

**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
PUBLIC LIAISON
OFFICER

EL17-055**

On December 15, 2017, Crocker Wind Farm, LLC filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for an energy facility permit and 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. 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. The Projects would generate utility scale electric power for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers.

On February 5, 2018, the Commission held a public input hearing regarding the Projects. On February 26, 2018, the Commission issued a procedural schedule and granted party status to 64 individuals, represented jointly by a law firm. On March 28, 2018, 62 individuals moved to withdraw their party status, and the withdrawal was subsequently granted by the Commission.

On May 9-11, 2018, an evidentiary hearing was held regarding this matter. On May 29, 2018, Crocker Wind Farm, LLC, staff and the Intervenor filed post-hearing briefs to the Commission. On June 12, 2018, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facilities (Permit). Condition 40 of the Permit requires Crocker to provide a public liaison officer, approved by the Commission. The Condition provides that Crocker must file a proposal for a public liaison and receive Commission approval prior to commencement of construction. Crocker filed for approval of Steve Vanderbeek as public liaison officer on August 1, 2018.

At its August 7, 2018, meeting, the Commission considered Crocker's proffered public liaison officer. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Steve Vanderbeek as the public liaison officer.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Steve Vanderbeek is approved as the public liaison officer for the Project.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9th day of August 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: 8/9/18

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner