

From: PUC

Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:26 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: EL17-055

Mr. and Mrs. Geary:

Thank you for your message regarding the Crocker Wind Farm.

Following is an excerpt from the Facility Permit Application, <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2017/el17-055/application.pdf>, filed by the applicant in the open docket, EL17-055. This helps explain why the first permit application, docket EL17-028, was dismissed and a motion to reconsider was denied. A second permit application, EL17-055, is now pending before the commission.

On July 25, 2017, Crocker submitted a prior application to the Commission for Energy Facility Permits for the Crocker Wind Farm and associated 345 kV Transmission Line (Docket EL17-028). On October 25, 2017, the Commission granted a motion to dismiss the prior application.

Concerns raised included uncertainty regarding the Project's layout due to Crocker's pending challenge of the setback from residences included in Clark County's Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") for the Project, and the need for approval of turbine locations on United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") grassland easements. In addition, the Commission noted a concern regarding lack of public access to information provided in response to data requests from Commission Staff after the application was filed.

In the current Application, Crocker has addressed the concerns noted above. First, the Project layout has been revised to comply with a three-quarter-mile setback between turbines and nonparticipating residences. Second, the number of turbines located on USFWS grassland easements has been reduced from 41 to 14, and those turbine locations will only be used to the extent that they are approved by the USFWS. Third, the relevant information provided in

response to the Commission Staff's data requests has been incorporated into the Application. A more detailed description of the various components of the Wind Farm Facility and Transmission Facility, including construction, restoration, operations and maintenance procedures are provided in Section 4.0.

I encourage you to read the filings and follow along as this docket is processed:
<http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2017/e117-055.aspx>.

You may wish to attend the public input hearing on this docket that will begin at 5:00 p.m. tonight, Monday, Feb. 5, at the American Legion Hall, 103 N Commercial Street, in Clark. Here is a link to the order issued for this hearing:
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/orders/electric/2017/e117-055notice.pdf>.

Since this is an open docket before the commission, your message and my response will be posted so my fellow commissioners and others can read them. Here is a link to the commission's Information Guide to Siting Energy Conversion & Electric Transmission Facilities that may be helpful, <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/sitinghandout.pdf>.

Chairperson Kristie Fiegen
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
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