

RURAL

May 21, 2026

Chairman Chris Nelson
Commissioner Kristie Fiegen
Commissioner Gary Hanson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: EL24-023 South Deuel Wind Project — Potential Land Control and Disclosure Concerns

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to the citizens of South Dakota and for the time and attention devoted to the South Deuel Wind Project proceedings.

Residents United for Rural and Ag Land is a group of local residents, farmers, ranchers, landowners, and community members concerned about the long-term impacts of the South Deuel Wind Project on our rural communities, agricultural operations, land stewardship, and quality of life.

We write to respectfully request clarification and review regarding a potentially significant land-control issue related to the Project.

One of our members, [REDACTED], purchased the building site from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] this property had a wind power lease on it. She did not renew the lease. The balance of the property [REDACTED] was purchased by a neighbor. One of our members asked this neighbor if he renewed this lease and he said no. Based upon the Public Hearing Map submitted as part of the Project application, this property appears to be associated with important portions of the Project's collection system and/or infrastructure routing.

At the same time, Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South LLC previously provided a Notice of Limited Construction stating that limited construction activities were anticipated to begin on May 25, 2026.

As local residents attempting to follow this process carefully, we are concerned that the Commission's recent exemption proceedings may have proceeded under the assumption that the Applicant continued to possess all necessary land-control rights associated with the approved project configuration, while this and possibly other potentially material contractual timing issue may not have been specifically disclosed or analyzed.

We fully recognize that contractual interpretation issues may ultimately be disputed between private parties. However, we respectfully believe that continuing land-control rights are fundamental to:

- approved project routing,
- permitted facility locations,
- micrositing flexibility,
- and overall public confidence in the integrity of the permitting process.

We therefore respectfully request that the Commission:

- confirm whether the Applicant presently maintains all land rights necessary for the currently approved Project configuration,
- and determine whether any material changes to routing, collection systems, or facility placement may result from changes in easement status.

Our community cares deeply about the responsible stewardship of our land, farms, ranches, wildlife, and rural communities. Many local families have lived and worked on this land for generations. We respectfully ask that local voices and concerns continue to receive careful consideration throughout all phases of this Project.

Thank you again for your service and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank James

RURAL — Residents United for Rural and Ag Land

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