## **BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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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

AFFIDAVIT OF MELISSA SCHMIT IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TURBINE ADJUSTMENTS

EL17-055

STATE OF MINNESOTA)) SS.COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

I, Melissa Schmit, being first duly sworn on oath, state and allege as follows:

- 1. I am the Permitting Manager at Geronimo Energy, LLC, which is assisting Crocker Wind Farm, LLC ("Crocker") in the development of the Crocker Wind Farm and associated 345 kV Transmission Line ("Project"). I have the authority to provide this affidavit on behalf of Crocker.
- 2. I am providing this Affidavit pursuant to paragraph 23 of the Permit Conditions approved by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") and included as Attachment A to its June 12, 2018 Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facilities and Notice of Entry ("Order") in the above-referenced docket.
- 3. Since issuance of the Order, Crocker has determined that six (6) turbine adjustments greater than 325 feet are needed and, therefore, are material changes. Maps showing both the locations approved by the Commission (with white outline) and the currently proposed turbine locations (with green outline) are attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (public and confidential versions).
- 4. The reason(s) for each of the six (6) turbine adjustments identified in **Exhibit A** are provided below:
  - A. Turbine 19 has been adjusted 546 feet to the east to avoid impacts to cultural resources identified during field surveys.
  - B. Turbine 23 has been adjusted 339 feet to the southwest to accommodate a landowner request.
  - C. Turbine 69 has been adjusted 430 feet to the southwest to avoid impacts to cultural resources identified during field surveys.

- D. Turbine 155 has been adjusted 526 feet to the southwest to avoid a microwave beam path. Based on the conclusions of the Microwave Study completed for the Project, it was determined that the turbine needed to be shifted, as it was found to intersect the two-dimensional Fresnel Zone of one microwave beam path. As a result, the turbine location was shifted approximately 120 feet southwest. From that position the turbine required further adjustment to the proposed position to avoid wetland impacts and to position the turbine at a higher elevation.
- E. Turbine 178 has been adjusted 463 feet to the south to avoid permanent impacts to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protected basin.
- F. Turbine 220 has been adjusted 803 feet to the west to avoid impacts to resources identified during tribal surveys.
- 5. The turbine adjustments comply with the specified noise and shadow flicker requirements set forth in paragraphs 29 and 30(c) of the Permit Conditions. **Exhibit B**, attached hereto, provides the highest modeled shadow flicker and noise level at a residence for each turbine based on an updated analysis of the current proposed Project layout. In accordance with paragraph 30 of the Permit Conditions, updated noise and shadow flicker analysis reports will be filed with the Commission at least 30 days prior to construction.
- 6. The confidential version of **Exhibit A** identifies the locations of cultural resources, sensitive species habitat, and wetlands in relation to the proposed turbine adjustments. In addition, **Exhibit B** provides the distances of the proposed turbine locations from residences, property lines, roads, and cemeteries. As shown in **Exhibit A** and **Exhibit B**, the proposed turbine adjustments avoid cultural resources, sensitive species habitat, and wetland impacts, and comply with all applicable county and state setback requirements.
- 7. All modifications are located on land under lease/easement for the Project.
- 8. With respect to the Project, including the proposed turbine adjustments, Crocker will comply with the Commission's Order and all other applicable regulations and requirements.
- 9. Based on the foregoing, Crocker requests approval of the six (6) proposed turbine adjustments.

## FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Dated this  $\underline{2}$  day of  $\underline{Hvg}$ , 2018.

Melissa Schmit

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 2 day of  $4u_1$ , 2018.

My Commission Expires: JAN. 31, 2021

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Notary Public

