

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

LISA ORRIS

ON BEHALF OF

CROCKER WIND FARM, LLC

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

2 A. Lisa Orris

3 41936 U.S. Highway 212

4 Clark, S.D. 57225

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6 **Q. how long have you lived in the area?**

7 A. I have lived in this area for my entire life.

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

10 A. In my community I have seen population decline due to lack of job opportunities. Our
11 main source of industry closed many years ago and a lot of our local businesses are
12 struggling to keep their doors open. Our school population has declined as well, with
13 less than 65 kids total in our high school right now. It is sad to see things going in the
14 opposite direction of growth in the community in which I would love my children to
15 stay in.

16 **Q. Please describe your operation.**

17 A. My husband and I have both lived in Clark County for our entire lives. We have 3
18 children, two of which are grown and continue to live and work in Clark. Our third child
19 is currently a junior in the Clark school system. We are land owners in Clark County and
20 hope to see our children live, work and grow in this community.

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

22 My family is a participant in the Crocker Wind project.

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

24 A. I believe the more opportunities that we can create for our young people, the more apt they
25 are to stay and grow here. Rural towns are among those in greatest need of economic
26 development. I believe the Crocker Wind project could be an incredible tool in economic
27 development so that my children can stay in this community and work and raise their
28 families here.

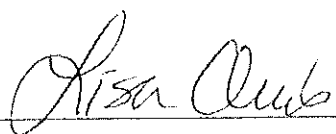
29 **Q. What does the Crocker Wind project mean for your community?**

30 A. When new jobs and farming income are created, the paychecks are spent in our local
31 stores and restaurants, boosting our economy. I also believe that our local schools could
32 benefit greatly from this wind project. When faced with budget cuts and low
33 enrollments, rural schools are forced to cut not only programs, but also quality staff. The
34 more our community is able to rely on resources from our tax base, the less likely they
35 are to have to rely on the state for funding.

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

37 A. I believe the Crocker Wind project could benefit Clark County by bringing
38 additional income to the county revenues to fix our roads. More county
39 revenue coming in could lighten the tax load on the residents of our county.
40 Therefore, there would be more dollars available for spending on goods and
41 services in our county.

42 Dated this __24__ day of _____ September _____, 2017.

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44  _____

45 Lisa Orris
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