

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2019 9:24 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EL19-026 and EL19-027

Ms. Korthals,

Thank you for your message regarding wind energy development in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission is currently reviewing applications for wind siting permits. Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen and I base our decisions on evidence presented via the docket review process, as required by law. The primary determination is whether or not the location, construction and operation of the facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the health, safety, and welfare of South Dakota's environment and citizens. These standards are provided by South Dakota Codified Laws and Administrative Rules.

You state that South Dakota lags far behind the rest of the nation in renewable energy. Someone has misled you. The fact is that South Dakota has been and continues to be a leader in renewable resources.

The American Wind Energy Association, the largest wind promoter in the world, has continually ranked South Dakota in the top five states with the highest percentage of wind generation as a percentage of total in-state generation. In fact, South Dakota was ranked as the number one state in the nation in 2011. Additionally, our state will have approximately 2,400 MWs of wind energy capacity installed by the end of 2020. We also have several solar facilities being planned and constructed in our state.

Historically speaking, South Dakota played a major role in renewable energy when the massive federal hydro-electric power facilities were built here in the 1960s, with a total capacity of 1,600 MWs. The Oahe Dam power plant alone generates more than 2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, which is enough power to serve 259,000 homes each year. Taking into account both hydro-electric and wind generation, more than 70 percent of the electricity

generated in South Dakota is from renewable resources. That percentage means South Dakota is in a national leadership position in renewable energy.

Your message and this response will be posted under Comments and Responses in dockets EL19-026 and EL19-027. Here is a link to the commission's Siting Guidelines posted on the PUC's website home page and in each wind siting docket, <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2019/el19-026/el19-026sitinghandout.pdf>.

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