

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT
OF DAKOTA RANGE III, LLC FOR A)	MOTION FOR APPROVAL
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY)	OF SETTLEMENT
AND A 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN)	STIPULATION AND
GRANT AND ROBERTS COUNTIES)	GRANTING PERMITS TO
)	CONSTRUCT FACILITIES
)	
)	EL18-046

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 150th 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. Per state law, the Commission has six months from the date of application to render a decision on this application.

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 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.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 15, 2019, the Commission considered whether to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Application, subject to the conditions in the Settlement Stipulation, were properly filed and demonstrated the Project meets the requirements of SDCL 49-41B-22. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and grant the requested permits.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is granted. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Decision and Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that the Applicant is granted the requested permits to construct the wind energy facility and the 345-kV transmission line, both subject to the conditions set forth in the Settlement Stipulation.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of February 2019.

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.
By: <u>Karen E. Premier</u>
Date: <u>02/22/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner