

-----Original Message-----

From: Nelson, Chris

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 8:11 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXT] Support wind energy development

Thank you for your email. I will add your comments to the public comment section of one of our current wind dockets so my fellow commissioners and the public can also benefit from your comments.

Chris Nelson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner  
500 E Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

-----Original Message-----

From: Nelson, Chris

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 7:48 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXT] SD is a national leader in wind energy

Thank you for your email. I will add your comments to the public comment section of one of our current wind dockets so my fellow commissioners and the public can also benefit from your comments.

Chris Nelson

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner

500 E Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 10:26 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** EL19-003

Mr. Kolecka,

Thank you for your message regarding the Crowned Ridge siting permit request currently pending before the Public Utilities Commission, docket EL19-003.

The commissioners are required by law to base our decisions on actual evidence presented in the docket process. We cannot make these decisions based on feelings or hearsay or internet searches. By law, we must take several factors into account when considering whether or not to grant a wind siting permit. The primary duty of the commission is to ensure the location, construction, and operation of the facilities will produce minimal adverse effects to the health, safety, and welfare of South Dakota's environment and citizens. The standards we must follow are defined in South Dakota Codified Laws and Administrative Rules.

If we as commissioners were to disregard the laws when determining the outcome of wind siting permit requests, we would be disregarding the oath each of us took after being elected: to follow the laws of the state of South Dakota. These laws were voted on and enacted by the South Dakota Legislature.

Your message will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket so my fellow commissioners and others may read this information. Here is a link to the docket, <http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2019/EL19-003.aspx>, and here is a link to the commission's Siting Guidelines, <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2019/el19-003/el19-003sitinghandout.pdf>.

Chairman Gary Hanson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Virgil Whetsel <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 9:53 AM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: [EXT] South Dakota benefits from wind energy

Virgil Whetsel

[REDACTED]  
Rapid City, SD 57703

June 26, 2019

Dear Kristie Fiegen,

I am writing to voice my support for wind energy development. South Dakota is a national leader in wind power and we are perfectly situated to benefit from wind energy development. Wind energy adds needed jobs and pays millions in property taxes to help locally-including our schools and roads.

This is our opportunity to be a part of the future, to grow our economy, improve counties and support clean alternative energy options. Please do what you can to support wind energy.

Embrace the future. Wind, solar and geothermal are all plentiful in South Dakota. Let's lead instead of dragging behind. Renewable energy development is inevitable and will end centralized energy supply. We know big energy has contributed significantly to many campaigns but it is an embarrassment that the biggest company in South Dakota is a utility monopoly under the jurisdiction of our public utilities commission. Just a few dollars more in each rate payers monthly bill means huge extra capital for a utility at the expense of free enterprise businesses.

Sincerely,  
Virgil Whetsel

-----Original Message-----

From: Virgil Whetsel <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 9:53 AM

To: Nelson, Chris

Subject: [EXT] South Dakota benefits from wind energy

Virgil Whetsel

[REDACTED]  
Rapid City, SD 57703

June 26, 2019

Dear Chris Nelson,

I am writing to voice my support for wind energy development. South Dakota is a national leader in wind power and we are perfectly situated to benefit from wind energy development. Wind energy adds needed jobs and pays millions in property taxes to help locally-including our schools and roads.

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Sincerely,  
Virgil Whetsel

-----Original Message-----

From: Nelson, Chris

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 11:08 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXT] South Dakota benefits from wind energy

Thank you for your email. I will add your comments to the public comment section of one of our current wind dockets so my fellow commissioners and the public can also benefit from your comments.

Chris Nelson

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner

500 E Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501