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Office of the Secretary

October 13, 2017

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utilities Commission Staff
SD Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: PUC Docket EL17-028 - 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

Dear PUC Staff:

The South Dakota Department of Health has been requested to comment on the potential health impacts associated with wind facilities. Based on the studies we have reviewed to date, the South Dakota Department of Health has not taken a formal position on the issue of wind turbines and human health. A number of state public health agencies have studied the issue, including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health¹ and the Minnesota Department of Health². These studies generally conclude that there is insufficient evidence to establish a significant risk to human health. Annoyance and quality of life are the most common complaints associated with wind turbines, and the studies indicate that those issues may be minimized by incorporating best practices into the planning guidelines.

Sincerely,

Kim Malsam-Rysdon
Secretary of Health

¹ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/energy/wind/turbine-impact-study.pdf>

² www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/topics/windturbines.pdf

