

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )</b>	<b>NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER</b>
<b>BY NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT, LLC )</b>	<b>FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC</b>
<b>FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AND )</b>	<b>INPUT MEETING; NOTICE OF</b>
<b>OPERATE THE NORTH BEND WIND )</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY</b>
<b>PROJECT IN HYDE COUNTY AND )</b>	<b>FOR PARTY STATUS</b>
<b>HUGHES COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>	
<b>)</b>	<b>EL21-018</b>

On June 23, 2021, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from North Bend Wind Project, LLC (North Bend or Applicant), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of ENGIE North America, Inc. North Bend proposes to construct a wind energy conversion facility to be located in Hyde County and Hughes County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated within 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 operation in late 2022. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be between \$265 and \$285 million.

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

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., CDT in the Capitol Lake Visitors Center, 650 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre.**

The purpose of the public input meeting will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the meeting, North Bend will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Hyde County and Hughes County Auditors 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](http://www.puc.sd.gov) under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2021 Electric Dockets, EL21-018 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 will be available at the public input meeting or 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, August 23, 2021.** 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 a formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, 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, North Bend 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. It is therefore

**ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application and Project on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., CDT in the Capitol Lake Visitors Center, 650 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre. It is further**

**ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, applications for party status must be filed on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, on August 23, 2021.**

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2021.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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 DeHuck</u>
Date: <u>7/2/21</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Ziegen  
KRISTIE ZIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner