

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY )  
DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY SOUTH )  
LLC FOR ENERGY FACILITY PERMITS OF )  
A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345-KV )  
TRANSMISSION FACILITY IN DEUEL )  
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE )  
SOUTH DEUEL WIND PROJECT )**

**ORDER ASSESSING  
FILING FEE; ORDER  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO  
CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

**EL24-023**

On June 28, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South LLC (Deuel Harvest or Applicant), an affiliate of Invenergy LLC. Deuel Harvest proposes to construct a wind energy facility and a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Gen-Tie Line) to be located in Deuel County, South Dakota, known as the South Deuel Wind Project (Project). The Project would be situated within an approximately 34,339-acre project area, in the townships of Blom, Brandt, Clear Lake, Norden, and Scandinavia. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 260 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity and deliver up to 250 MW to the point of interconnection. The proposed Project includes up to 68 wind turbines, electrical collection and supervisory control and data acquisition systems, a 34.5 kV to 345 kV collector substation, an approximately 6-mile long 345 kV generator transmission tie line, improvements to enable the interconnection of the Project into the existing 345 kV Astoria interconnection switchyard, an operations and maintenance facility, up to two aircraft detection lighting system towers; access roads, and up to three meteorological towers. The Project will also include temporary construction areas: crane paths, public road improvements, a general construction laydown yard, staging areas, and a concrete batch plant, as needed. The Gen-Tie Line will transmit electricity approximately 6 miles from the collector substation to the point of interconnection at the existing Astoria 345 kV interconnection switchyard owned by Otter Tail Power Company. The Project, which has an estimated construction cost of \$621 million, is expected to be in commercial operation in December 2026. SDCL 49-41B-12 provides for a filing fee to be assessed to cover the Commission's actual cost of investigating, reviewing, processing, and serving notice of the Application. The maximum fee chargeable, as calculated pursuant to statute, is \$510,500. However, according to said statute, the minimum total fee chargeable may not be less than \$8,000.

On July 3, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 27, 2024, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent of the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction cost plus one-twentieth of one percent of all additional estimated construction costs of the Project.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-12, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 19, 2024, the Commission considered this

matter. Commission staff requested the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$510,500 and to authorize the executive director to enter into consulting contracts that may be needed for review of the application. The Applicant did not object to the request and noted that they already provided a check of \$20,000 to the Commission to cover the minimum filing fee. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee up to the statutory limit of \$510,500 with an initial deposit of \$20,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date, and to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Deuel Harvest shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of \$510,500, with an initial deposit of \$20,000, to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director shall have the authority to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.	
By:	<u><i>Kristie Fiegen</i></u>
Date:	<u>24 July 2024</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Kristie Fiegen*

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

*Gary Hanson*

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

*Chris Nelson*

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner