

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) BY TATANKA RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A) PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY) IN DEUEL COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA))))))	ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE; ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONSULTING CONTRACTS; AND ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
	EL19-026

On June 17, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC (Tatanka or Applicant), a subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, LLC. Tatanka proposes to construct a wind energy facility to be located in Deuel County, South Dakota, known as the Tatanka Ridge Wind Project (Project). The Project would be situated within an approximately 27,900-acre project area, located near the Towns of Toronto and Brandt (Project Area). The Project Area is in Blom, Brandt, Grange, Hidewood, and Scandinavia Townships. The total installed capacity of the Project would be approximately 155 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 56 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, above/underground electrical collector lines, communication systems, a collection substation, one permanent meteorological tower, less than 0.5-mile long 345-kV gen-tie transmission line, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project would interconnect to the regional electric grid via the Astoria substation, a new Otter Tail Power Company interconnection substation scheduled to be operational in 2020, located in Scandinavia Township. Tatanka has entered into two purchase power agreements, one with Google for 98 MW and one with Dairyland Power Cooperative for the balance. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant estimates the total construction cost to be \$216 million.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent for the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs plus one-twentieth of one percent of all additional estimated construction costs of the Project, with a minimum total fee chargeable of not less than eight thousand dollars. The fee shall be deposited in a subfund in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee Fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon the Application.

On July 24, 2019, Staff and Applicant filed a Stipulation for Procedural Schedule (Stipulation). Pursuant to the Stipulation, all discovery responses would be due within ten business days of service, unless otherwise provided in the agreed upon procedural schedule. The Stipulation sets forth the following procedural schedule:

ACTION	DATE
Submit Application & Applicant Direct Testimony	June 17, 2019
Public Input Meeting	August 7, 2019
Deadline for Intervention	August 16, 2019
Commission Meeting on Intervention Applications	August 21, 2019
Applicant Supplemental Direct Testimony Due	August 30, 2019

Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due	September 27, 2019
Rebuttal Testimony Due	October 11, 2019
Final Discovery to All Parties	October 18, 2019
Final Responses to Discovery Due	Oct 28, 2019
Witness and Exhibit List Due and exhibits marked and prefiled	Oct 31, 2019
Evidentiary Hearing	November 4-5

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-12, 49-41B-26, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 25, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$308,000 with an initial deposit of \$8,000, and to authorize the executive director to enter into consulting contracts needed for review of the Application. Applicant stated it did not object to the fee assessment. The Commission voted unanimously to assess Tatanka a filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$308,000, with an initial deposit of \$8,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date, and to authorize the executive director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. In addition, the Commission voted to adopt the procedural schedule set forth in the Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Tatanka shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$308,000 with an initial deposit of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Commission's finance manager. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director is authorized to enter into necessary consulting contracts. It is further

ORDERED, that the Commission adopts the procedural schedule set forth in the Stipulation, including that all discovery responses shall be served within ten business days of service of the discovery request, except as provided in the procedural schedule.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31st day of July 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 deHueck</u>
Date:	<u>7/31/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
 GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
 CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
 KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner