

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY )  
WIND QUARRY OPERATIONS, LLC, FOR A )  
WIND ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE )  
WILLOW CREEK WIND ENERGY FACILITY )  
AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES )**

**ORDER APPROVING  
TRANSFER OF PERMIT**

**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, which was approved by the Commission by order dated November 21, 2018, and the permit was transferred to Willow Creek Wind Power, LLC (Willow Creek) with Pattern Renewables 2 LP having 100% of the membership interest in Willow Creek. On July 17, 2019, Willow Creek filed a motion for approval of transfer of the permit to Lincoln Clean Energy, LLC, as a result of Lincoln Clean Energy acquiring 100% of the membership interest in Willow Creek.

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 August 6, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission's staff recommended approval of the transfer of permit. After reviewing the motion and supporting information, the Commission unanimously approved the Motion for Approval of Transfer of Permit. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion for Approval of Transfer of Permit is hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2019.

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 or by mail.	
By:	<u>Loren E. Cremer</u>
Date:	<u>08/08/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner