

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
APPLICATION BY CROCKER WIND )  
FARM, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A )  
WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345 )  
KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN CLARK )  
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR )  
CROCKER WIND FARM )

EL 17-028

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

**DAVID FINSTAD**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**CROCKER WIND FARM, LLC**

1 **Q. Please state your name and address for the record.**

2 David Finstad

3 15809 425 Ave, Clark SD 57225

4

5 **Q. How long have you lived in the area?**

6 All of my life (74 years)!

7

8 **Q. How has the area changed since you've lived there?**

9 Our neighborhood area has seen many changes. South Dakota State Highway 20 was  
10 built in 1959, it's on the North side of our farmstead. The WAPA grid lines and towers  
11 came through our properties later; we have two on cropland and one on a pasture. We  
12 were paid \$150 for those on cropland and \$75 for the one on pasture. We did not mind  
13 because thousands of electricity consumers benefitted from this part of the grid system.  
14 There is a 66-tower Conde Wind Farm (99 MW) just to the Northwest. A 19.5 MW Oak  
15 Tree Wind Farm is to the South.

16 We and neighbors planted many trees in shelter belts to help preserve the soils and  
17 provide some wildlife habitat. Many of us continue to grow grasslands and alfalfa for  
18 forage, for rotation purposes and to combat soil erosion. Country churches and schools  
19 have closed. The Bradley School closed during the 1970s. Farming operations have  
20 grown in size in order to achieve necessary economies of scale. Thus the area population  
21 has declined. Many farmers have retired, sold their land and moved to town. And many  
22 friends have passed away. Some were fortunate enough to pass their land on to their  
23 future generation(s). There are fewer in the area that live off the land, yet they have to  
24 continually battle the agricultural price cycles of the livestock and grain.

25

26 **Q. Please describe your operation.**

27 We raise beef cattle and run a cow/calf operation, grow forage crops, corn, soybeans and  
28 some wheat.

29 **Q. Are you a participant in the proposed Crocker Wind project?**

30 Yes

31 **Q. What does the Crocker Wind project mean for you and your family?**

32 To us it means the lease with Geronimo Energy as a cash crop which provides a stable  
33 income. We believe it helps us pass the land on to our children and hopefully onto the  
34 future generations. We like the look or appearance of wind towers on the horizon they  
35 represent good clean inexpensive renewable energy for thousands of homes and  
36 businesses.

37 **Q. What does the Crocker Wind project mean for your community?**

38 Over the next twenty years or more it means millions of dollars for Crocker landowners  
39 therefore helping provide more stable farming operations; millions of dollars also in tax  
40 revenue for the State, Clark County, the Clark 12 School District, the project Townships,  
41 and the unique non-profit Community Fund set up by Geronimo Energy.

42 Plus the Crocker Wind Farm operations would generate between 10-to-20 full-time jobs,  
43 many which would be filled by incoming technicians adding to the local consuming  
44 population for goods and services including students for the Clark 12 School District!

45 The construction phase of the project means needs for housing, food, supplies, fuel,  
46 etcetera for out-of-town workers. Local contractors with gravel, dirt, fuel, cement trucks  
47 could be utilized during the construction.

48 **Q. How will Crocker Wind impact Clark County, in your view?**

49 . As stated in the previous section, construction and maintenance needs of the project  
50 would bring more people to the area, creating good paying jobs which enables increased  
51 spending in area towns. It may even help stabilize the County population post  
52 construction.

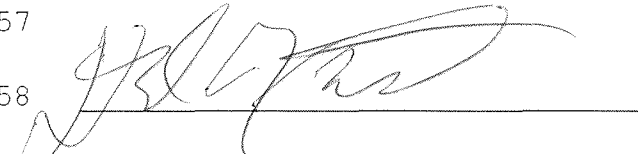
53 We believe the tax revenues from the project could significantly slow down or hold the  
54 line on increasing property taxes for several years.

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56 Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

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59   
60 David Finstad

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