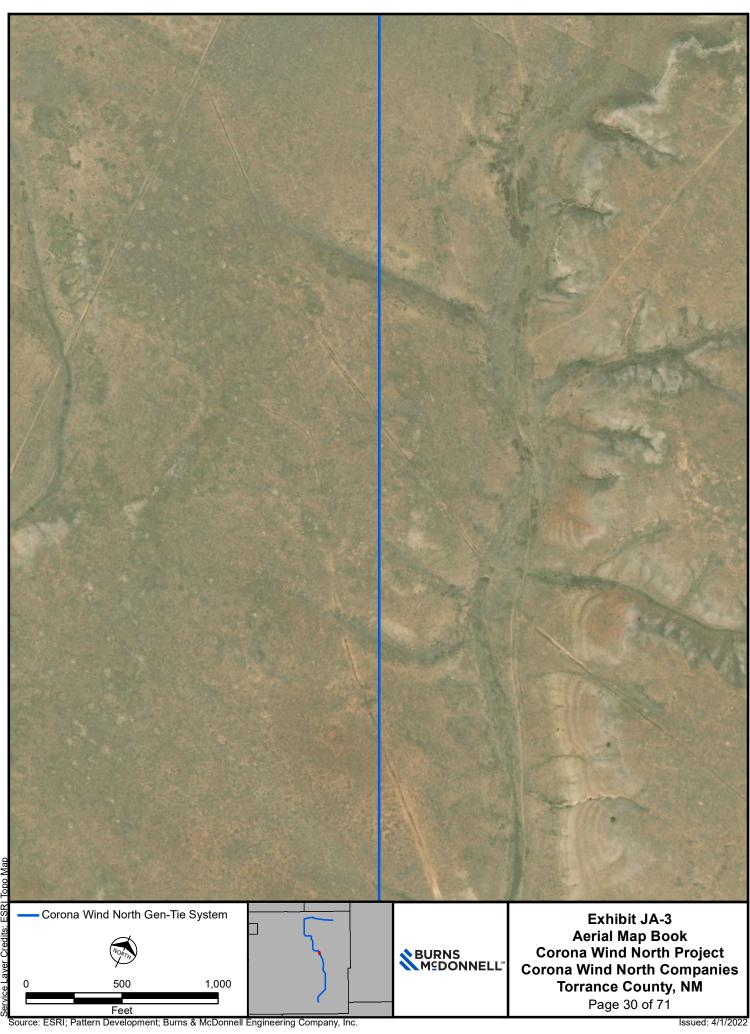


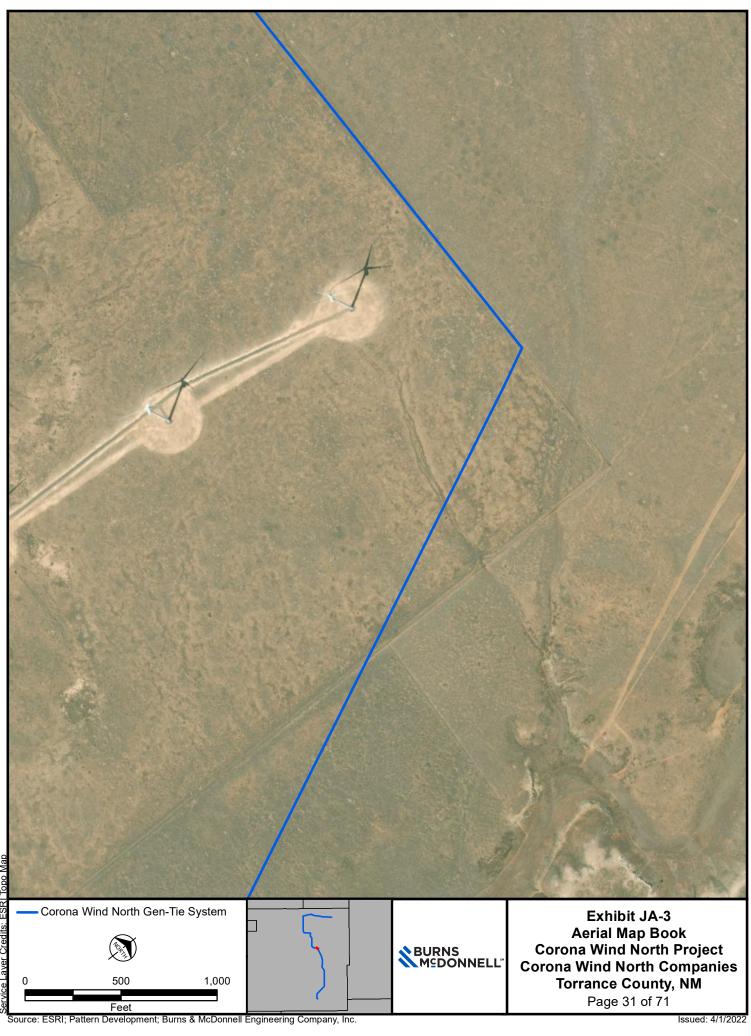














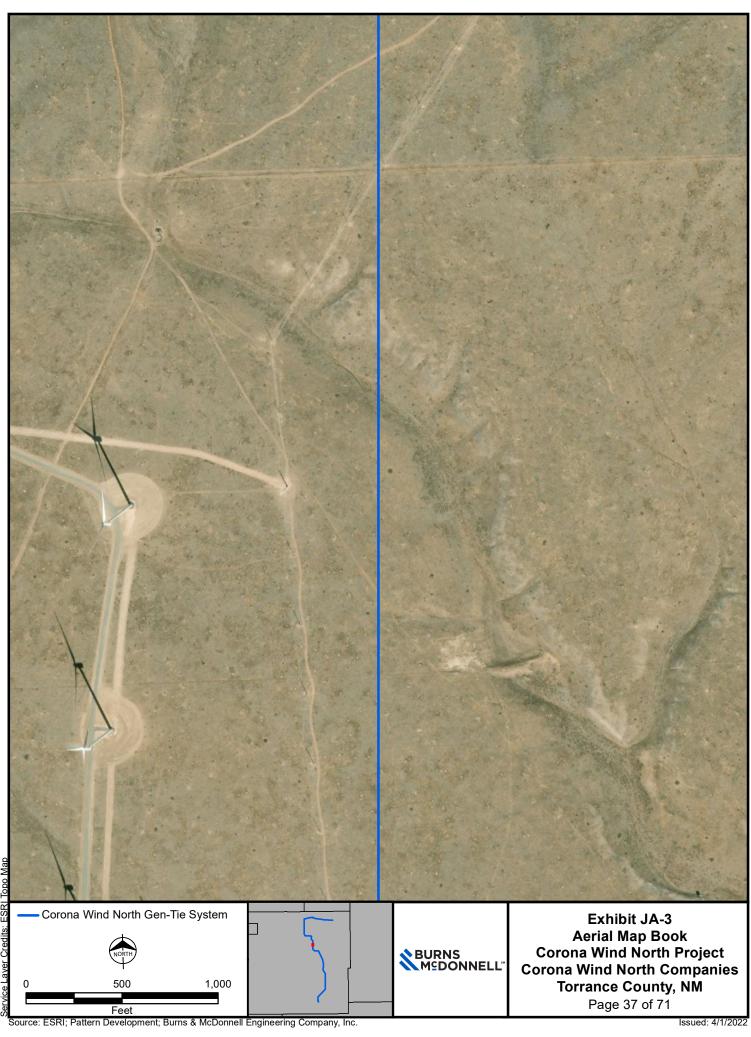






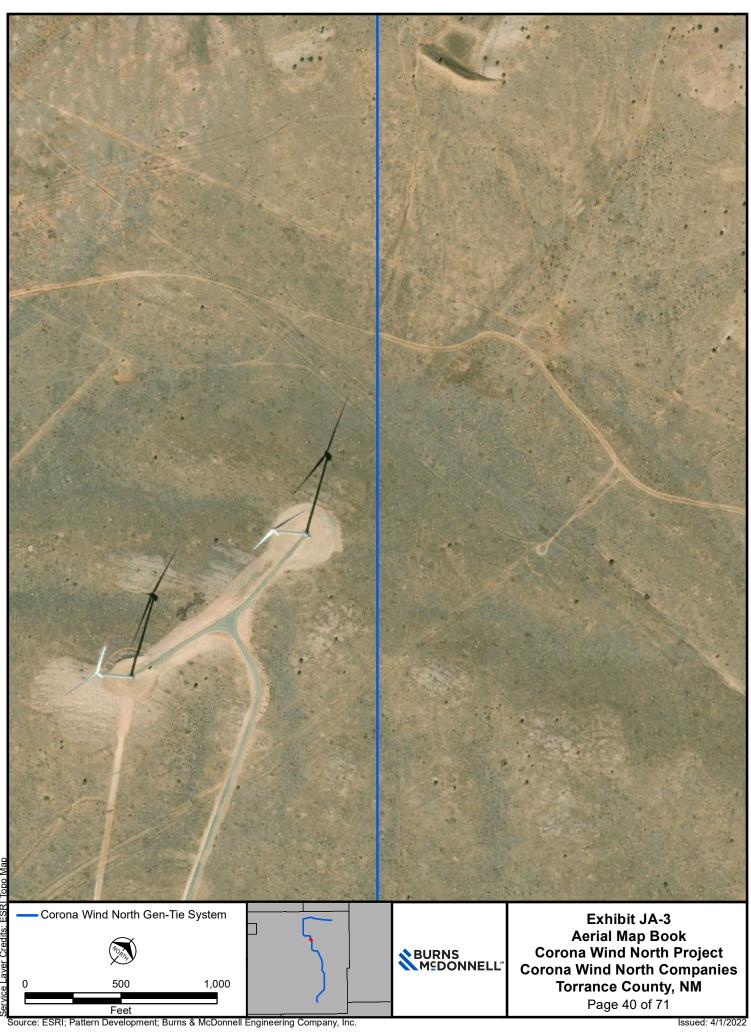


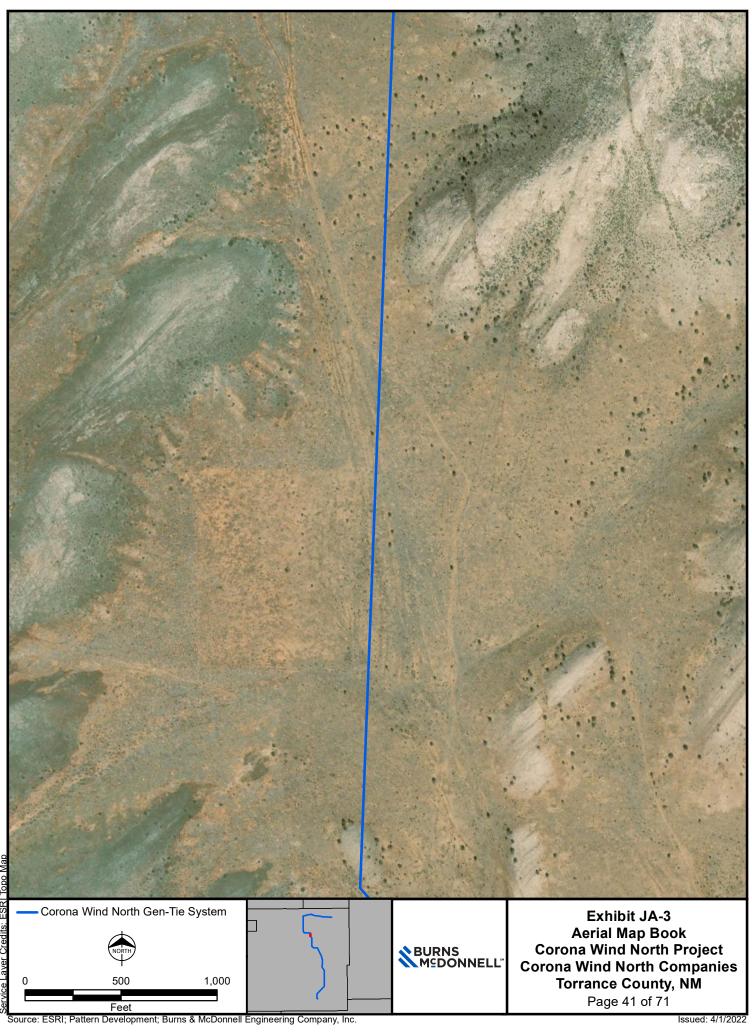
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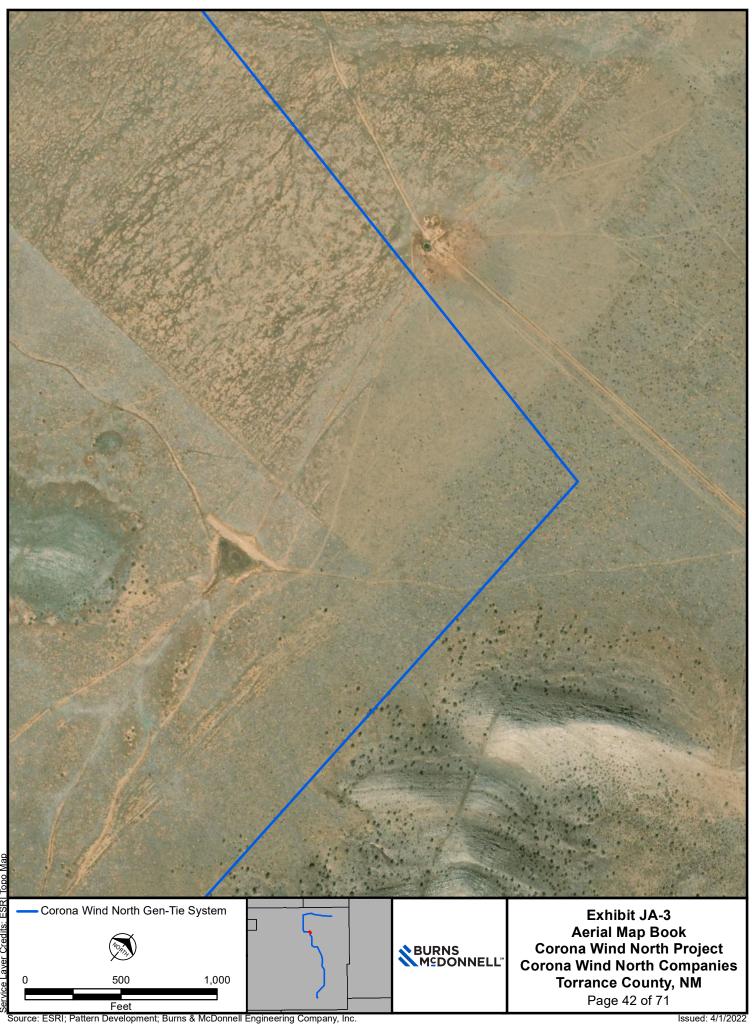




