

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DAKOTA RANGE I, LLC AND DAKOTA
RANGE II, LLC FOR AN ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT
A WIND ENERGY FACILITY

SD PUC DOCKET EL-18-003

PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF WADE FALK
ON BEHALF OF DAKOTA RANGE I, LLC AND DAKOTA RANGE II, LLC

May 21, 2018



1 **I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

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3 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

4 A. My name is Wade Falk and my address is 47175 155th Street, Stockholm, SD
5 57264, South Dakota.

6

7 **Q. Did you provide Direct Testimony in this Docket on January 24, 2018?**

8 A. No.

9

10 **Q. Please describe your familiarity with the Dakota Range Wind Project (the**
11 **“Project”).**

12 A. I am a participating landowner in the Project. When Dakota Range I, LLC and
13 Dakota Range II, LLC (together, “Dakota Range”) came to my family with the
14 opportunity to be participating landowners in the Project, we decided it was what
15 was best for our family and our community.

16

17 **Q. What is the purpose of your Rebuttal Testimony?**

18 A. The purpose of my Rebuttal Testimony is to respond to the Direct Testimony of
19 Intervenors Teresa Kaaz and Kristi Mogen, who raise concerns regarding the
20 potential impact of the Project on the community and both participating and
21 nonparticipating landowners. Ms. Mogen also notes concerns regarding the fairness
22 of the Project’s leases with participating landowners. As a participating landowner, I
23 want to explain the benefits I believe the Project will bring to our entire community,
24 how the Project will bring much-needed aid to participating landowners, such as
25 myself, and my views on the leases and interactions with Dakota Range.

26

27 **Q. Please describe your home.**

28 A. I live in the suburbs of Stockholm, South Dakota. My family has lived in Grant
29 County for five generations. My family farms from Twin Brooks to Stockholm, on to
30 South Shore, and right to the corner of Day County.

31

1 **II. BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT**

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3 **Q. Why did you decide to participate in the Project?**

4 A. We recognized that the Project is a great opportunity not only for our family, but also
5 for our community. My family has lived and worked in this community for five
6 generations, and I enjoy and care deeply about this area. I support the Project
7 because it represents progress towards a better life for everyone in our community.

8

9 **Q. Describe your interactions with Dakota Range I, LLC and Dakota Range II, LLC**
10 **(“Dakota Range”).**

11 A. I am very thankful for the responsiveness and thoughtfulness Dakota Range has
12 shown in answering all the questions you could possibly imagine, my own included,
13 in their presentations and all the meetings they have held, as well as through
14 personal conversations I have had with Dakota Range’s representatives.

15

16 **Q. Regarding your lease with Dakota Range, do you feel the lease adequately**
17 **protects your property and your interests?**

18 A. Yes.

19

20 **Q. As a landowner in the Project, do you have concerns regarding the Project**
21 **and, if so, have those concerns been addressed?**

22 A. They were overcome, and yes they have.

23

24 **Q. What does the Project mean for you and your family?**

25 A. To my family, the Project means stability and an additional, stable source of income.
26 Like many other farmers in this community know, the economy has been tough. The
27 Project will bring much-needed, stable income for times when, like now, the
28 agricultural economy is down or unstable. The Project also represents progress
29 towards a future with clean, renewable energy sources.

30

31 **Q. In your view, how will the Project affect the community?**

1 A. The Project will benefit the community through generating tax revenues, creating
2 jobs, and providing landowners with additional income that they will be able to invest
3 in the community. Local businesses will benefit from the additional income
4 landowners receive from the Project. The tax revenue generated by the Project will
5 increase the local tax base, which will benefit many aspects of the community.

6

7 I believe that the Project is coming at a time when this community needs it the most.
8 The farming and agricultural economy isn't where it needs to be, and the Project
9 would bring much-needed income to our landowners, and will greatly help our
10 community through increased tax revenue and a boost to the local economy. The
11 Project will help this community prosper.

12

13 **III. CONCLUSION**

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15 **Q. Does this conclude your Rebuttal Testimony?**

16 A. Yes.

1 Dated this 21st day of May, 2018.

2

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Wade Falk

4 Wade Falk

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