

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY))	ORDER APPROVING
WIND QUARRY OPERATIONS, LLC, FOR A))	TRANSFER OF PERMIT AND
WIND ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE))	ACCEPTANCE OF TURBINE
WILLOW CREEK WIND ENERGY FACILITY))	AND LAYOUT CHANGES
AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES))	
)	EL15-020

On May 27, 2015, Wind Quarry Operations, LLC (Wind Quarry), filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for a Wind Energy Facility Permit (Application) to construct the Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility (Project), a 103-megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity wind energy facility located on approximately 40,000 acres of privately-owned land in Butte County, South Dakota (Project Area), approximately 10 miles northeast of Newell, South Dakota. The proposed Project includes approximately 45 wind turbines, associated access roads, a new collector substation, an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility, and associated transmission interconnection facilities. The Project would interconnect to the U.S. Department of Energy Western Area Power Administration's Maurine to Rapid City 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which extends through the Project Area. The Project would generate utility scale electric power for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers.

On May 27, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 27, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On July 9, 2015, the Commission held a public input hearing in Newell, South Dakota. No petitions to intervene or applications for party status were filed. On November 16, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and Granting Permit to Construct Facilities. On October 17, 2018, Willow Creek Wind Power LLC, filed a Motion for Approval of Transfer of Permit and Acceptance of Turbine and Layout Changes.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-29 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission's staff recommended approval of the transfer of permit and the requested turbine and layout changes. After reviewing the motion and supporting information, the Commission unanimously approved the Motion for Approval of Transfer of Permit and Acceptance of Turbine and Layout Changes. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion for Approval of Transfer of Permit is hereby approved; It is further

ORDERED, that the requested turbine and layout changes are hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of November 2018.

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: <u>Karon E. Premer</u>
Date: <u>11/21/18</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Eiegen
KRISTIE EIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner