

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT
BY TRIPLE H WIND PROJECT, LLC FOR)	MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF
A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY)	SETTLEMENT STIPULATION;
IN HYDE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)	ORDER APPROVING
)	SETTLEMENT STIPULATION
)	
)	
)	
)	EL19-007

On February 6, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Facility Permit Application for an Energy Facility Permit (Application) from Triple H Wind, LLC (Triple H or Applicant), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ENGIE North America, Inc. Triple H proposes to construct a wind energy facility to be located in Hyde County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be located on 27,247.5 acres of privately held land, approximately 3.2 miles southwest of Highmore in the townships of Eagle, Chapelle, Highmore, and Holabird, South Dakota (Project Area). The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 250.24 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 92 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, one permanent meteorological tower, a 345-kV interconnection switching station, a Sonic Detection and Ranging Unit, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project will interconnect to the high-voltage transmission grid via the Leland Olds to Fort Thompson 345-kV transmission line, which crosses the Project Area. Applicant has entered into two 30-year power purchase agreements, one with Walmart for 150 MW and one for 48 MW with a confidential institutional buyer. The remaining 52 MW will be sold on a merchant basis. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$300 million.

On February 7, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 8, 2019, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On March 19, 2019, the Commission held a public input hearing in Highmore, South Dakota. No applications for Party Status were received by the Commission. On May 21, 2019, Commission staff (staff) and Triple H filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and a Settlement Stipulation resolving all issues except for the funding for the decommissioning of the Project and the risks associated with ice throw. On May 21, 2019, staff filed its Memorandum in Support of the Settlement Stipulation.

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

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after making further inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation with the exception of proposed conditions 35 and 38. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and approve the Settlement Stipulation with the exception of proposed conditions 35 and 38. An evidentiary hearing will be held at a later date on the remaining issues. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted, and the Settlement Stipulation is hereby approved with the exception of proposed conditions 35 and 38. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein and if the permit is ultimately granted, the conditions included in the Settlement Stipulation, with the exception of 35 and 38, will be attached to the permit.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of June 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 or by mail.
By: <u>Adam de Hueck</u>
Date: <u>6/4/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner