

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
APPLICATION BY CROCKER WIND)
FARM, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A)
WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345)
KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN CLARK)
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR)
CROCKER WIND FARM)

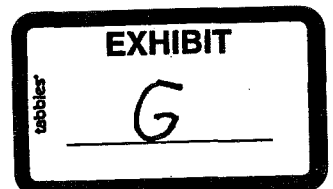
EL 17-028

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

JAY HESSE

ON BEHALF OF

CROCKER WIND FARM, LLC



70 previous efforts to accommodate concerns.

71 As a part of the CUP process the county encouraged us to reach out to any residence owner
72 within ¼ mile of a turbine location and offer them an opportunity to participate in the project.

73 We followed through on their request and made these landowners the same offer as landowners
74 inside of the project area.

75 **Q. Is the current CUP compatible with project goals?**

76 The conditions on the CUP create major challenges for the project that other projects that
77 compete in the market don't have to comply with. We have appealed the CUP and are seeking
78 relief in the Circuit Court from the ¼ mile setback to non-participating residences and to clean
79 up some of the other conditions as well. The setback imposed by Clark County from non-
80 participating residence is almost four times the setback listed in their current wind ordinance.
81 This takes away significant landowner rights to signed landowners, creates significant economic
82 harm to the project including making the energy from the project more expensive to generate.

83 **Q. Will the project impede growth and development in the area?**

84 I believe the project will help with overall growth and development of the area. This area is
85 predominantly agricultural land. This wind farm will generate additional revenue for landowners
86 that they can use to improve their overall agricultural business and improve their ability to
87 develop of their land as they see fit. The additional revenue to the area will also benefit those
88 interested in growing businesses in and around the project area. The project will also create
89 demand for people to live around the project area because of the jobs generated by the project.

90 **Q. Does the project threaten the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants of the area?**

91 No. The proposed project utilizes setbacks and protections typical of wind farms in the region
92 that are successfully operating without causing safety or welfare issues. I believe you will find