

**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 AIDAN O'CONNOR  
ON BEHALF OF DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY SOUTH LLC**

June 28, 2024

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

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

A. My name is Aidan O'Connor. I am a Manager, Renewable Development at Invenergy LLC ("Invenergy"). My business address is One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago Illinois, 60606.

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

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

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

A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan in Earth & Environmental Science and the Program in the Environment with an emphasis in Energy Systems. At the University of Michigan, I also received minors in Energy Science and Policy as well as Business Administration. My career in renewables began when I joined Invenergy in September 2018. Over the past approximately six years I have progressed the development of multiple utility-scale solar, wind, and battery energy storage projects across the upper Midwest. Prior to Invenergy, I was involved in a number of educational energy projects and co-led an energy efficiency startup through the University of Michigan TechArb student venture accelerator. My resume is attached as **Exhibit 1.**

31 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

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

34 A. I am responsible for project managing the Application drafting and post-Application  
35 submission permitting process for the Project. I coordinated with multiple teams  
36 that assisted in the Application drafting process, as well as teams who conducted  
37 studies, analyses, and evaluations for the Project.

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

40 A. The purpose of my Direct Testimony is to support the Application for facility permits  
41 for the Wind Energy Facility and the Transmission Facility.

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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 sections of the Application:

- 46 • Section 1: Introduction
- 47 • Section 20: Information Concerning Wind Energy Facilities
- 48 • Section 21: Information Concerning Transmission Facilities
- 49 • Section 22.1: Permits and Approvals
- 50 • Section 22.4: Applicant's Burden of Proof

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

53 A. I am sponsoring the following exhibit:

- 54 • Exhibit 1: Aidan O'Connor Resume

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56 **III. WIND AND TRANSMISSION FACILITY INFORMATION**

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58 **Q. Describe the Wind and Transmission Facility information contained in the**  
59 **Application.**

60 A. Sections 20 and 21 of the Application contain information regarding the Wind  
61 Energy Facility and the Transmission Facility portions of the Project, respectively.

62 These Sections contain tables which indicate the location of specific data about  
63 the Project. These Sections satisfy the content requirements of ARSD  
64 20:10:22:33.02 and ARSD 20:10:22:35.

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66 **Q. Will South Deuel Wind obtain all local, state, and federal permits required for**  
67 **the Project?**

68 A. Yes. South Deuel Wind or its contractors will obtain all permits required for the  
69 Project.

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71 **IV. CONCLUSION**

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

74 A. Yes.

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77 Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024

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79 *Aidan O'Connor*

80 Aidan O'Connor