Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HYDE)

MARY ANN MORFORD

of said county and state, being duly sworn, on her oath says: THE HIGHMORE HERALD is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in HIGHMORE in said county and state by Mary Ann Morford and has been such a newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that the said HIGHMORE HERALD is a legal newspaper and has been in existence for more than one year immediately preceding the first publication herein mentioned, and has more than two hundred bona fide subscribers; that I the undersigned, am publisher of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit and that the advertisement entitled

Notice of Public Meeting

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in said newspaper for 3 issues, the first publication being made on May 7, 2020, the second publication on May 28, 2020, and the last publication on June 4, 2020; that $720.00 being the full amount of the fee for publication of the annexed notice, insures solely to the benefit of the publisher of said newspaper; that no arrangement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any other person whomsoever.

Mary Ann Morford
Mary Ann Morford, Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of June 2020

Mary E Hamlin
Notary Public, Hyde County, South Dakota

My Commission Expires July 8, 2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WHAT: **Permit to Construct the Meridian Wind Project and 345-kV transmission facility on approximately 15,043 acres of land in Hyde County, South Dakota, in the townships of Van Order, Eagle, Chapelle, Highmore, and Holabird**

WHEN: **Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., CDT. Call-in information: Number: 1 (866) 410-8397, Conference Code: 3224480315#**

WHERE: **Pursuant to Executive Order EO2020-16, the Commission will hold a telephonic public input meeting**

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, and Executive Order EO2020-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public input meeting at the above time on an application to construct the Meridian Wind Project, a wind energy facility located on approximately 15,043 acres of land in Hyde County, South Dakota, in the townships of Van Order, Eagle, Chapelle, Highmore, and Holabird and associated 8.9-mile, 345-kV transmission line (Projects). The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 175 megawatts (MW) nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 64 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 230-kV collection substation, and one permanent meteorological tower. The Project will interconnect to the high-voltage transmission grid via a 345-kV interconnection switch station (Chapelle Station) located at the western end of the Project's transmission line. Chappelle Station is owned and operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and is under construction in conjunction with the Triple H Wind Project. The power produced by the Project will be injected at the Chappelle Creek Substation and into Basin Electric Power Cooperative's existing electrical infrastructure. The Project, at the time of filing this application, has not executed a purchase power agreement. The Project is expected to be completed in 2021. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be $220 million.

The purpose of the public input meeting will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Projects. At the meeting, Meridian will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. Meridian's presentation will be available on the Commission's website on June 10, 2020, the day of the meeting. Interested persons who wish to comment are asked to call the Commission at 1-800-332-1782 by 3:00 p.m., June 10, 2020, to place their name on a list. Commenters who have pre-registered will be called on to comment first. Commenters will be given approximately 5 minutes to speak and asked to provide their name, town, and last four digits of the number they are calling from.

A copy of the Application is on file with the Hyde County Auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-5.2 and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2020 Electric Dockets, EL20-013 or by contacting the Commission by phone at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission staff. Each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited, or any directly interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making timely written application to the Commission. Applications for party status may be obtained from the Commission's website or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, June 22, 2020. The Commission will also be accepting comments in writing from anyone, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mailing the Commission right up until the time of the decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by putting on actual testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct

Following the public input meeting, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, the Commission's staff, or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

For approval, Meridian must show that the proposed Projects will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether a permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

Published three times by the South Dakota PUC at the total approximate cost of $720.00.