



Gary Hanson, Chairman  
Chris Nelson, Vice Chairman  
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner

*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

(605) 773-3201

Consumer Hotline  
1-800-332-1782

Email  
[puc@state.sd.us](mailto:puc@state.sd.us)

July 8, 2019

Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: EL19-007, In the Matter of the Application by Triple H Wind Project, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Hyde County, South Dakota**

Ms. Van Gerpen,

On June 27, 2019, the Commission held a hearing regarding the funding for the decommissioning of the Project, the risk associated with ice throw, and the potential impacts to whooping cranes. The parties have agreed to the following conditions to resolve all issues concerning the risk associated with ice throw and potential impacts to whooping cranes:

Applicant shall establish a procedure for preventing whooping crane collisions with turbines during operations by establishing and implementing formal plans for monitoring the project site and surrounding area for whooping cranes during spring and fall migration periods throughout the operational life of the project and shutting down turbines and/or construction activities within 2 miles of whooping crane sightings. The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks will be consulted on the procedure to minimize impacts to whooping cranes.

Applicant will use two methods to detect icing conditions on turbine blades: (1) sensors that will detect when blades become imbalanced or create vibration due to ice accumulation; and (2) meteorological data from on-site permanent meteorological towers, on-site anemometers, and other relevant sources that will be used to determine if ice accumulation is occurring. These control systems will either automatically shut down the turbine(s) in icing conditions (per the sensors) or Applicant will manually shut down turbine(s) if icing conditions are identified (using referenced data). Turbines will not return to normal operation until the control systems no longer detect an imbalance or when weather conditions either remove icing on the blades or indicate icing is no longer a concern. Applicant will pay for any documented damage caused by ice thrown from a turbine.

Sincerely,

Kristen N. Edwards  
Staff Attorney