

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT
BY TATANKA RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A)	MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN)	SETTLEMENT STIPULATION;
DEUEL COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)	ORDER APPROVING
)	SETTLEMENT STIPULATION
)	
)	
)	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.

On June 20, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 16, 2019, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. A public input meeting was held on August 7, 2019. On October 4, 2019, Applicant and staff filed a Settlement Stipulation and Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. The Settlement Stipulation resolves all issues with the exception of the funding for the decommissioning of the Project.

The Commission has jurisdiction in 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 ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 15, 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 conditions 26 and 36 of the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and approve the Settlement Stipulation with the exception of conditions 26 and 36 of the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission also reserved for future consideration the issue of a permit condition related to protection of whooping cranes.

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 conditions 26 and 36 of the Settlement Stipulation. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

Ordered, that the issue of a condition related to the protection of whooping cranes is reserved for future consideration.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of October 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: Adam de Hueck

Date: 10/22/19

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner