

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
BY DAKOTA RANGE I, LLC AND)
DAKOTA RANGE II, LLC FOR A PERMIT)
OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN GRANT)
COUNTY AND CODINGTON COUNTY,)
SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR THE DAKOTA)
RANGE WIND PROJECT)**

**ORDER GRANTING PARTY
STATUS AND ESTABLISHING
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

EL18-003

On January 24, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit for a wind energy facility (Application) from Dakota Range I, LLC, and Dakota Range II, LLC (together Dakota Range or Applicant). Applicant proposes to construct a wind energy facility to be located in Grant County and Codington County, South Dakota, known as the Dakota Range Wind Project (Project). The Project would be situated within an approximately 44,500-acre project area, ten miles northeast of Watertown, South Dakota (Project Area). The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 302.4MW nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 72 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines connecting the turbines to the collection substation, underground fiber-optic cable for turbine communications co-located with the collector lines, a 34.5 to 345-kV collection substation, up to five permanent meteorological towers, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project would interconnect to the high-voltage transmission grid via the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line which crosses the Project site. The Project is expected to be completed in 2021. Applicant estimates the total construction cost to be \$380 million.

On January 25, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 26, 2018, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On January 31, 2018, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. On March 21, 2018, a public input hearing was held as scheduled and the Commission received applications for party status from sixteen individuals. On March 28, 2018, Commission Staff submitted a Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule. On March 30, 2018, Dakota Range filed a Response to Applications for Party Status and Staff's Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22, specifically 20:10:22:40.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 3, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting party status and adopting procedural schedule. The Commission further voted unanimously to grant party status and adopt a procedural schedule. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the parties shall follow the procedural schedule as set forth below except as otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Applicant Supplemental Direct Testimony Due April 6, 2018

Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due May 4, 2018

Applicant Rebuttal Testimony Due	May 21, 2018
Final Discovery to All Parties	May 24, 2018
Final Discovery Due	June 7, 2018
Witness and Exhibit Lists Due	June 8, 2018
Deadline for Prehearing Motions	June 11, 2018
Evidentiary Hearing	June 12-15, 2018.

It is further

ORDERED, that responses to discovery are due ten business days after receipt. It is further

ORDERED, that each party may submit pre-filed testimony on behalf of that party's witnesses. The submission of pre-filed testimony is a pre-requisite to giving live testimony at the hearing. However, each party may have persons who have not submitted pre-filed testimony available to testify at the hearing in the event issues not addressed in pre-filed testimony are raised by the Commission. It is further

ORDERED, that party status is granted to Teresa Kaaz; Daniel D. Seurer; Vincent Meyer; Diane Redlin; Jared Krakow; Kevin Krakow; Matt Whitney; Timothy J. Lindgren; Linda M. Lindgren; Christian Reimche; Derek Nelson; Paul Nelson; Kelly Owen; Kristi Mogen; Wade Bauer; and Patricia Meyer.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of April 2018.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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 or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u>Adam DeHueck</u></p> <p>Date: <u>4/6/18</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner