



Gary Hanson, Chairman
Chris Nelson, Vice Chairman
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
<https://puc.sd.gov>

(605) 773-3201

Email
puc@state.sd.us

October 9, 2025

Kristine H. Smith
Smith Cattle LLC
[REDACTED]
Milesville, SD 57553

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for sharing your comments with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission regarding Docket EL25-029 - *In the Matter of the Application by Philip Wind Partners, LLC, for Energy Facility Permits for a Wind Energy Facility and a 230 kV Transmission Facility in Haakon County, South Dakota (Philip Wind Project)*, filed with the Commission on August 15, 2025.

The commission appreciates your engagement and understands the importance of the issues you have raised. You have stated your concerns related to the proposed wind energy facility and its effects on the area's wildlife, birds, residents, history and culture, weather, and environment. As a "birder" myself I especially appreciated your concerns for our avian population. I actually observed two Northern Flickers as I typed this and saw White Breasted Titmouse Dark Eyed Juncos and Black Capped Chickadees yesterday. I love this time of year. We took it upon ourselves to place a condition in wind permits to protect Whooping Cranes and other migratory birds. As you likely know, many are protected by federal law.

Please know that our staff and the commissioners examine with significant detail every item that we are legally responsible to. And, frankly, even some that we are not.

For more information on how the commission processes applications like this, you may find the enclosed *Energy Conversion & Electric Transmission Facilities Siting Guide* helpful. It is also available on our website, puc.sd.gov, and accessible through the online docket.

Informal public comments such as yours are reviewed and considered by the PUC commissioners and staff and are posted under Comments and Responses in the publicly available docket. You are encouraged to follow along as more information is received and posted in the docket by the parties involved.

Sincerely,

Gary Hanson
Chairman