

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

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)

**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST
FOR RELEASE OF
CONSTRUCTION BOND**

EL08-031

On October 31, 2008, Buffalo Ridge II LLC, a subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, Inc. (Applicant or Buffalo Ridge/Iberdrola) filed an application with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for an energy facility construction permit for the construction of the Buffalo Ridge II Wind Farm and associated collection substation and electric interconnection system (Project). The Project consists of a wind farm with a name plate capacity of up to 306 megawatts 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. Following a hearing held as scheduled and noticed in Brookings on April 15, 2009, and the filing of stipulations between Applicant, certain intervening parties, and the Commission's staff (Staff), on April 23, 2009, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order; Notice of Entry (Order) authorizing the construction of the Project subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Order, which included the requirement that Applicant furnish an indemnity bond in the amount of \$50,000 pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-38 to secure the restoration and repair of damage to roads and other public infrastructure. On December 14, 2009, Applicant filed the bond. On November 26, 2013, Applicant filed a letter requesting release of the bond and on December 6, 2013, filed a letter with additional information about the conclusion of the construction process.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-38.

At its regular meeting on December 17, 2013, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Buffalo Ridge/Iberdrola's request for release of construction bond and authorize the Executive Director or General Counsel to execute any necessary release documents to release Safeco Insurance Company of America Bond No. 6659429. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Buffalo Ridge/Iberdrola's request for release of construction bond is hereby granted and the Executive Director or Commission Counsel are authorized to execute any necessary release documents to release Safeco Insurance Company of America Bond No. 6659429.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th of December, 2013.

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>Joy Kashley</u>
Date: <u>12.17.13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner