

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

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| 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)) | MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE EL20-013 |
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Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby files this Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule.

This docket was opened on April 23, 2020, with the filing by Meridian Wind Project, LLC (Applicant), for a permit of a wind energy facility and 345-kV transmission facility. The parties to this proceeding are currently Staff, Applicant, and Intervenor Nick Ferens. Prior to submitting this Motion, Staff contacted Applicant and Mr. Ferens to determine whether they had concerns with the proposed schedule.

Under SDCL 49-41B-25, the Commission must issue a decision on this matter within nine months of the filing. Staff requests the Commission adopt the following procedural schedule¹:

| ACTION | ESTIMATED DATE | PROCESS DAY |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| Application & Applicant Direct Testimony* | April 23, 2020 | Day 1 |
| Public Input Meeting* | June 10, 2020 | Day 49 |
| Deadline for Intervention* | June 22, 2020 | Day 61 |
| Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due | September 22, 2020 | Day 153 |
| Rebuttal Testimony Due | October 22, 2020 | Day 183 |
| Final Discovery to All Parties | October 28, 2020 | Day 189 |
| Final Responses to Discovery Due | November 10, 2020 | Day 202 |
| Witness and Exhibit List Due and Exhibits Prefiled | November 12, 2020 | Day 204 |
| Final Prehearing Conference | November 13, 2020 | Day 205 |
| Evidentiary Hearing | November 17 OR 19, 2020 | Day 209 or 211 |
| Post-Hearing Briefs and Proposed Findings of Fact | December 15, 2020 | Day 237 |

¹ Some of these dates have passed and are included only for demonstrative purposes.

All dates denoted with an asterisk are informational only, and Staff does not request they be included in an Order.

In addition, Staff requests the Commission order that all responses to discovery requests are due 10 business days after service, unless otherwise agreed to, in writing, by the inquiring and responding parties.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully requests the Commission issue an order adopting the above proposed procedural schedule and establishing a ten-business day deadline for responses to discovery requests, with the exception of final discovery, which Staff requests be due on November 10, 2020.

Dated this 31st day of July 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kristen N. Edwards
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