

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

<b>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 ) ) )</b>	<b>NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT HEARING; NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR PARTY STATUS</b>
	<b>EL15-020</b>

On May 27, 2015, Wind Quarry Operations, LLC filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for an 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 (DOE) Western Area Power Administration (Western) 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. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public input hearing on the Application on July 9, 2015, at 6:30 P.M. MDT at Newell School Multi-Purpose Room, 501 Dartmouth Ave., Newell, S.D.**

The purpose of the public input hearing will be to hear public comments regarding the permit Application and the Project. At the hearing, Applicant 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 Butte County Auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's web site at [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov) under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2015 Electric Dockets, EL15-020 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, or by phone at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the Project; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the Project 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 Project 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 5:00 P.M. CDT on July 27, 2015.**

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, the Commission's 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 Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or ad hoc meeting of the Commission.

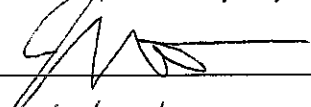
For approval, the Applicant must show that the proposed Wind Energy Facility Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not 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 on the Application and Project on July 9, 2015, at 6:30 P.M. MDT at the Newell School Multi-purpose Room located at 501 Dartmouth Ave., Newell, South Dakota. 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 5:00 P.M. CDT on July 27, 2015.**

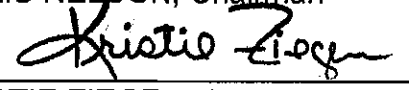
Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these hearings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2015.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
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:	
Date:	<u>6/1/15</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner