

From: PUC

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 2:58 PM

To: admoore@agaviation.org

Subject: EL20-013 & EL20-018

Mr. Moore,

This is in response to your letter concerning aviation safety around wind energy and other utility towers associated with energy conversion and electric transmission facility permit requests filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Aviation safety is important to my fellow commissioners and me as we determine whether or not to issue a permit based on evidence presented via our extensive docket review process. Our primary decision is whether or not the location, construction, and operation of the facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the health, safety, and welfare of South Dakota's environment and citizens. The standards for this determination are provided by South Dakota Codified Laws and Administrative Rules.

Your message and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in one wind energy conversion and transmission docket, EL20-013, and one solar energy conversion and transmission docket, EL20-018, for which the commission has yet to issue or deny the requested permits. These dockets are Meridian Wind, <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2020/EL20-013.aspx>, and Wild Springs Solar, <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2020/EL20-018.aspx>.

I encourage you to review the filings in each docket at present and while the dockets are processed, paying particular attention to portions referencing aviation. The PUC staff members working on these dockets will analyze how the proposed projects may potentially affect aviation activity in the project areas.

You will want to begin by reading the Siting Guidelines document posted in each docket since it gives a brief explanation of how the commission processes siting dockets such as this. Here is

a link to this document in EL20-013, <https://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2020/el20-013/sitinghandout.pdf>. Please note that comments such as your submission should be sent to the PUC@state.sd.us email address. Docket Filings is exclusively for the use of formal parties to commission dockets, and the formal parties are listed in each docket's service list.

Thank you for your letter and your interest in the commission's siting permit request dockets involving towers.

Chairman Gary Hanson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
<https://PUC.sd.gov>