BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY BUFFALO RIDGE II LLC, A SUBSIDIARY OF IBERDROLA RENEWABLES, INC. FOR AN ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUFFALO RIDGE II WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED COLLECTION SUBSTATION AND ELECTRIC INTERCONNECTION SYSTEM

NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT HEARING; NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR PARTY STATUS

EL08-031

On October 31, 2008, Buffalo Ridge II LLC, a subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, Inc. (Buffalo Ridge) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of the Buffalo Ridge II Wind Farm and Associated Collection Substation and Electric Interconnection System. The applicant proposes to construct and operate a wind farm on up to 77 acres dispersed throughout portions of up to 77 sections of land in Brookings and Deuel Counties as well as a 13-mile long 115 kilovolt overhead transmission line. The proposed wind farm could have a name plate capacity of up to 306 megawatts.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the Commission will hold a public hearing on Buffalo Ridge's application on Monday, January 5, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at 824 32nd Avenue, Swiftel Center, Daktronics Banquet Room A, Brookings, South Dakota. The purpose of the hearing will be to hear public comment regarding Buffalo Ridge's application. At the public input hearing, Buffalo Ridge will present a brief description of the project, following which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments and questions regarding the application. A copy of the application is on file with the Brookings and Deuel County Auditors pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and the Commission's office in Pierre and the application and all other documents in the case may be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2008 Electric Dockets, EL08-031.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently Buffalo Ridge and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the project; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; 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 area in which the facility is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before January 16, 2009.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule one or more subsequent formal evidentiary hearings conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, Commission Staff or the Commission itself. At such 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 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, Buffalo Ridge must show that the proposed 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 permit should be granted, denied or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input hearing Monday, January 5, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at 824 32nd Avenue, Swiftel, Daktronics Banquet Room A, Brookings, South Dakota; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, applications for party status must be filed on or before December 30, 2008, and that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17.1, a party who wishes to receive personal service of all material filed in this matter shall make a specific request to the Commission for personal service, which may be included in the application for party status.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this <u>25</u> day of November, 2008.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.

By:____

Date:

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

GARY HANSON, Chairman

STEVE KÖLBECK, Commissioner

DUSTÍN M. JØHNSON, Commissioner