

# GUNDERSON, PALMER, NELSON & ASHMORE, LLP

## ATTORNEYS AT LAW

506 SIXTH STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 8045  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57709-8045

TELEPHONE (605) 342-1078  
[www.gundersonpalmer.com](http://www.gundersonpalmer.com)  
ATTORNEYS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN  
SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, NEBRASKA,  
WYOMING, MONTANA, MINNESOTA,  
COLORADO, KENTUCKY, AND PENNSYLVANIA

J. CRISMAN PALMER  
JAMES S. NELSON  
DANIEL E. ASHMORE  
DONALD P. KNUDSEN  
PATRICK G. GOETZINGER  
TALBOT J. WIECZOREK  
JENNIFER TRUCANO  
DAVID E. LUST  
TERRI LEE WILLIAMS  
SARA FRANKENSTEIN  
JASON M. SMILEY

QUENTIN L. RIGGINS  
RONALD G. SCHMIDT  
JEFFREY R. CONNOLLY  
REBECCA L. MANN  
ANDREW J. KNUTSON  
KYLE L. WIESE  
JANA SMOOT WHITE  
TYLER C. WETERING  
NATHAN R. CHICOINE

WYNN A. GUNDERSON  
*Of Counsel*

*Writer's E-mail Address: [jsmiley@gpnalaw.com](mailto:jsmiley@gpnalaw.com)*

*Writer's Fax No.: (605) 342-0480*

June 2, 2015

Kent Woodmansey  
Natural Resources Engineering Director  
SD DENR  
Joe Foss Building  
523 E Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Wind Quarry Operations, LLC/ Butte County, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Woodmansey:

I am writing to follow up with you regarding our recent conversations concerning the DENR One Stop Permitting program. As you know, I represent Wind Quarry Operations, LLC ("Wind Quarry") concerning the construction of the Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility ("Willow Creek"), a 103-megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity wind energy facility located on approximately 40,000 acres of privately owned land in Butte County, South Dakota, 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 Maurine to Rapid City 115-kilvolt transmission line, which extends through the Project Area. The Project would generate utility scale electric power for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers.

Wind Quarry has already filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for an energy facility permit (Application) to construct Willow Creek. Additional project information, is available at the Commission's website:  
<http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2015/e115-020.aspx>.

During one of our recent conversations you asked me a number of project specific questions. The answers to those questions are as follows:

## GUNDERSON, PALMER, NELSON & ASHMORE, LLP

June 2, 2015

Page - 2 -

1. Willow Creek will not have a peaking plant.
2. There will be an on site maintenance building. Wind Quarry expects to purchase an existing building with connections to a water well and septic system. An additional pole barn structure will be erected as a maintenance building, without water or septic.
3. Fuel tanks are not anticipated on site.
4. Oil will be stored on site for use in maintenance of turbine gearboxes.
5. Other chemicals will be stored on site including equipment lubricants, truck maintenance fluids, and cleaners.
6. The operations after construction will employ between 5 and 8 people on a permanent basis.
7. Solid waste / garbage will be shipped off site.
8. Use of emergency generators is not likely.

If you need additional project information, please let me know. Otherwise, I understand that you will provide Wind Quarry with a letter explaining which permits are required by DENR for this project. It is my further understanding Wind Quarry will have an opportunity to discuss questions and concerns with DENR staff prior to applying for the required permits. Please let me know if I have misunderstood the process.

Sincerely yours,



Jason M. Smiley

JMS:amb