

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
BY DAKOTA RANGE I, LLC AND)
DAKOTA RANGE II, LLC FOR A PERMIT)
OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN GRANT)
COUNTY AND CODINGTON COUNTY,)
SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR THE DAKOTA)
RANGE WIND PROJECT)**

**ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION
FOR TURBINE MODEL CHANGE**

EL18-003

On January 24, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit for a wind energy facility (Application) from Dakota Range I, LLC, and Dakota Range II, LLC. An evidentiary hearing was held June 12-14, 2018. On July 23, 2018, the Commission issued its Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Wind Energy Facility (Permit). On January 6, 2020, Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (NSP) filed a Motion for Approval of Transfer of Permit, which the Commission granted on March 9, 2020. On July 31, 2020, NSP filed a letter and Affidavit of Darin Schottler requesting approval of a material change pursuant to Condition 22 of the Permit that will allow a change of turbine models for 8 of the 72 turbine models. On August 7, 2020, Commission staff filed a request for Commission review of the material change. On August 13 and August 14, 2020, NSP filed data responses.

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

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 18, 2020, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff did not have any concerns with the change in the turbine model for the 8 wind turbines and recommended granting NSP's request. No intervenors appeared. Following a public discussion, the Commission finds that the requested material change is reviewable pursuant to Condition 24 of the Permit which permits an exemption of Condition 2, which requires NSP to use the turbine model identified in the Application. Finding that the turbine model change was acceptable, the Commission voted unanimously to grant NSP's request. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NSP's request for a turbine model change under Condition 24 of the Permit is hereby granted for the turbine models, identified in the Affidavit of Darin Schottler, for turbines 1, 7, 13, 23, 20, 50, 60a, and 70.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of August 2020.

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>8/19/20</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairperson
Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner
Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner