

**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 THE MERIDIAN WIND PROJECT**

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

April 14, 2020

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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 have been 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 submitted testimony in this proceeding, but I have provided it for the
16 Triple H Wind Project.

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

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

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

20 A. Yes.

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

22 A. As a land agent, I meet with land owners within the project area, and give them information
23 regarding the project and the agreement that we want to sign placing their land under easement

24 for the purposes of wind development. I remain a liaison to the land owners in the project
25 throughout the development process.

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

27 A. Currently there are 14,129 acres signed under easement, representing 29 parcels, with
28 some landowners owning multiple parcels. There are approximately 29 landowners participating
29 with their land under easement in the Meridian Wind Project.

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

31 A. Yes.

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

33 A. Since 2015

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

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

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42 Dated this 14th day of April, 2020.

43 /S/ Dave Mebane

44 Dave Mebane, ENGIE, NA