

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) BY NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT, LLC) FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AND) OPERATE THE NORTH BEND WIND) PROJECT IN HYDE COUNTY AND) HUGHES COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO EXTEND DEADLINE EL21-018
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On June 23, 2021, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from North Bend Wind Project, LLC (North Bend Wind) for an application for a permit to construct the North Bend Wind Project, a wind energy facility located on approximately 46,931 acres of land in Hyde County and Hughes County, South Dakota, in the townships of Butte, Chapelle, Harrold, Holabird, Pleasant Valley, Pratt, and Webster. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 200 megawatts nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 71 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, a 230-kV interconnection switching station, an aircraft detection lighting system and one permanent meteorological tower. The Project will interconnect to Western Area Power Administration's Fort Thompson-Oahe 230-kV transmission line, which crosses the southern portion of the project area. The Project, at the time of filing this application, has not executed a purchase power agreement. The Project is expected to be operational in late 2022. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be between \$265 and \$285 million.

On June 24, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 23, 2021, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On July 2, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order For and Notice of Public Input Meeting; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. On August 11, 2021, the Commission held a public input meeting in Pierre, South Dakota. On August 23, 2021, the Commission received applications for party status from Judi Bollweg, individually and on behalf of Tumbleweed Lodge and Bollweg Family, LLLP, and Michael Bollweg, individually and on behalf of Bollweg Family, LLLP. On September 17, 2021, the Commission granted party status to Judi Bollweg, individually and on behalf of Tumbleweed Lodge and Bollweg Family, LLLP, and Michael Bollweg, individually and on behalf of Bollweg Family, LLLP (Intervenors). On October 18, 2021, staff filed a Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule. On November 1, 2021, the Commission issued an Order Granting Motion for Procedural Schedule. On November 16, 2021, North Bend filed a Motion to Extend the Deadline and requested the Commission suspend the current procedural schedule. The Commission granted North Bend's Motion to Extend the Deadline and Ordered the parties to submit a revised procedural schedule by December 7, 2021. On December 14, 2021, the Commission issued an Order granting Motion to Adopt Revised Procedural Schedule. On February 25, 2022, North Bend filed a Motion to Extend Deadline to extend the deadline for a Commission decision and suspend the current schedule. On February 28, 2022, Intervenors filed an Objection to Applicant's Motion to Extend Deadline with an amended version filed on March 1, 2022. On March 2, 2022, Staff filed a Response to Applicant's Motion to Extend Deadline and Intervenor's Objection to Applicants Motion. On March 2, 2022, North Bend filed a Response to Bollweg's Amended Objection to Applicant's Motion to Extend Deadline.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-24.1, and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 4, 2022, the Commission considered this matter. Intervenors objected to North Bend's Motion. Staff had no objection to the Motion. After hearing argument from the parties, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Motion to Extend Deadline. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicant's Motion to Extend Deadline indefinitely is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of March 2022.

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: <u>Adam DeHueck</u>
Date: <u>3/8/22</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner