



August 16, 2024

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear PUC Staff and Commissioners,

This letter serves as Comments of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (“NCSRCC”) in the above-docket number EL24-023 South Deuel Wind project. NCSRCC represents over 28,000 skilled carpenters, millwrights, and pile drivers working throughout the states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Millwrights Local Union No. 548 are chartered and operated in the State of South Dakota.

We appreciate that Invenergy has taken a genuine interest in ensuring that South Dakota workers, communities and ratepayers will benefit from this investment in zero emission electricity. The siting of wind projects can support sustainable development and efficient use of resources, and local jobs are connected to both. Millwrights are specifically trained in installation of all forms of renewable energy, including the erection of wind towers. These thousands of experts in renewable energy construction are also teaching the next generation of skilled millwrights via participation in the Millwrights Apprenticeship Program. Workforce development through hands on “earn while you learn” apprenticeship training is vitally important. It’s the best way to ensure the next generation of highly skilled trades men and women are ready to build, repair and maintain renewable energy projects throughout the state.

We welcome Invenergy’s commitment to infrastructure investment. This investment has a real impact on the lives of hardworking construction workers and their families. Millwrights believe these are valuable investments that improve the economic landscape across the state of South Dakota. Also, as part of these investments, the company can provide high-quality, good paying jobs with good benefits to skilled workers in communities across the state.

Again, we appreciate that Invenergy has taken a genuine interest in ensuring that South Dakota workers, communities, businesses and ratepayers will benefit from this investment. For the above reasons, we request that the PUC approve the South Deuel Wind Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

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