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

AFFIDAVIT OF MELISSA SCHMIT IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TURBINE ADJUSTMENTS

EL17-055

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) SS
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

I, Melissa Schmit, being first duly sworn on oath, state and allege as follows:

- 1. I am the Permitting Manager at Geronimo Energy, LLC, which is assisting Crocker Wind Farm, LLC ("Crocker") in the development of the Crocker Wind Farm and associated 345 kV Transmission Line ("Project"). I have the authority to provide this affidavit on behalf of Crocker.
- 2. I am providing this Affidavit pursuant to paragraph 23 of the Permit Conditions approved by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") and included as Attachment A to its June 12, 2018 Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facilities and Notice of Entry ("Order") in the above-referenced docket.
- 3. Since issuance of the Order, Crocker has determined that one turbine adjustment greater than 325 feet is needed and, therefore, is a material change. Maps showing both the location approved by the Commission (with white outline) and the currently proposed turbine location (with green outline) are attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (public and confidential versions).
- 4. The reason(s) for the turbine adjustment identified in **Exhibit A** is provided below:
 - A. Turbine 19 has been adjusted 526 feet to the east from the location approved by the Commission. This adjustment is necessary to ensure construction safety as it allows for a larger staging area so turbine components are not placed within the access road construction corridor. On August 13, 2018, a material change of 546 feet to the east was approved to avoid impacts to cultural resources identified during field surveys. Therefore, the proposed turbine adjustment is 20 feet to the west of the previously approved material change.
- 5. The turbine adjustment complies with the specified noise and shadow flicker requirements set forth in paragraphs 29 and 30(c) of the Permit Conditions. **Exhibit B**, attached hereto, provides the highest modeled shadow flicker and noise level at a residence for each turbine

based on an updated analysis of the current proposed Project layout. In accordance with paragraph 30 of the Permit Conditions, updated noise and shadow flicker analysis reports for the entire Project (including the eight turbine adjustments under 325 feet separately submitted) are attached as **Exhibit C** and **Exhibit D**, respectively.

- 6. The confidential version of **Exhibit A** identifies the locations of cultural resources, sensitive species habitat, and wetlands in relation to the proposed turbine adjustment. In addition, **Exhibit B** provides the distances of the proposed turbine location from residences, property lines, roads, and cemeteries. As shown in **Exhibit A** and **Exhibit B**, the proposed turbine adjustment avoids cultural resources, sensitive species habitat, and wetland impacts, and complies with all applicable county and state setback requirements.
- 7. All modifications are located on land under lease/easement for the Project.
- 8. With respect to the Project, including the proposed turbine adjustment, Crocker will comply with the Commission's Order and all other applicable regulations and requirements.
- 9. Based on the foregoing, Crocker requests approval of the proposed turbine adjustment.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Dated this 24 day of 12018.

Melissa Schmit

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this Z Tiday of Sepr., 2018.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: JAM. 31, 2021

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Jennifer Bentley Brouwer
NOTARY PUBLIC
MINNESOTA
My Commission Expires 01/31/2021