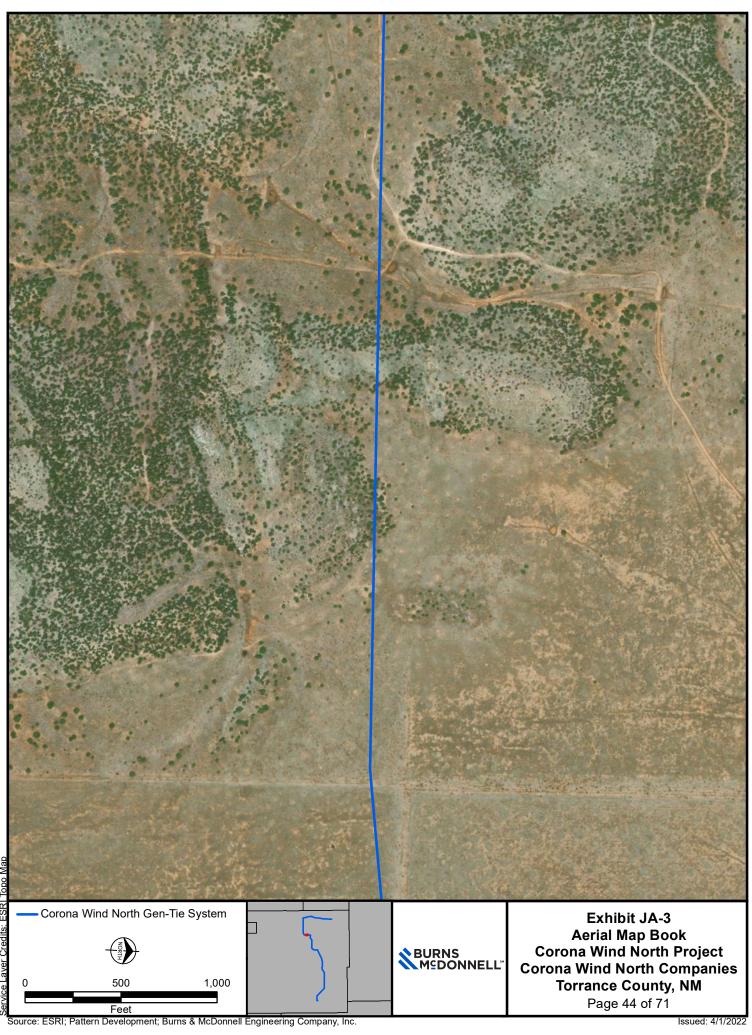








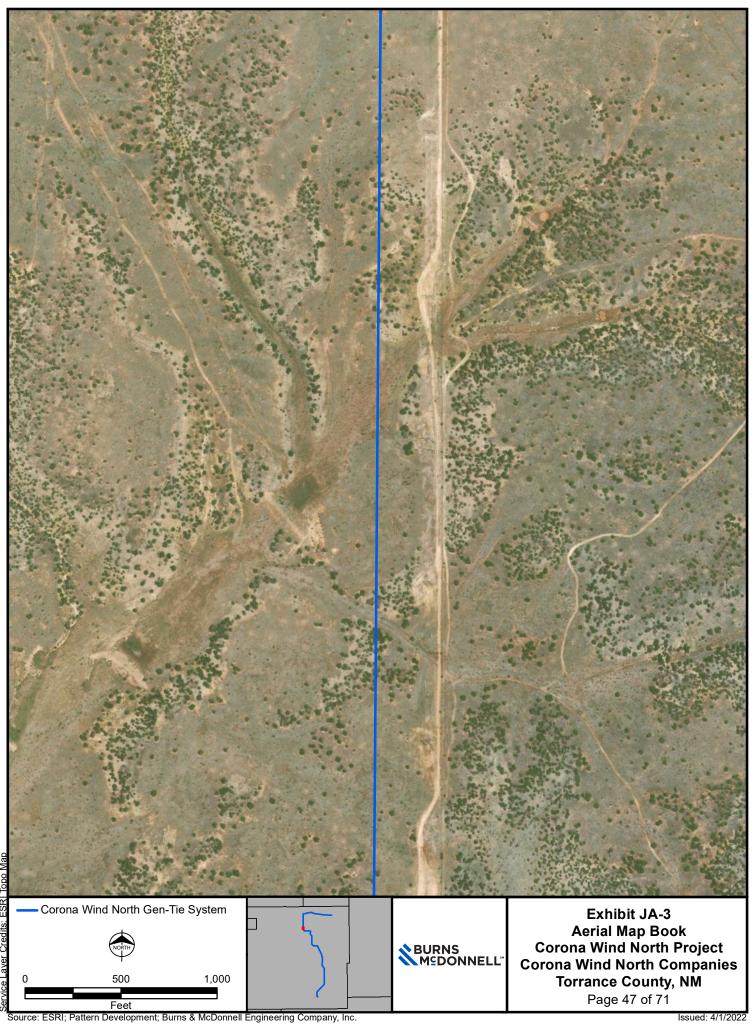


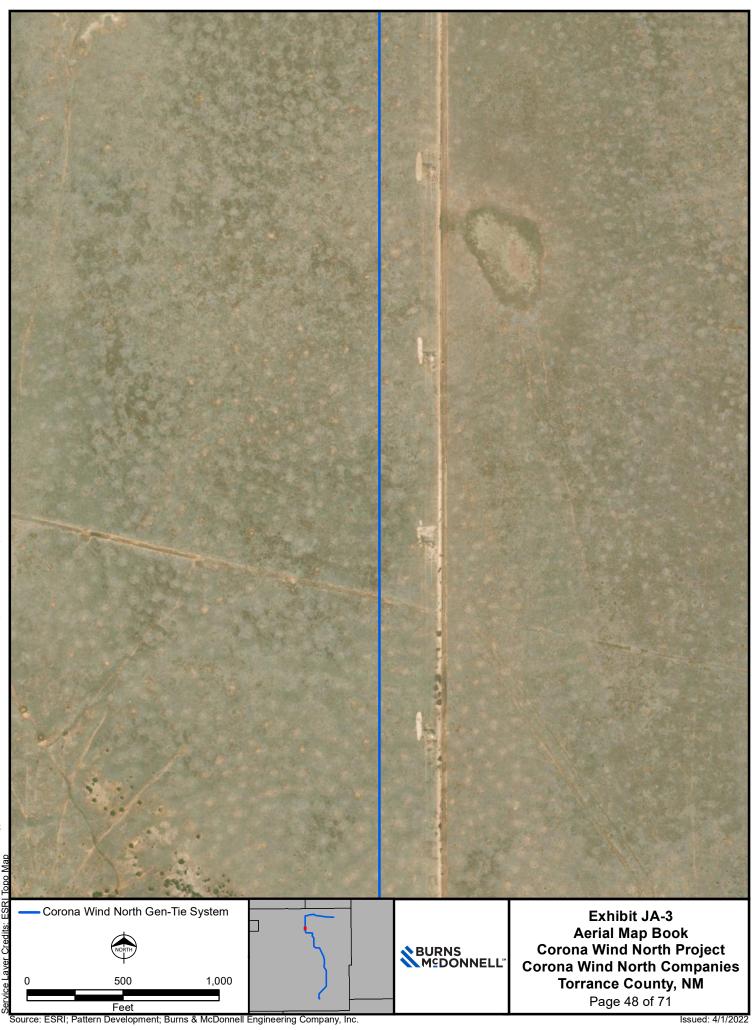


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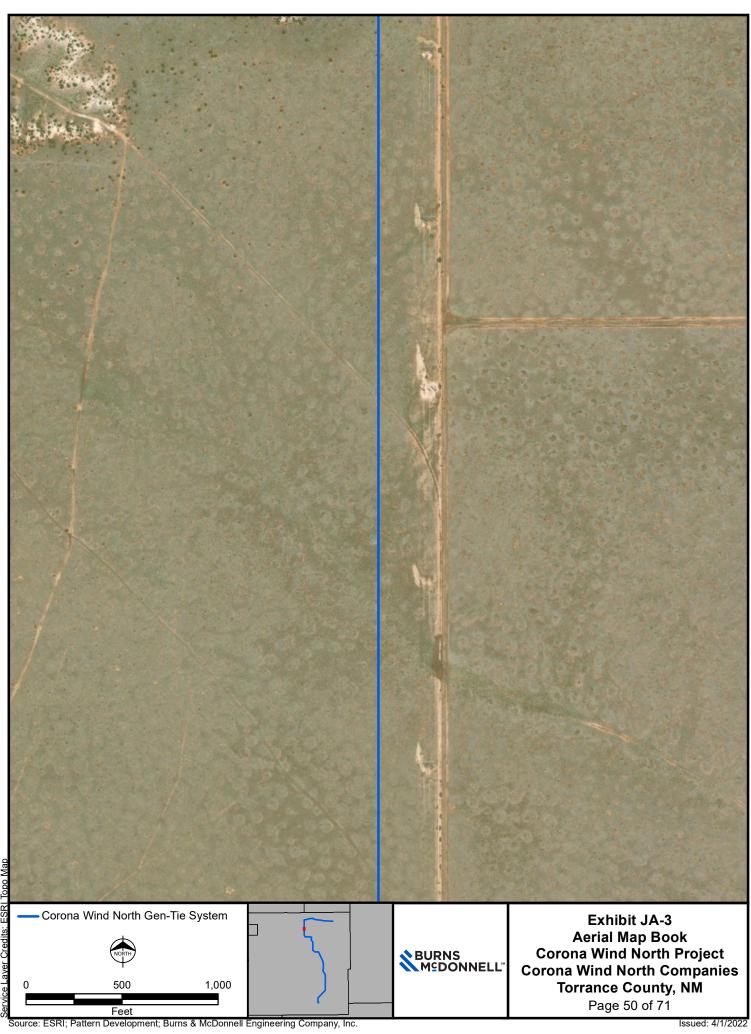


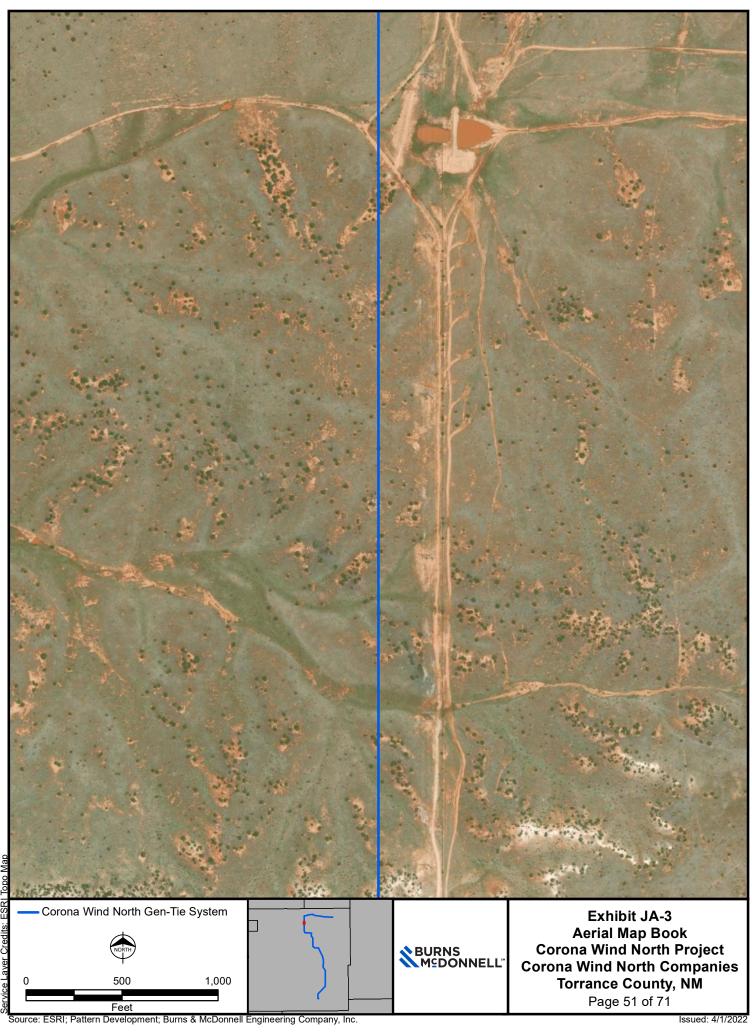


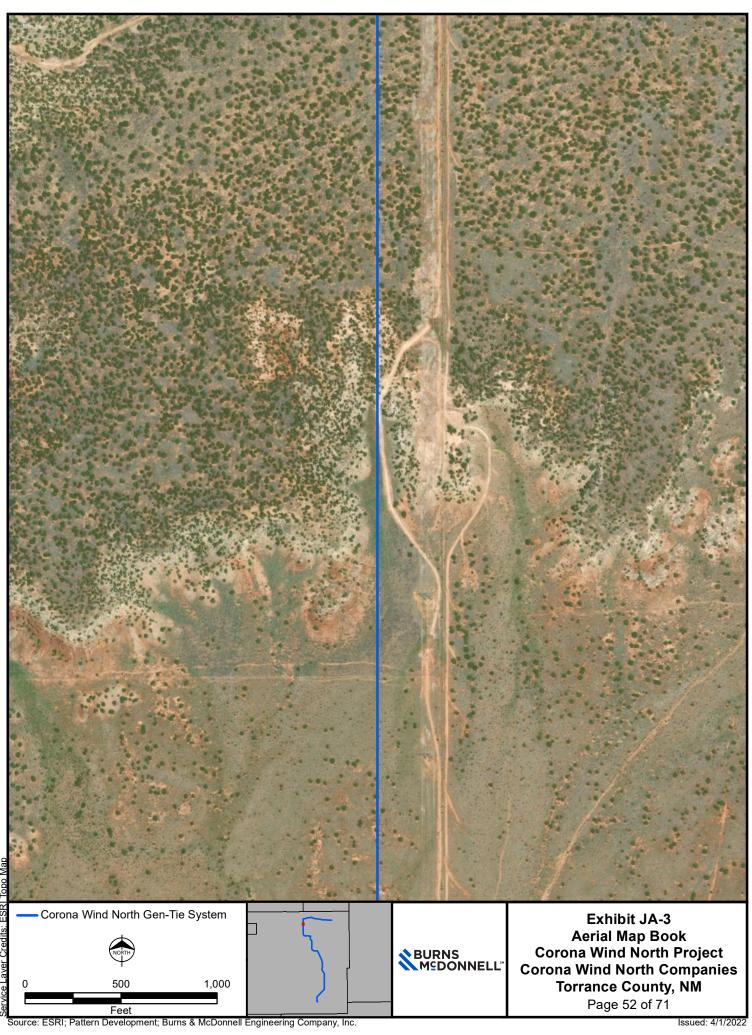


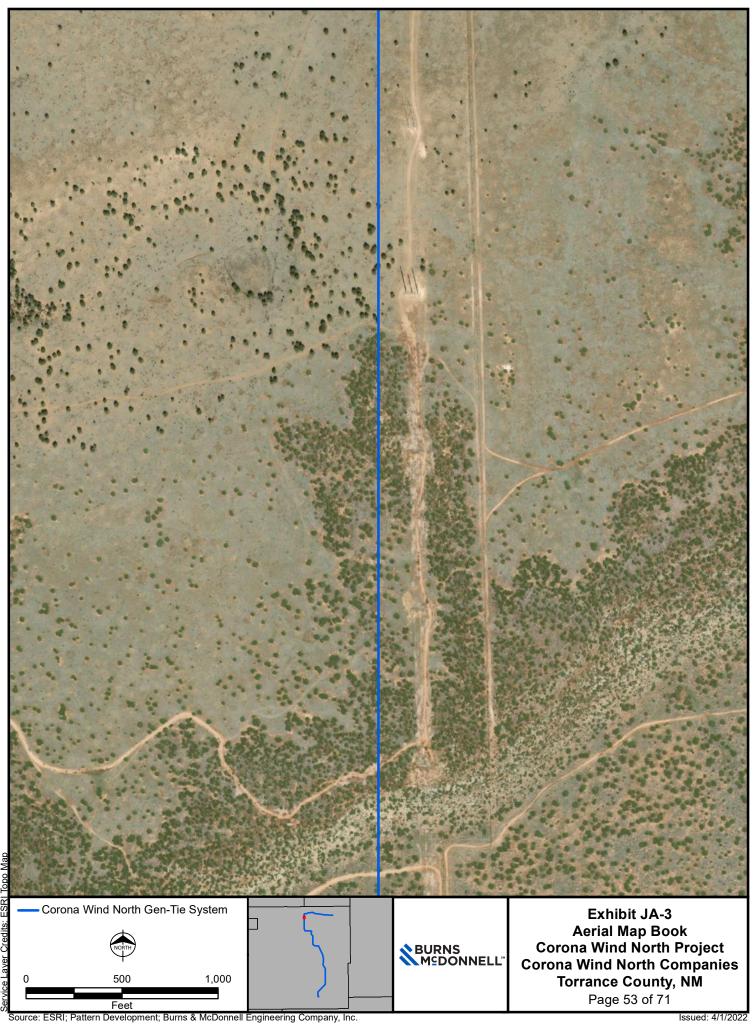


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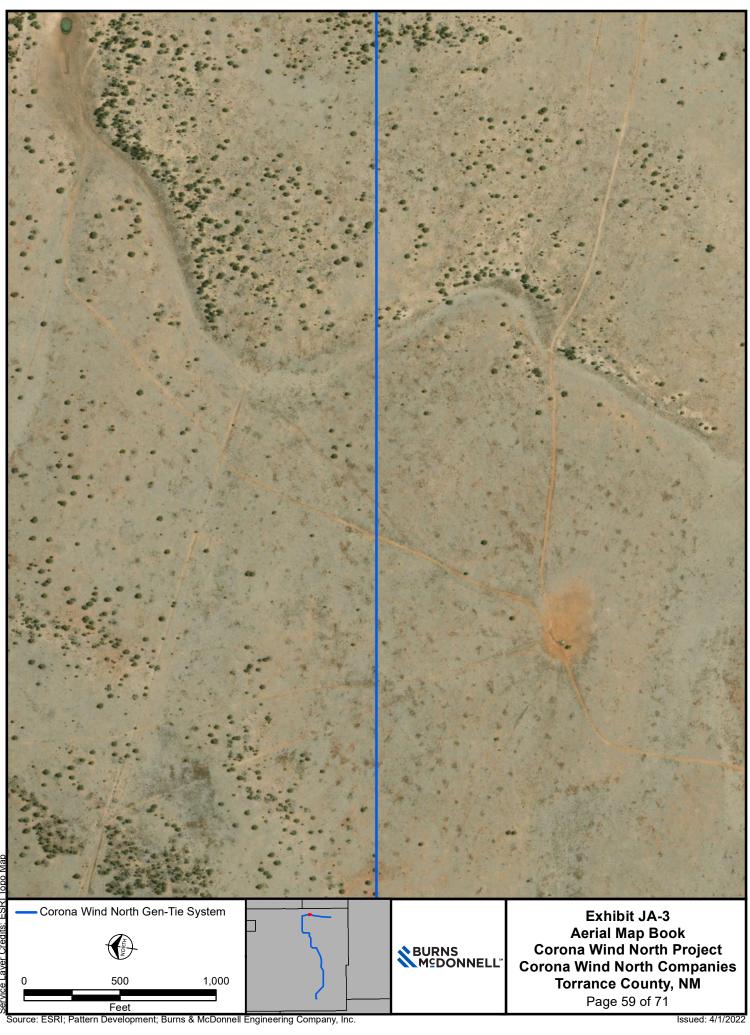


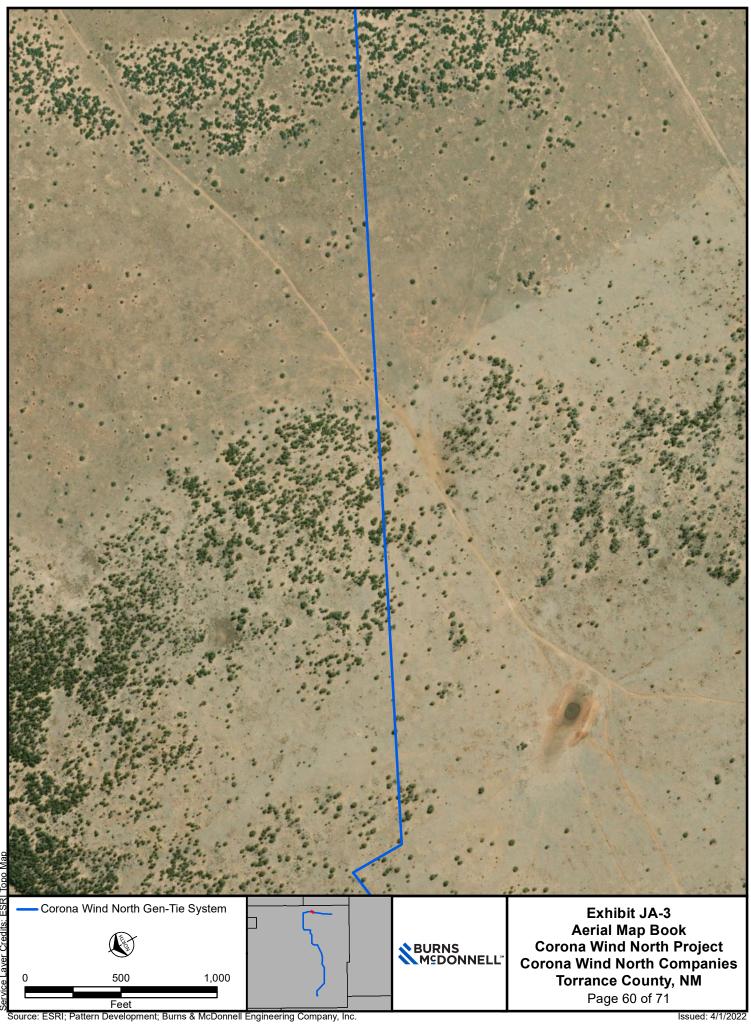


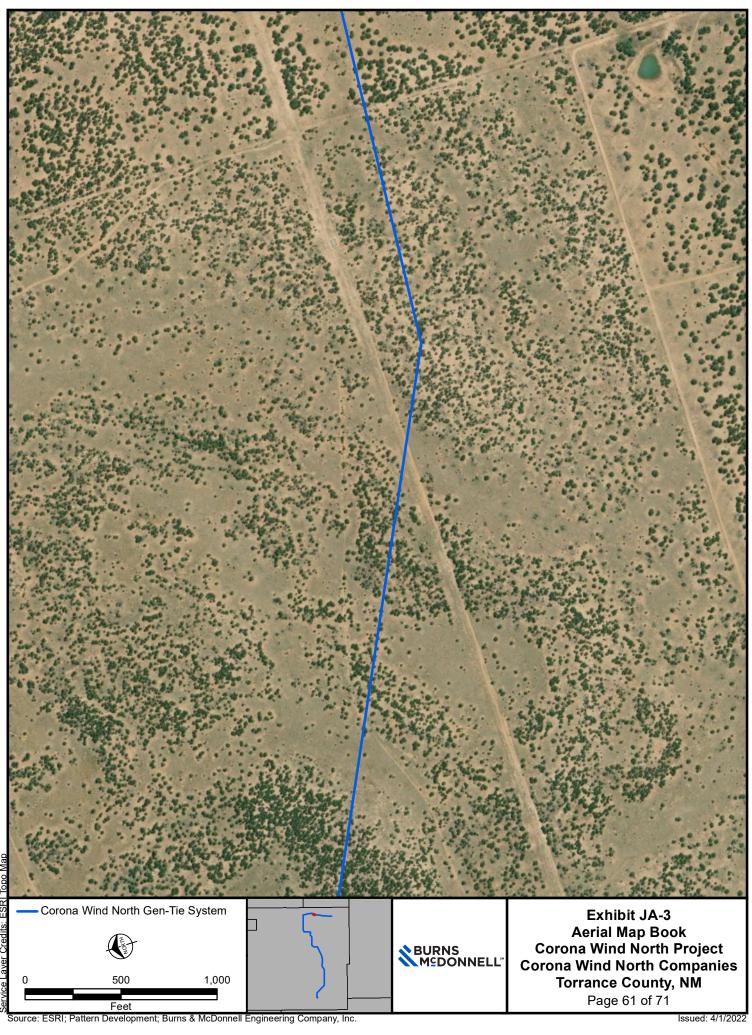


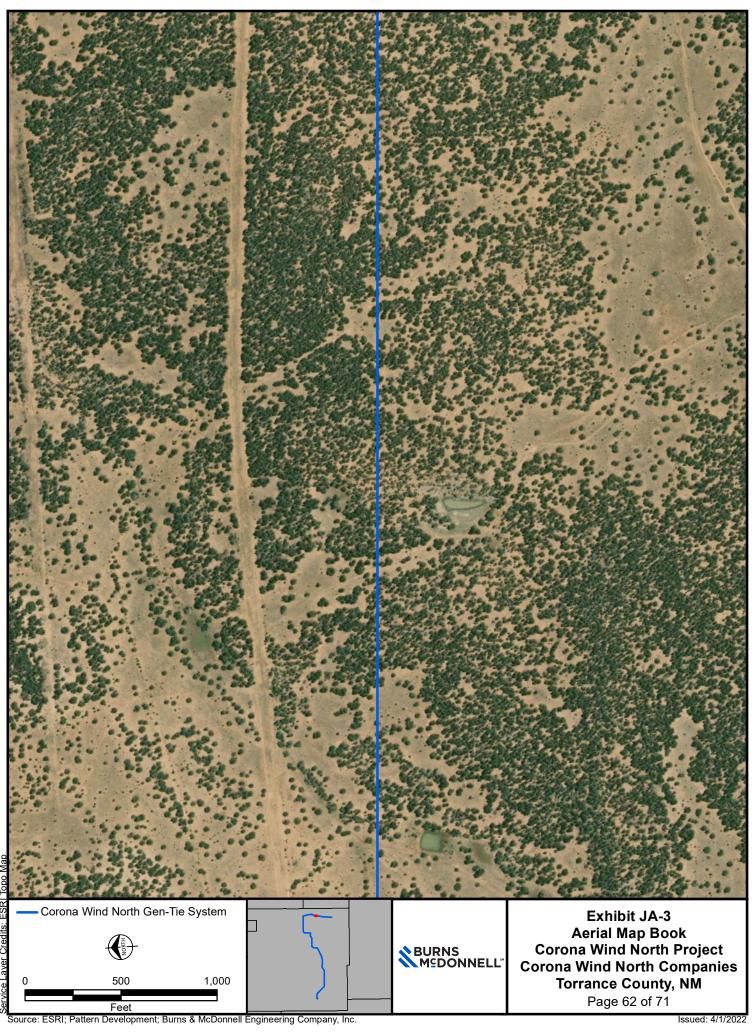


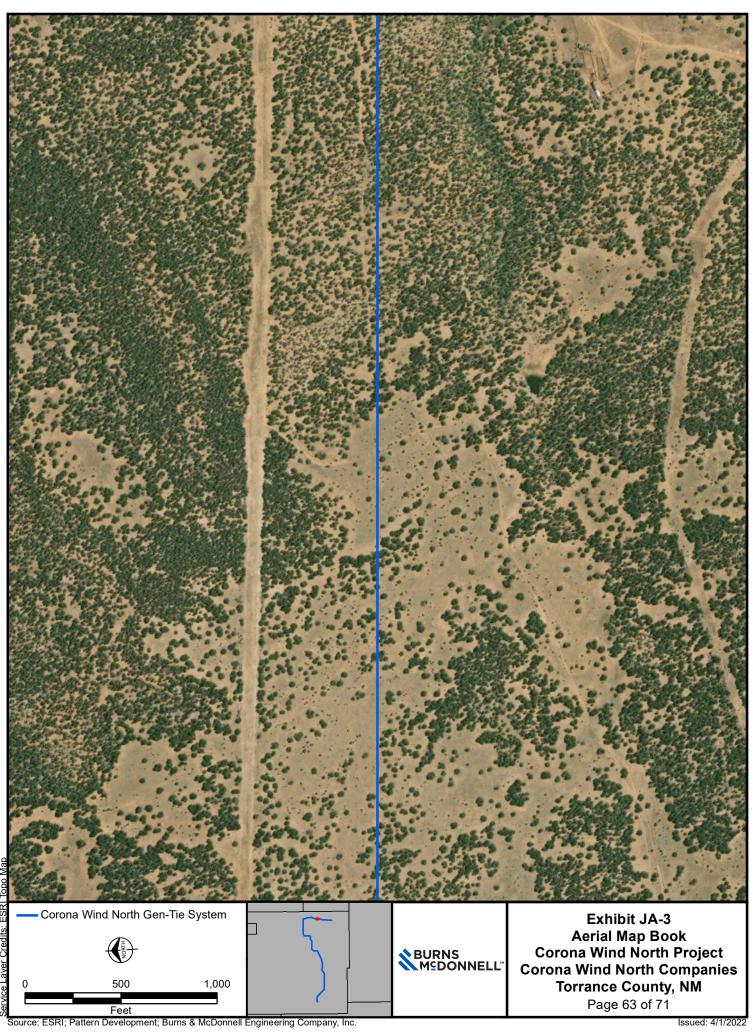








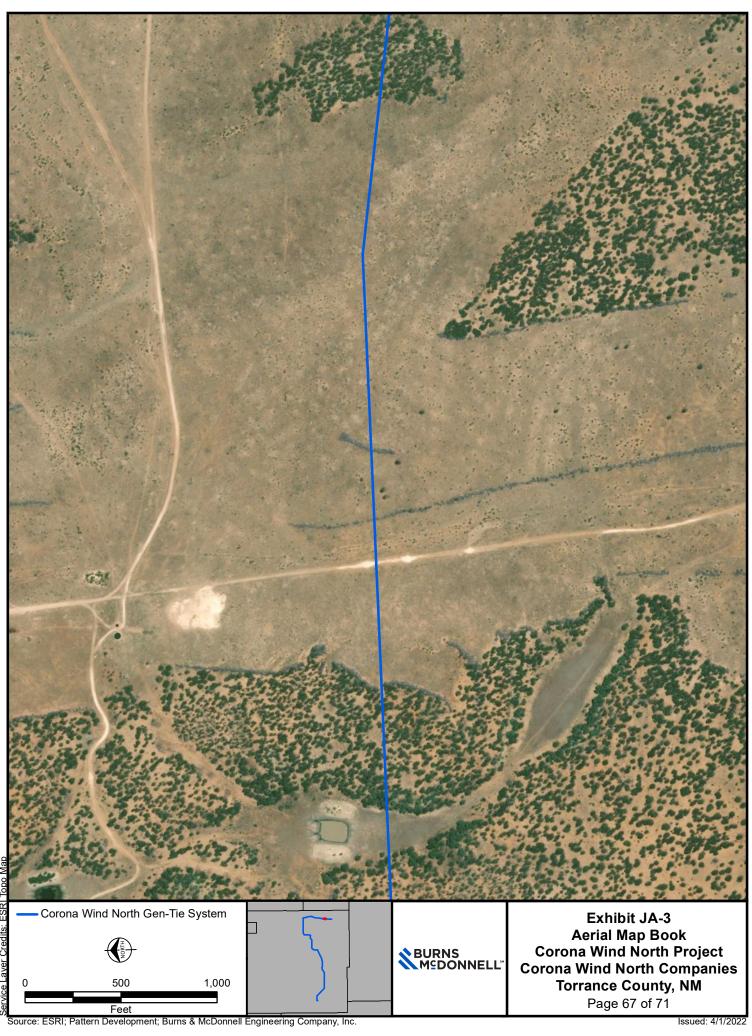


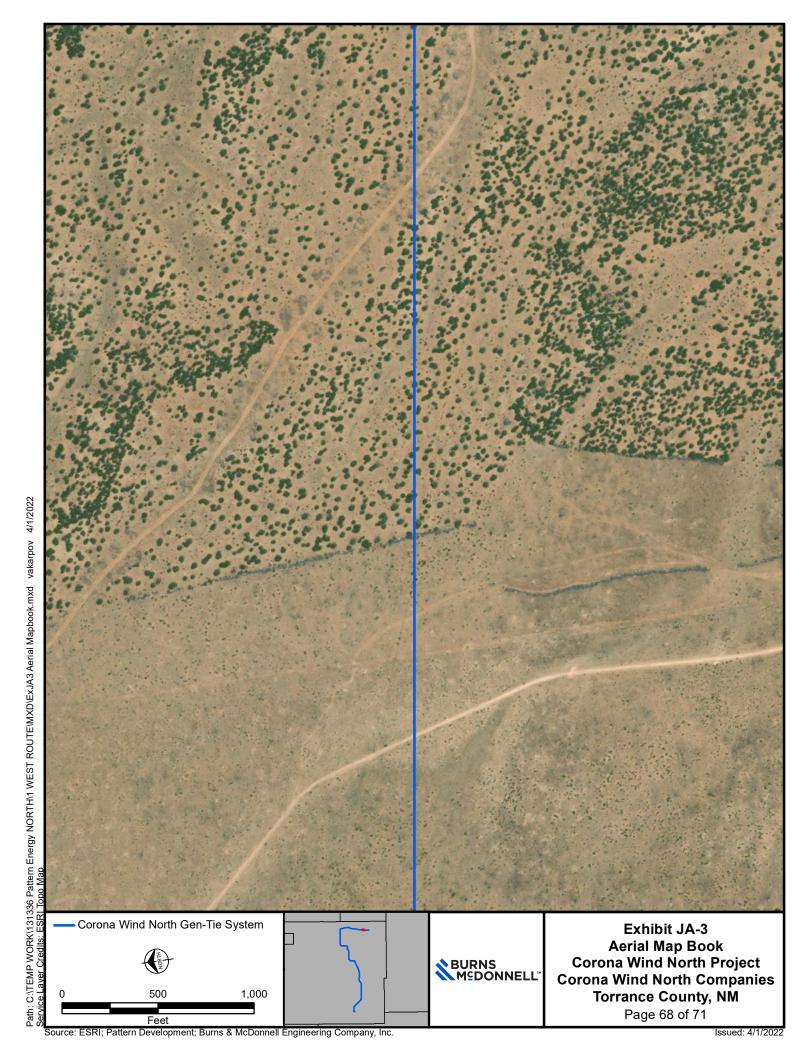


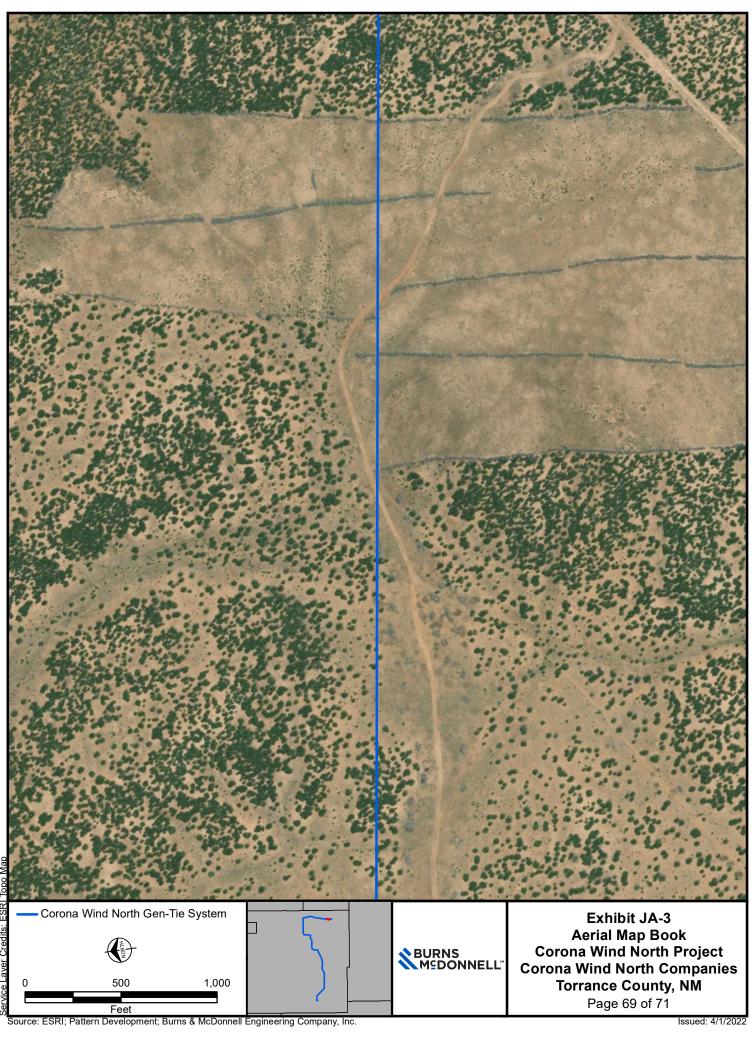


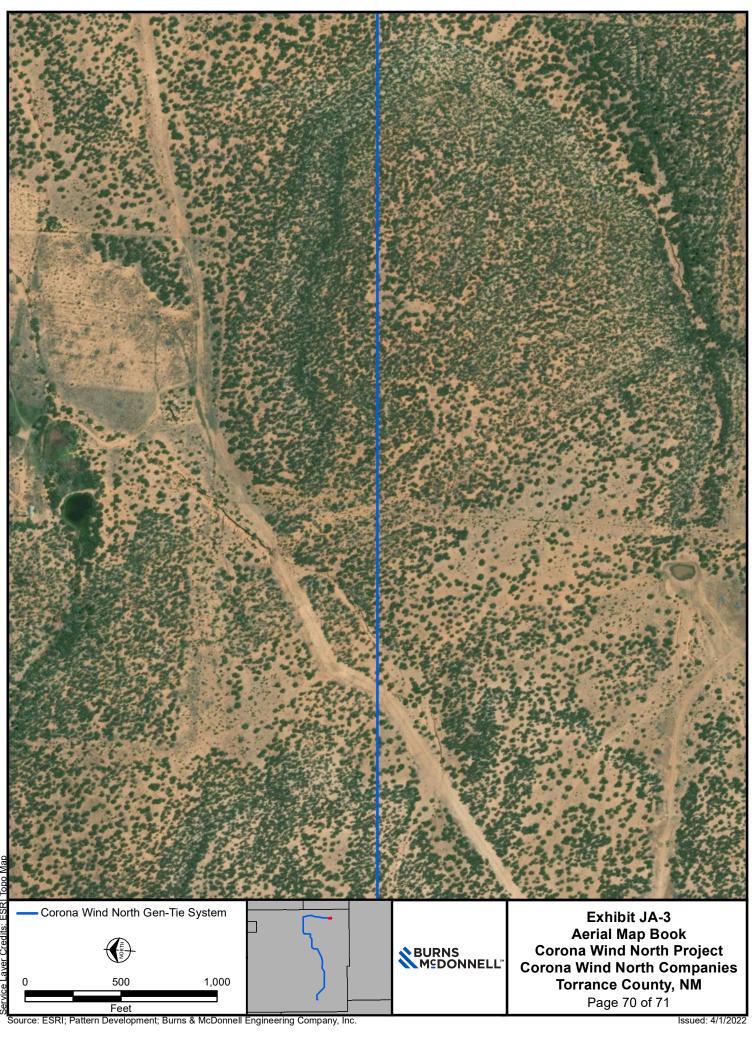














## **BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION	)
FOR THE LOCATION APPROVAL OF THE	)
CORONA WIND NORTH PROJECT AND FOR THE	)
RIGHT-OF-WAY WIDTH APPROVAL PURSUANT	)
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY ACT, NMSA 1978, §62-9-	) Case No. 22-000UT
3	)
	)
DAHLIA WIND LLC, GALLINAS MOUNTAIN	)
WIND LLC, PASTURA WIND LLC, AND PATTERN	)
SC HOLDINGS LLC,	)
	)
	)
JOINT APPLICANTS.	)
	)

## **NOTICE**

**NOTICE** is hereby given by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission ("Commission" or "NMPRC") of the following:

1. Pursuant to NMSA 1978, §§62-9-3, 62-9-3.2 and Commission Rule 17.9.592 NMAC, on November 16, 2021, Dahlia Wind LLC, El Corazon Wind LLC, Gallinas Mountain Wind LLC, Pastura Wind LLC, and Pattern S C Holdings LLC,, (collectively, the "Joint Applicants") filed a joint application and supporting direct testimony and exhibits ("Joint Application") with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (the "Commission") requesting that the Commission enter a Final Order that: a) approves the area for the Joint Applicants' wind turbines comprising the Corona Wind North Project; b) approves the proposed route for the 345- kilovolt ("kV") Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System; and, c) provides the necessary approval to the extent required by law, for the 180-foot right-of-way ("ROW") width for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System which is the subject of the Joint

Application.

2 In this proceeding, the Joint Applicants propose to construct and operate the Corona Wind North Project, which consists of approximately 1,500 MW of wind resources located on 327,895 acres. Approximately 117,476 acres will be on state land and approximately 210,419 acres will be located on private lands. The Joint Applicants are also proposing to obtain location approval for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System. The linear length of the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System is 69.3 miles or 365,904 linear feet.

3. To produce the desired energy, it is anticipated that the generation for which approval is sought in this proceeding will consist of up to 919 wind turbines with a nameplate capacity ranging from 2.6 MW to 4.5 MW. Each of the turbines will be connected by 34.5 kV collection lines to new substations to be located within the Corona Wind North Project area. A final determination of the number of turbines to be used and the specific siting of the turbines, collection lines, and substations will be made over time, and such information will be made available to the Commission. The proposed in-service date for the Corona Wind North Project is the end of 2026.

4. The Joint Applicants are proposing that the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System will include approximately 69.3 miles of new 345 kV transmission line and up to 6 new step-up substations to serve wind turbine generation projects in Guadalupe, San Miguel and Torrance Counties that would interconnect the proposed SunZia transmission line to the Corona Wind North Project.

5. The Commission has assigned Case No. 22-00\_\_\_-UT to this Joint Application, and all correspondence, pleadings, comments, and other communications shall refer to that case number.

- 6 The procedural schedule established in this case is as follows:
  - A. The Joint Applicants shall, at their sole expense, publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in Guadalupe, San Miguel and Torrance Counties on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

B. The Commission's Utility Division Staff ("Staff") shall file a response to the Joint Application by advising the Commission on Staff's position as to the merits of the Joint Application and the need for a public hearing on the location application pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 62-9-3 and pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 62-9-3.2 with respect to the Joint Applicants' request forapproval, to the extent required by law, of the ROW width for the Corona Wind North Gen-Tie System that is the subject of the Joint Application on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

- C. Any person may file a protest and/or any interested person may intervene in this case by filing a motion for leave to intervene pursuant to
   Commission Rule 1.2.2.23(A) NMAC and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 2022;
- D. Staff shall file, and Interveners may file direct testimonyby \_\_\_\_\_,
   2022;

E. Any rebuttal testimony shall be filed on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 2022;

F. Any motions in limine, motions to strike testimony, and other prehearing motions shall be filed on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

Responses to such motions shall be filed on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

The public hearing of this matter shall be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, G. beginning at 9:30 a.m. Mountain Time (MT) to hear and receive arguments, and any other appropriate matters relevant to this evidence. The evidentiary hearing will continue, as necessary, on proceeding. 2022. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the evidentiary hearing shall be conducted via the Zoom videoconference platform. Access to and participation in the evidentiary hearing shall be limited to party-participants (i.e., counsel and witnesses), the Commissioners, and other essential Commission personnel. The Zoom hearing will be livestreamed through YouTube and will be displayed on the Commission's website at. Persons not participating inhttps://www.nmprc.org. Persons not participating in the evidentiary hearing as an attorney or witness may view the hearing on the Commission's website and shall not join the hearing via Zoom

except to provide oral comment as allowed below.

H. Interested persons who are not affiliated with a party may make oral or written comment pursuant to Rule 1.2.2.23(F) NMAC. Oral comment shall be taken at the beginning of the public hearing in this matter on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022 and shall be limited to 3 minutes per commenter. As part of the public hearing, public comment will be taken via the Zoom platform. Therefore, persons wishing to make an oral comment

must register in advance, not later than 8:30 a.m. MT on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by e-mailing Ana Kippenbrock at Ana.Kippenbrock@state.nm.us. Written comments may be submitted before the Commission takes final action by sending thecomment, which shall reference NMPRC Case No. 22-00\_\_\_-UT, to prc.records@state.nm.us. Public comments, whether oral or written, shall not be considered as evidence in this proceeding.

- I. Interested persons should contact the Commission at 505-690-4191 for confirmation of the hearing date, time, and place, since hearings are occasionally rescheduled or canceled if deemed not required in the discretion of the Hearing Examiner.
- J. The Commission's Rules of Procedure, § 1.2.2.1 NMAC et seq., shall apply in this case except as modified or varied by order of the Hearing Examiner or Commission. The Rules ofProcedure and other NMPRC rules are available online at the New Mexico Commission of Public Records' State Records Center and Archives website at http://www.srca.nm.gov/nmac-home/nmac-titles.
- K. Anyone filing pleadings, documents, or testimony in this case shall comply with the Commission's electronic filing policy, as amended from time to time. This includes filings in .pdfformat, with electronic signatures, sent to the Records Bureau's e-mail address, as set out in the Commission's procedural rules at: prc.records@state.nm.us, or another Records Bureau address asset out on the Commission's webpage, within

regular business hours of the due date in order to beconsidered timely filed. Documents received after regular business hours will be considered as being filed the next business day. Regular business hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MT. Parties shall serve a copy on all parties of record and Staff. All filings shall be e-mailed by no laterthan 5:00 p.m. MT on the date they are filed with the Commission.

L. All filings shall be e-mailed to the Hearing Examiner on the date filed at <u>anthony.medeiros@state.nm.us</u> by no later than 5:00 p.m. MT. Such e-mailing shall include the Word or other native version of the filing (e.g., Excel or Power Point) if created in such format. Any filings not e-mailed to the Hearing Examiner in compliance with the requirements of this Order and Commission rules are subject to being summarily rejected and stricken from the recordin the Hearing Examiner's discretion.

7. In accordance with NMSA 1978, §62-9-3(K), the Commission may approve the Joint Applicants' request for location approval without formal hearing if no protest is filed within sixty (60) days after notice has been given that the Joint Application has been filed.

8 The Joint Application may be examined by an interested person at the Commission's website (http://www.nmprc.state.nm.us/), the Joint Applicants' website (https://patternenergy.com/en/project-documents) or at the offices of the Joint Applicants and the Commission at the following addresses:

Joint Applicants	New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
Pier 1, Bay 3	142 W Palace Ave # 300 Santa Fe, NM 87501
San Francisco. CA 94111	

9. Pursuant to Commission Rule 17.9.592.13 NMAC, the Joint Application may

also be examined by any interested person at:

Town of Estancia, Public Library c/o Head Librarian 601 South Tenth Street PO Box 166 Estancia, NM 87016

City of Las Vegas Carnegie Public Library c/o Head Librarian 500 National Avenue Las Vegas, NM 87701

City of Santa Rosa Moise Memorial Library c/o Head Librarian 208 Fifth Street Santa Rosa, NM 88435-2329 10

Any interested person may appear at the time and place of hearing and make a written or oral comment, pursuant to Commission Rule 1.2.2.23(F) NMAC without becoming an intervenor. Such comments will not be considered as evidence in this case.

11. The procedural dates and requirements provided herein are as provided in the Procedural Order issued in this case and are subject to further order of the Commission or Hearing Examiner. Any interested person should contact the Commission for confirmation of the hearing date, time and place since hearings are occasionally rescheduled.

12 Anyone filing pleadings, documents or testimony shall serve copies thereof on all parties of record and Staff and the Hearing Examiner by (1) first class mail or hand-delivery and

(2) by email as provided by the Procedural Order. Copies served on the Hearing Examiner shall include an electronic version of the filing in word format. All filings shall be e-mailed on the

date they are filed with the Commission. Any person whose testimony has been pre-filed will attend the hearing and submit to examination under oath.

13. The Commission's Rules of Procedure, 1.2.2 NMAC, shall apply to this case except as modified by order of the Commission or Hearing Examiner. A copy of the rules may be obtained from the offices of the Commission or at www.nmprc.state.nm.us/nmcc/.

14. All documents mailed to the Commission and its personnel shall be mailed to: New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, P.O. Box 1269 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504.
The following physical address of the Commission shall be used only for special or hand deliveries: 142 W Palace Ave # 300, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

15. ANY PERSON WITH A DISABILITY REQUIRING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CASE SHOULD CONTACT THE COMMISSION AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE HEARING.