

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

WHAT: Wind Energy Facility – Prevailing Winds Wind Energy Facility - 201-megawatt nameplate capacity wind energy facility located on approximately 36,000 acres of land in the Dry Choteau Creek Coteau, an upland divide that rises 300 to 350 feet above the Choteau Creek Valley along its western boundary and then gradually descends for several miles to the east, near Avon, South Dakota, in Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties

WHEN: Wednesday, August 24, 2016, at 6:30 P.M. CDT

WHERE: Avon School Gymnasium, 210 Pine St., Avon, S.D.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public input hearing at the above time and place on an application to construct the Prevailing Winds Wind Energy Facility (Project), a 201-megawatt nameplate capacity wind energy facility located on the Dry Choteau Creek Coteau, an upland divide that rises 300 to 350 feet above the Choteau Creek Valley along its western boundary and then gradually descends for several miles to the east (Project Area), near Avon, South Dakota, in Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties (Application). The Project Area is approximately 36,000 acres. The proposed Project includes 100 wind turbines, associated access roads, an underground electrical power collector system, a collector substation, an operations and maintenance facility, and associated transmission interconnection facilities. The Project will interconnect at a new Western Area Power Administration (Western)-owned switching station to be constructed within the Project Area adjacent to Western's Fort Randall to Utica Junction 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line, or alternatively at Western's existing Utica Junction 230-kV switching station, approximately 22 miles east of the Project Area. The Project will generate up to 860,000 megawatt-hours annually of utility scale electric power for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers within South Dakota and the Southwest Power Pool.

At the public input hearing, Prevailing Winds will present a brief description of the Project, following which interested persons may appear and present their questions, views, and comments regarding the Application and Project. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5), the Application is on file in the Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties Auditor's office and in the Commission's office in Pierre, and the Application and all other documents in the case may also be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2016 Electric Dockets, EL16-022.

The parties to this proceeding are currently Prevailing Winds 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 as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:40 on or before August 29, 2016. Application forms for party status will be available at the public input hearing on August 24, 2016, or may be obtained from the Commission or the Commission's website.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary

hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, Commission Staff, or the Commission itself. At the formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

For approval, Prevailing Winds must show that the Project 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 wind energy facility permit should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance of the Project as the Commission finds 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 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; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.