

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
BY CROCKER WIND FARM, LLC FOR A )  
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY )  
AND A 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN )  
CLARK COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR )  
CROCKER WIND FARM )**

**ORDER APPROVING ESCROW  
AGREEMENT**

**EL17-055**

On December 15, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Crocker Wind Farm LLC (Crocker) for a wind energy facility and transmission facility permit a 345 kV Transmission Line (Projects) to construct the Crocker Wind Farm, a wind energy facility located on approximately 29,331 acres of privately owned land in Clark County, South Dakota, approximately 8 miles north of Clark, South Dakota. The proposed projects include up to 120 wind turbines, associated access roads, a new collector substation, an operations and maintenance facility, and associated 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission in Clark County, South Dakota. The projects will result in the installation of approximately 5.2 miles of overhead transmission that will be wholly located within the Wind Farm's boundary. The Transmission Line Route will run from a substation in Section 30 of Township 119N, Range 58W to the Point-of-Interconnect (POI), which is located approximately 2 miles north of the town of Crocker in Section 9 of Township 119N, Range 58W. Two routing options from the substation in Section 30 are under consideration. At the POI, the power will transfer to the Basin Electric Groton-to-Watertown 345 kV transmission line, part of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc./Western Area Power Administration Transmission line portfolio in Clark County, South Dakota.

On June 12, 2018, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facilities (Permit). Condition 37 of the Permit requires Crocker to file an escrow account plan with the Commission for Commission approval.

On July 26, 2018, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Crocker's decommissioning escrow account plan, subject to the conditions that the escrow agreement be governed by the laws of the State of South Dakota; the requisite thirty years of funding be consecutive; Crocker pay any taxes incurred by the account or the revenue from the account; and the escrow agreement be subject to Commission approval.

Crocker filed the escrow agreement between Crocker and Minnwest Bank on November 19, 2018.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-41B.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 27, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the escrow agreement. No intervenors appeared. The Commission unanimously granted approval of the escrow agreement.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Crocker's escrow agreement is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.

**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:

Adam de Hueck

Date:

11/29/18

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Eegen

KRISTIE EEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner