

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Aug 20, 2024

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

RE: PUC Docket # EL24-023 / South Deuel Wind Project

Dear PUC Commissioners and Staff,

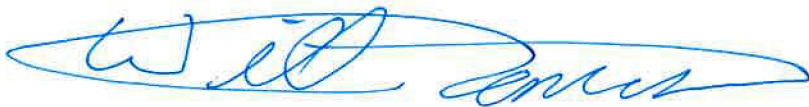
The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 is a construction labor union representing 15,000 members and their families in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Our members operate and maintain heavy equipment and perform construction and maintenance work on a wide array of infrastructure projects across South Dakota—including in the energy sector.

As a union we support an “all of the above” approach to energy production. Our members build and maintain coal plants, gas plants, nuclear plants, wind farms, solar facilities, and pipelines. We value the jobs with good pay and benefits that energy projects provide to our members and their families in South Dakota.

Our union has significant experience building wind projects in South Dakota. We recognize the real benefits that can flow to South Dakota workers when these projects are done right and utilize highly skilled local workers. It is our belief that this project will benefit local construction workers and provide good paying opportunities for those in our industry. In addition to the job benefits, this project will provide low-cost renewable energy to future buyers and help ensure there are sufficient generation assets available to meet growing demand.

For the above reasons we would encourage you to approve this project.

Sincerely,



Will Thomssen, Business Agent,
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49
4009 West 49th Street
Sioux Falls SD 57106