

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)
PHILIP WIND PARTNERS, LLC FOR)
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITS OF A WIND)
ENERGY FACILITY AND A 230 KV)
TRANSMISSION FACILITY IN HAAKON)
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE)
PHILIP WIND PROJECT)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER
FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC
INPUT MEETING; NOTICE OF
OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR
PARTY STATUS

EL25-029

On August 15, 2025, the Commission received an Application from Philip Wind Partners, LLC (Applicant) for Energy Facility Permits of a Wind Energy Facility and a 230 kV Transmission Facility in Haakon County, South Dakota. Applicant proposes to construct the Philip Wind Project and a 230 kV transmission line, (together, Project) to be located in Haakon County, South Dakota.

The Project would be situated within an approximately 68,300-acre project area. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 333 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity and deliver up to 300 MW to the point of interconnection. The proposed Project includes up to 87 wind turbines, a 34.5kV electrical collection and supervisory control and data acquisition systems, a 230 kV collector substation, an approximately 7-mile long 230 kV generator transmission tie line, an operations and maintenance facility, up to three 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, three general construction laydown yards, staging areas, and a concrete batch plant, as needed. The Project will also be supported by a short (less than 1 mile) extension of an existing 230-kV line owned by Basin Electric Power Company (Basin Electric) that will be separately permitted¹. In addition, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) will construct the 230-kV Philip North Switchyard and two tie-in lines to interconnect the Project into WAPA's existing Oahe to New Underwood 230-kV transmission line. The Project, which has an estimated construction cost of \$750 million, is expected to be in commercial operation in December 2027.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application on Thursday, October 2, 2025 - 5:30 p.m. MDT – American Legion, 709 W. Pine St., Philip, SD 57567.** This public input meeting will be held in conjunction with the public input meeting for the corresponding electric transmission line application in Docket No. EL25-030.

The purpose of the public input meeting will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the meeting, Applicant will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the County Auditor in Haakon County and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other

¹ See Docket No. EL25-030 - In the Matter of the Application by Basin Electric Power Cooperative for Energy Facility Permit for a 230 KV Transmission Facility In Haakon County, South Dakota.

documents in the docket, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's website at puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2025 Electric Dockets, EL25-029.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, the parties to this proceeding are currently Applicant and the Commission Staff. Each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited, or any directly interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making timely written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available on the Commission's website. **Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, October 14, 2025.** The Commission will also accept written comments from anyone other than parties to the proceeding, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mail until the time of the decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by providing testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct. You do not need to have party status in order to submit written comments. An individual with party status is required to submit information pursuant to a procedural schedule rather than submitting written comments.

Following the public input meeting, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider issues raised by any party or the Commission itself. At such a formal hearing, parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

For approval, Applicant must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether a permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application and Project on **Thursday, October 2, 2025 - 5:30 p.m. MDT – American Legion, 709 W. Pine St., Philip, SD 57567.** It is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to ARSD 20:10:22:40, **applications for party status should be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, on October 14, 2025.**

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this meeting will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of August 2025.

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: *Kristie Fiegen*

Date: 20 Aug 2025

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner