

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION</b>	)	<b>ORDER GRANTING</b>
<b>OF DAKOTA RANGE III, LLC FOR A</b>	)	<b>EXEMPTION</b>
<b>PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY</b>	)	
<b>AND A 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN</b>	)	<b>EL18-046</b>
<b>GRANT AND ROBERTS COUNTIES</b>	)	

On October 26, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Dakota Range III, LLC (Dakota Range) to construct an approximately 8-mile 345-kilovolt interconnection transmission line and an up to 151.2-megawatt wind energy conversion facility (Project). The Project will be in Grant County and Roberts County, South Dakota, with the wind portion in an 18,717-acre area. The transmission line will run from the Project's substation located in section 13 of Blooming Valley Township, outside the public right of way along 455th Avenue, turning east on Farmington Township's 150<sup>th</sup> Street to the Otter Tail Power Company switchyard located in section 14 of Mazeppa Township. The Project is expected to be in service by December 31, 2020, with a total of up to 42 wind turbines and associated facilities. Dakota Range estimates the total cost of the proposed Project to be approximately \$200 million.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically, 49-41B-1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-25 and ARSD 20:10:01:19 and Chapter 20:10:22.

On November 1, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Petition and the intervention deadline of December 26, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. A public input hearing was held on December 19, 2018, in Summit, South Dakota. No applications for Party Status were received by the Commission. On February 7, 2019, Dakota Range III and Commission Staff (Staff) filed a Joint Motion for Approval of a Settlement Stipulation, a Settlement Stipulation and Attachment 1 to the Settlement Stipulation. On February 8, 2019, Staff filed a Memorandum Supporting Settlement Stipulation. On February 22, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Motion of Approval of Settlement Stipulation and Granting Permits to Construct Facilities. On September 9, 2019, Dakota Range III filed a letter requesting an Exemption from Condition 36 of the Settlement Stipulation, the public liaison requirement, of the Permit.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 17, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Staff did not object to the Exemption from Condition 36. However, Staff did request that Dakota Range specify in its landowner mailing that the Consumer Affairs Division of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is the point of contact for any concerns and that Dakota Range assign a point of contact to coordinate with the PUC's Consumer Affairs Division. Hearing no objection from Staff, the Commission voted unanimously to grant Dakota Range's request for an Exemption from Condition 36 of the Permit subject to Staff's requests.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Dakota Range's Request for an Exemption from Condition 36, the public liaison requirement, of the Permit is granted. It is further,

ORDERED, that Dakota Range shall identify in its landowner mailing that the Consumer Affairs Division of the PUC is the point of contact for any concerns that may arise during project construction and Dakota Range shall assign a point of contact to coordinate with the PUC's Consumer Affairs Division.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2019.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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.
By: <u>Adam de Hueck</u>
Date: <u>9/23/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner