

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)	ORDER ASSESSING
WIND QUARRY OPERATIONS, LLC, FOR A)	FILING FEE
WIND ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE)	
WILLOW CREEK WIND ENERGY FACILITY)	EL15-020
AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES)	

On May 27, 2015, Wind Quarry Operations, LLC (Wind Quarry), filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for a Wind Energy Facility Permit (Application) to construct the Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility (Project), a 103-megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity wind energy facility located on approximately 40,000 acres of privately-owned land in Butte County, South Dakota (Project Area), approximately 10 miles northeast of Newell, South Dakota. The proposed Project includes approximately 45 wind turbines, associated access roads, a new collector substation, an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility, and associated transmission interconnection facilities. The Project would interconnect to the U.S. Department of Energy Western Area Power Administration's Maurine to Rapid City 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which extends through the Project Area. The Project would generate utility scale electric power for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers. Per state law, the Commission has six months from the date of application to render a decision on the Application. On May 27, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 27, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent of the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs plus one-twentieth of one percent of all additional estimated construction costs of the facility, with a minimum total fee of not less than eight thousand dollars. The fee will be deposited in a subfund in the Commission's regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon the Application.

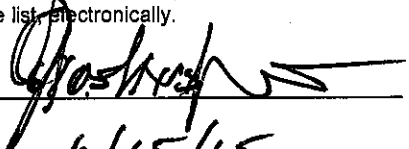
The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-12 and 49-41B-26 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 11, 2015, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission's staff (Staff) requested that the Commission assess a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12 not to exceed \$305,000, with an initial deposit of \$8,000, the minimum fee allowed by law. Wind Quarry stated that it did not object to the fee assessment. The Commission voted unanimously to assess Wind Quarry a filing fee an amount not to exceed \$305,000, with an initial deposit of \$8,000, the minimum fee allowed by law. It is therefore

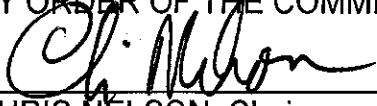
ORDERED, that Wind Quarry shall be assessed a filing fee of not to exceed \$305,000. It is further

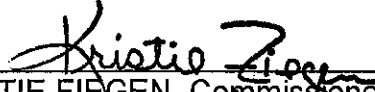
ORDERED, that Wind Quarry shall make an initial deposit with the Commission in the amount of the minimum filing fee of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Commission's Finance Manager.

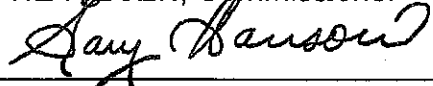
Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of June, 2015.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.
By: <u></u>
Date: <u>6/15/15</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


CHRIS NELSON, Chairman


KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner


GARY HANSON, Commissioner