BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DAKOTA RANGE III, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN GRANT AND ROBERTS COUNTIES	)))))	**ORDER APPROVING ESCROW AGREEMENT** **EL18-046**

On October 26, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Dakota Range III, LLC (Applicant) to construct an approximately 8-mile 345-kilovolt interconnection transmission line and an up-to 151.2-megawatt wind energy conversion facility (Project). The Project will be in Grant County and Roberts County, South Dakota, with the wind portion in an 18,717-acre area. The transmission line will run from the Project's substation located in section 13 of Blooming Valley Township, outside the public right of way along 455th Avenue, turning east on Farmington Township's 150th Street to the Otter Tail Power Company switchyard located in section 14 of Mazeppa Township. The Project is expected to have a total of up to 42 wind turbines and associated facilities. On February 22, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Motion of Approval of Settlement Stipulation and Granting Permits to Construct Facilities (Permit).

Condition 40 of the Settlement Stipulation requires Applicant to file an escrow account plan with the Commission for Commission approval. On November 17, 2020, Dakota Range III filed a proposed Escrow Agreement and on January 11, 2021, filed a revised Escrow Agreement.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B.

On January 19, 2021, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting approval of the Escrow Agreement as filed on January 11, 2021. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Escrow Agreement as filed on January 11, 2021. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicant's request for approval of the Escrow Agreement, filed on January 11, 2021, as required in Condition 40 of the Settlement Stipulation, is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of January 2021.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or mail.

By: [signature]

Date: 1/21/2021

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[signature]

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[signature]

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[signature]

GARY HANSON, Commissioner