

**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

SHANE MCDANIEL

ON BEHALF OF

NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT, LLC

September 20, 2022

- 1 **Q. Please State your name, employer, and business address for the record.**
2
- 3 **A.** Shane McDaniel, ENGIE North America, 20269 Hwy 47 Highmore, SD 57
4
- 5 **Q. Briefly describe your educational background.**
6
- 7 **A.** BS in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati OH. Minor in
8 electronic systems maintenance.
9
- 10 **Q. Briefly describe your professional experience**
11
- 12 **A.** I began my wind energy career in June of 2008. I started as a technician working for a
13 turbine manufacturer and service provider in Gruver, Texas and Guymon, Oklahoma,
14 climbing wind turbines to trouble shoot, repair, and performed scheduled maintenance.
15 Promoted to Lead Technician and worked in Woodward, Oklahoma, and Rugby, North
16 Dakota supervising service technicians. Promoted to site service manager and relocated
17 to Chalmers, Indiana managing site service operations. In 2014 I began working on the
18 owner's side of the wind generation project as a plant manager in Groom, Texas and
19 Enid, Oklahoma. Promoted to Regional operations manager and relocated to Pierre,
20 South Dakota where I currently have two sites in operation. Triple H in Hyde County &
21 Dakota Range in Summit County.
22
- 23 **Q. Have you attached a resume or CV.**
24
- 25 **A.** Yes.
26
- 27 **Q. Have you previously submitted or prepared testimony in this proceeding in South
28 Dakota?**
29
- 30 **A.** No.
31
- 32 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**
33
- 34 **A.** Provide my experience and involvement with aerial crop sprayers throughout my career.
35
- 36 **Q. Please give us an overview of your involvement in the proposed Project?**
37
- 38 **A.** I will assume operational responsibility and management of the North Bend Wind
39 Project, LLC after construction is complete.
40
- 41 **Q. Are their pilots that currently spray crops at Triple H?**
42
- 43 **A.** Yes, in and out of the project's boundaries.
44

1 **Q. Please describe your observations.**

2

3 **A.** I have observed safe aerial application of product(s) being sprayed on various crops
4 around wind turbines throughout the entire project. My observations were during the
5 construction phase and the ongoing operational phase of the project. With the PUC
6 required ADLS radar on site; I have also electronically observed, flight paths, altitudes,
7 and aircraft speeds of the pilots flying safely around wind turbines.

8

9 **Q. How often is spraying being performed at Triple H?**

10

11 **A.** Yearly throughout the growing seasons construction to date.

12

13 **Q. Are you aware of any incidents to date?**

14

15 **A.** There have been no incidents from aerial applicators or issues raised by pilots or
16 landowners from start of construction to date.

17

18 **Q. Where and how have you worked within the Wind Energy Industry where Aerial
19 Spraying is being performed?**

20

21 **A.** Guymon, Enid, and Woodward, Oklahoma. Gruver and Groom, Texas. Chalmers,
22 Indiana. Colby, Kansas. Rugby, North Dakota. Summit and Highmore, South Dakota. I
23 have worked with various local applicators near the wind projects that I have been
24 associated with, to collaborate on operational challenges and safety. Both industries are
25 affected by wind speed & direction as well as providing the best product to the
26 landowner. I've set up direct communications between applicators and wind plant offices
27 to be faster on decision making with planning & planned work that must be changed in
28 real time as the wind conditions change. I've provided turbine measurements to pilots so
29 that they can plan their flights around wind turbines. I've had product safety discussions
30 to understand re-entry times for turbine techs going to turbines after an area has been
31 sprayed. Shared Material Safety Data Sheets of products applied to crops in case there is
32 an exposure event. In my career experience, having open and direct communications with
33 ariel applicators has been beneficial to both industries for managing plans, changes,
34 safety, and the products we provide to the community and landowners.

35

36 **Q. Have you spoken with local pilots in South Dakota who are actively spraying crops?**

37

38 **A.** Yes, to exchange contact information to improve business communications, operations,
39 and safety as described in the previous question.

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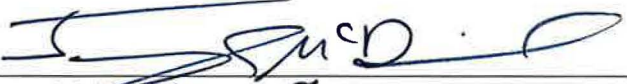
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Dated this 20th day of September, 2022.


Shane McDaniel 9-20-22