

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY LLC
FOR ENERGY FACILITY PERMITS OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A
345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN DEUEL COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE
DEUEL HARVEST NORTH WIND FARM**

SD PUC DOCKET EL18-053

**PRE-FILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF DOYLE THOMPSON
ON BEHALF OF DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY LLC**

April 1, 2019

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2

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

4 A. My name is Doyle Thompson. My address is 48670 181st Street, Gary, South
5 Dakota.

6

7 **Q. Have you previously provided testimony in this docket?**

8 A. No.

9

10 **Q. Please describe your familiarity with the Deuel Harvest North Wind Farm (the**
11 **“Project”).**

12 A. I am a participating landowner in the Project.

13

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

15 A. The purpose of my Rebuttal Testimony is to respond to the testimony of Intervenors,
16 who raise concerns regarding the potential impact of the Project on the community
17 and landowners. I will also explain how the Project will aid people, like my family,
18 who seek to continue making a living off the land, as well as the community as a
19 whole. I also want to increase awareness that renewable energy is the way of the
20 future.

21

22 **Q. Please describe your property in the Project Area.**

23 A. I own about 880 acres in the Project Area. My land in the Project Area is primarily
24 cropland, with a few acres of pastureland that my son-in-law uses for his cattle.

25

26 **II. BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT**

27

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

29 A. I decided to participate in the Project because the Project is a great opportunity not
30 only for my family, but also for the community as a whole and the environment. The
31 Project will provide an additional, stable source of income for me and my family, and

32 other landowners, and will generate much-needed tax revenue for the community.
33 Projects like these also represent a way for future generations to buy land and
34 actually be able to afford farming it because the wind adds to the income potential of
35 the land with very little, if any, impact to the land's agricultural production.

36

37 I also support the Project because I believe green energy such as wind energy is the
38 only way we are going to combat greenhouse gas emissions and meet energy
39 needs with an efficient, clean, renewable energy source.

40

41 **Q. Describe your interactions with Deuel Harvest.**

42 A. My interactions with Deuel Harvest have been good. I appreciate that they
43 considered landowners' input and worked with landowners when it came to siting
44 with respect to identifying the location of drain tile and other characteristics of the
45 land.

46

47 **Q. Regarding your lease with Deuel Harvest, do you feel the lease adequately
48 protects your property and your interests?**

49 A. Yes.

50

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

53 A. I have not had any concerns.

54

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

56 A. The Project provides a diverse and stable source of additional income and is a great
57 opportunity to maximize the use of our property and diversify our farming operation.
58 This Project also represents a long-term future for my family because it would create
59 opportunities for our future generations to make futures for themselves here. It is
60 becoming more and more difficult to make a living in the agricultural business, and
61 the Project, along with others like it, provides a way for future generations, such as
62 my grandchildren, to be able to buy land and actually make a living off the land

63 because the wind adds to the income potential of the land with no real downside to
64 the production of the other crops on the land.

65

66 **Q. In your view, how will the Project benefit the community?**

67 A. The Project will benefit the community through generating tax revenues and
68 providing landowners with additional income that they will be able to invest in the
69 community. Local businesses will benefit from the additional income landowners
70 receive from the Project. The Project will increase the local tax base and generate tax
71 revenue for the community which can be used to provide much-needed funding for local
72 schools and improving local roads. South Dakota has a lot of wind energy to spare, and
73 the Project is an opportunity to use that resource for the benefit of the community.
74 Additionally, the additional income earned by participating landowners in the area will
75 benefit the local economy.

76

77 **Q. Is there anything else you would like to say about the Project?**

78 A. Yes. First, I believe there have been too many testimonials from people based on
79 something they read on the internet with no real basis in science or fact. I believe
80 strongly that science and practicality should win out.

81

82 Additionally, I would like to respond to some remarks made in the testimony of
83 intervenors regarding “absentee” landowners in the Project Area. I may not live in
84 the Project Area, but my family earns our livelihood off the land I have signed up for
85 the Project – I rely on that land. I did sign up to participate in a wind project where I
86 reside – the Flying Cow Wind Project. When I was making the decision to
87 participate in that project, I visited a landowner who actually lives among wind
88 turbines and learned about his experiences. While that project unfortunately did not
89 get built where I reside, I would have no problems living among wind turbines, and I
90 wish that I would have been able to participate in that project, as well.

91

92

93 **III. CONCLUSION**

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

96 A. Yes.

97

98 Dated this 1st day of April, 2019.

99

100

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doyle Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

101

102 Doyle Thompson

103 66324658