

March 9, 2018

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

500 E Capital Ave, Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Docket EL 18 – 003, Filed 1/24/2018

Dakota Range I, LLC and Dakota Range II, LLC

Grant and Codington Counties, South Dakota

TO: PUC Commission and Staff

I am writing to support the PUC Approval of the Dakota Range I and II projects. Currently I am working on the Development of a nearby wind plant and am quite familiar with the communities, landowners and public entities involved in this project and in this area. Initially, in 2006, I began making contacts in the area with landowners and community leaders plus regulators. I see excellent work by Dakota Range in the Docket. In scope the footprint appears to be adequate to accommodate 300+ MWs.

This will be an exciting completion for the people involved and a significant strengthening of the financial welfare of impacted landowners, townships, the two counties and local school districts. The communities will grow. The landowners inside the footprint will have a secure additional “crop” income. The wind has value and the conversion of its energy to electricity comes with little interference and a fuel cost of zero. This creates an 80% dispatchable supply to the grid operator while maintaining low costs and stability for offtakers.

This footprint and development plan highlights critical issues and the caution necessary in ecology, roads, archeological/historical, safety, sound levels and other factors. The landscape view will change. Many consider it a dynamic, positive change – a few may not. However, I notice progress in the neighborhood with cell towers, radio and TV transmission towers, electrical transmission lines, crop sprayers, cattle yards – even a Walmart. They all cause change, provide jobs and help us survive in the country.

Appreciate your work to approve this project for Dakota Range I and II.

Jim Newcomb, Co-Manager

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