

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY ENGIE NORTH AMERICA, INC. FOR
A PERMIT FOR A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN HYDE COUNTY, SOUTH
DAKOTA, FOR TRIPLE H WIND FARM**

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**PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DAVE MEBANE, ENGIE NA,
ON BEHALF OF ENGIE NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

February 6 2019

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1 **Q. Please state your name, employer and business address for the record.**

2 A. My name is David Mebane, and I am employed by Engie North America, with offices at 3760
3 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

4 **Q. Briefly describe your educational background.**

5 A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

6 **Q. Briefly describe your professional experience.**

7 A. For 22 years I has employed in the telecommunications industry performing project
8 management and land acquisition, through leasing and easements. I have been employed since
9 Aug 2016 with Engie, performing duties as a land agent securing easements and land acquisition
10 ``on large scale wind projects.

11 **Q. Have you attached a resume or CV.**

12 A. Yes, my resume is attached.

13 **Q. Have you previously submitted or prepared testimony in this proceeding in South
14 Dakota?**

15 A. No, I have not.

16 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

17 A. My purpose is to discuss landowner relationships within the project.

18 **Q. Have you conducted landowner relationships for the project?**

19 A. Yes.

20 **Q. Can you describe your efforts?**

21 A. As a land agent, I meet with land owners within the project area, and give them information
22 regarding the project and the agreement that we want to sign placing their land under easement
23 for the purposes of wind development. I remain a liaison to the land owners in the project

24 through out the life of the project.

25 **Q. How many landowners are in the project area?**

26 A. Currently there are 69,889 acres signed under easement, representing 151 parcels, with
27 some landowners owning multiple parcels. There are approximately 100 landowners
28 participating with their land under easement.

29 **Q. Do they all have the same agreement?**

30 A. Yes

31 **Q. How long has this project been under development?**

32 A. Since 2015

33 **Q. Can you detail your efforts for the commission?**

34 A. As a land agent, I am the main point of contact between the land owners and the project
35 developers. I provide information regarding the details of the project, the progress of the wind
36 development efforts, explaining the details of the Easement for Wind Energy Development that
37 is presented to all landowners in the project area. My goal is to have a sufficient number of land
38 owners enter into the easement agreement in order to successfully develop the wind project.

39 **Q. Have you worked with the Commissioner of School and Public Lands to lease from
40 that office?**

41 A. Yes, since 2017 I have been in contact with Ryan Brunner, Commissioner of School and
42 Public Lands for the State of South Dakota, discussing the state entering into the easement
43 agreement and participating in the wind project. Mr. Brunner informed me that he signed the
44 agreement on Jan. 31. Once it is received in our offices, we will route the document for counter
45 signature.

46

47

48 Dated this 6th day of February, 2019.

49 /S/

50 Dave Mebane, ENGIE, NA