

**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**

SD PUC DOCKET EL24-____

**PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DAVID LOOMIS
ON BEHALF OF DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY SOUTH LLC**

June 28, 2024

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

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3 **Q. Please state your name, employer and business address.**

4 A. My name is David G. Loomis. I am Emeritus Professor of Economics at Illinois
5 State University, CoFounder of the Center for Renewable Energy, and President
6 of Strategic Economic Research, LLC. My professional address is 2705 Kolby
7 Court, Bloomington, Illinois 61704.

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9 **Q. On whose behalf are you providing this testimony?**

10 A. I am providing this testimony on behalf of Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South LLC
11 (“South Deuel Wind”) in support of its Facility Permit Application (“Application”) to
12 the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. The Application is for a facility
13 permit to construct and operate a wind energy facility which will have a nameplate
14 capacity of up to 260 megawatts (“MW”) and deliver up to 250 MW to the point of
15 interconnection (“Wind Energy Facility”), and a transmission facility which will
16 operate at 345 kilovolts (“kV”) and be approximately 6 miles in length
17 (“Transmission Facility”). The Wind Energy Facility and the Transmission Facility
18 are collectively referred to as the Project.

19

20 **Q. Briefly describe your educational background and professional experience.**

21 A. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and in Honors Economics from Temple
22 University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree
23 in Economics from Temple University. Throughout my professional career, I have
24 performed economic impact analyses of renewable energy projects since 2010. In
25 addition to the renewable energy projects, I have estimated the economic impacts
26 of transmission lines for Clean Line Energy Partners, SOO Green Energy, NextEra
27 Energy, and Invenergy. I have also published peer-reviewed academic articles on
28 the economic impacts of wind and solar energy projects. My current curriculum
29 vitae is attached as **Exhibit 1.**

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31 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

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33 **Q. What is your role with respect to the Project?**

34 A. I was retained by South Deuel Wind to conduct an economic impact analysis
35 relating to the Project. I have reviewed the proposed Project in detail and analyzed
36 its anticipated economic impact.

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38 **Q. What is the purpose of your Direct Testimony?**

39 A. The purpose of my Direct Testimony is to provide information concerning the
40 Economic Impact Analysis ("Report") I performed to evaluate the Project's
41 economic impact on a local and statewide level.

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43 **Q. Identify the sections of the Application that you are sponsoring for the
44 record.**

45 A. I am sponsoring the following portions of the Application:

- 46 • Appendix C: Economic Impact Analysis

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48 **Q. What exhibits are attached to your Direct Testimony?**

49 A. I am sponsoring the following exhibit:

- 50 • **Exhibit 1:** David Loomis Curriculum Vitae

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52 **III. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS**

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54 **Q. What is the purpose of your Economic Impact Analysis?**

55 A. The purpose of my Report is to aid decisionmakers in evaluating the economic
56 impact of the South Deuel Wind Project on Deuel County and the State of South
57 Dakota. This analysis is intended to study the direct, indirect, and induced impacts
58 on job creation, earnings, and total economic output.

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Q. Describe the methodology used in your Economic Impact Analysis.

A. My analysis utilizes the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s (“NREL’s”) latest Jobs and Economic Development Impacts (“JEDI”) Wind Energy Model (W6-28-19). NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy’s primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. The JEDI Wind Energy Model is an input-output model that measures the spending patterns and location-specific economic structures that reflect expenditures supporting varying levels of employment, income, and output. Additional information regarding the methodology and data used is available in my Report.

Q. What did your analysis conclude?

A. Key findings include the Project resulting in the creation of 1,617 new jobs during construction and 27.5 new long-term jobs for the State of South Dakota, over \$1.9 million in new long-term earnings for the State of South Dakota annually, over \$6.5 million in new long-term output for the State of South Dakota annually, and over \$38.0 million in property taxes in total for all taxing districts over the life of the Project. Additional conclusions and findings are discussed in my Report.

Q. Do you have an opinion to a reasonable degree of professional certainty whether the construction and operation of the South Deuel Wind Project will have a positive impact on the economies of Deuel County and the State of South Dakota?

A. Based on my analysis, the South Deuel Wind Project, both during construction and while in operation, will have a positive impact on the economies of Deuel County and the State of South Dakota in terms of jobs, earnings, output, and tax revenue.

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86 **IV. CONCLUSION**

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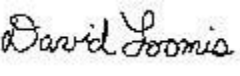
88 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

89 **A. Yes.**

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92 Dated this 28th day of June, 2024

93 

94 David Loomis