

**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**

EL21-018

**TESTIMONY OF
ANTHONY CRUTCH**

ON BEHALF OF

NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT, LLC

September 30, 2022

1 **Q. Please State your name, employer, and business address for the record.**

2 **A.** Anthony Crutch, ENGIE North America, 1360 Post Oak Blvd Houston, Suite 400
3 Houston Texas

4 **Q. Briefly describe your educational background.**

5 **A.** I have a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alabama in
6 Huntsville

7 **Q. Briefly describe your professional experience**

8 **A.** I am a Mechanical Engineer with 15 years working in the utilities industry. Previously, I
9 worked for Southern Company Headquartered in Atlanta Georgia. At Southern, I worked various
10 positions within the company. I started work at ENGIE North America as a Project Developer in
11 January 2022. Here is my skill set: Wind and Solar Utility Scale Project Development,
12 Combined Cycle Plant Piping and Process Design Engineering, Construction Management,
13 Startup and Commissioning, and Operations and Maintenance of Combined Cycle and
14 Renewable Energy Power Plants

15 **Q. Have you attached a resume or CV.**

16 **A.** Yes

17 **Q. Have you previously submitted or prepared testimony in this proceeding in South**
18 **Dakota?**

19 **A.** No

20 **Q. What is your role in the North Bend Project**

21 **A.** I am currently the Lead Project Developer. Casey Willis is no longer with ENGIE North
22 America. I have taken over all responsibilities that Casey Willis formerly had as Lead Project

1 Developer including adopting his original testimony filed on 6/13/21.

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

3 A. Rebuttal to prefilled testimony submitted on the PUC docket for Michael Bollweg
4 concerning Aerial Crop Spraying and siting of Wind Turbines

5 **Q. What's ENGIE's stance concerning safety of its employees and surrounding
6 community?**

7 A. Safety is at the top of our priorities with respect to all aspects of our business, specifically
8 in the design, construction, operations and maintenance of all of our renewable energy
9 generating facilities.

10 **Q. Are you aware of Pilots being able to spray their crops around Wind Turbines?**

11 A. Yes. I solicited advice from the American Clean Power Association (ACP), our affiliates
12 who are operating and maintaining a neighboring wind farm – the Triple H Wind Farm, and
13 experienced local pilots that spray crops that are in the fields around wind turbines owned by
14 both ENGIE affiliates and our industry peers across multiple states, including South Dakota.

15 **Q. What were your findings?**

16 A. There are approximately 70,000 Wind Turbines operating across the U.S. Most of these
17 turbines are in rural areas, with many located in active agricultural production areas where aerial
18 spraying occurs without incident.

19 Generally, aerial application occurs on low wind days (under 10 miles per hour) when turbines
20 would be spinning slowly or not at all.

21 Interviews were conducted with local Aerial Crop Sprayers who indicated that crop spraying
22 pilots are not concerned with the safety of flying their planes around Wind Turbines and shared

1 the safety precautions they employ in doing so.

2 Aerial crop spraying is being currently performed at our Triple H Wind Project with no issues to
3 date. See flight path data from the Triple H ADLS Terma System Exhibit A.

4 The wind energy industry emphasizes the importance of communication between project
5 operators, landowners, and pilots. Just as the Triple H wind farm site managers are currently
6 doing, all North Bend site managers will emphasize communications among all affected parties
7 and will work with pilots flying and spraying around wind turbines to minimize any potential
8 risk presented by spinning turbines, and to ensure that on-site managers and operations personnel
9 are not exposed to chemicals during the spraying process.


10 **Q. Have you given any consideration to Mr. Bollweg on locations for siting of**
11 **Turbines?**

12 A. Yes. The original North Bend Layout included Turbines sited Northwest of the
13 Tumbleweed Hunting Lodge. Out of consideration for previous concerns when developing the
14 Triple H Wind Project, ENGIE gave up area that included the best wind resource in the project
15 site to avoid any conflicts that could arise when siting North Bend turbines.

16 **Q. Do you have any maps to share with Staff to show the evolvement of Site layout**
17 **prior to submitting the official application to staff?**

18 A. Yes. See Exhibit B of this testimony

19 Dated this 30 day of September, 2022.

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22 Anthony Crutch