

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DOCKET EL09-028**

WHAT: **Application by PrairieWinds SD1, Inc., a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. for a Wind Energy Facility Permit for the PrairieWinds SD1 Wind Farm and Associated Facilities**

WHEN/WHERE: **Monday, March 1, 2010, at 6:30 P.M.
American Legion, Main Street, White Lake, SD**

In accordance with SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing at the above time and place on the application filed on December 30, 2009, by PrairieWinds SD1, Inc. (PrairieWinds), a wholly owned subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, for a facility permit for the construction of the PrairieWinds SD1 Project (Project). PrairieWinds proposes to construct and operate a 151.5 megawatt (MW) wind energy facility approximately one half mile south of Crow Lake (not an incorporated community) and approximately 10-15 miles north of the City of White Lake. The Project is proposed to include approximately 101 1.5 MW wind turbines and associated access roads, underground collector lines, a collector substation, an O&M building, and approximately 13 miles of 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line.

At the hearing, interested persons may present their questions, views and comments regarding the application. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5), the application is on file in the Aurora, Brule and Jerauld County Auditors' Offices. The application is also on file in the Commission's office in the Capitol Building in Pierre, and the application and all other documents in the case may also be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under: Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2009 Electric Dockets, EL09-028.

The parties to this proceeding are currently PrairieWinds and the Commission. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, any person residing in the area of the project, each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the project area, any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the project area, or any interested person, may be granted formal party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission on or before March 10, 2009 as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:40. Application for Party Status forms will be available at the public hearing in White and on the Commission's web site or may be obtained by contacting the Commission.

For approval of the requested permit, PrairieWinds must show that the proposed wind energy facility will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds are appropriate.

The parties will have the right to appeal the final decision in this case to the appropriate Circuit Court by serving and filing a notice of appeal of the decision in accordance with SDCL 1-26-31, within thirty (30) days after the date of service of the notice of entry of decision in this case.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: ph (800) 332-1782; fax (866) 757-6031; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.