

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Thursday, December 28, 2017 4:16 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** EL17-028, EL17-055

Mr. and Mrs. Gross:

Thank you for your email and letter concerning the Crocker Wind Farm and 345 kV Transmission Line docket, EL17-028.

In your letter, you state, *'I hope you reconsider this proposal at your next reconsideration hearing.'* On Dec. 13, 2017, the commission issued a final Order Denying Crocker's Motion to Reconsider and closing docket EL17-028. On Dec. 15, 2017, the applicant filed a new application in docket EL17-055.

At this time, neither docket EL17-028 nor docket EL17-055 is open for reconsideration by the commission. Following is an excerpt from the Facility Permit Application filed by the applicant and available in the new docket: <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2017/el17-055/application.pdf>.

*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.*

Since this is a pending docket before the commission, your message and letter and my response will be posted for my fellow commissioners and others to read:

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

Here is a link to the commission's Information Guide to Siting Energy Conversion & Electric Transmission Facilities: <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/sitinghandout.pdf>. It may be helpful in explaining the commission's processing of dockets such as this.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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