

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)
MERIDIAN WIND PROJECT, LLC FOR A)
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND)
A 345-KV TRANSMISSION FACILITY IN HYDE)
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)
)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO
WITHDRAW APPLICATION AND
CLOSE THE DOCKET

EL20-013

On April 23, 2020, the Commission received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Meridian Wind Project, LLC (Meridian or Applicant). Meridian proposes to construct a wind energy conversion facility and an 8.9-mile, 345-kV transmission line to be located in Hyde County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated within approximately 15,043-acres in the townships of Van Order, Eagle, Chapelle, Highmore, and Bramhall, South Dakota. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 175 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 64 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kV electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, and one permanent meteorological tower.

On April 30, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 22, 2020, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On June 10, 2020, the Commission held a telephonic public meeting on the Application. On July 9, 2020, the Commission granted party status to Nicolas Ferens. On July 31, 2020, staff filed a Motion for Procedural Schedule. On August 21, 2020, Applicant filed a Motion to Extend Deadline for Commission Action. On September 9, 2020, staff filed an Amended Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule. On January 7, 2021, Applicant filed a Motion to Withdraw Application.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B and ARSD 20:10:01:02.04.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of January 19, 2021, the Commission considered the Motion to Withdraw Application. Commission staff recommended that the Commission grant Meridian's request. Applicant noted that it has been made aware of substantial and unexpected interconnection costs which would be applied to it by the transmission system operator. Those costs would be prohibitive and could not be supported by the Project at this time and therefore the Applicant has elected to withdraw the transmission interconnection queue position for the Project. Hearing no parties object to Applicant's Motion to Withdraw Application, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the motion. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Meridian's Motion to Withdraw Application is granted . It is further

ORDERED, that the docket be closed.

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 by mail.

By: Arant M. Rios

Date: 1/21/2021

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner