

**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
REQUEST TO APPROVE
PUBLIC LIAISON OFFICER**

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 (together Dakota Range or Applicant). Applicant proposes to construct a wind energy facility to be located in Grant County and Codington County, South Dakota, known as the Dakota Range Wind Project (Project). The Project would be situated within an approximately 44,500-acre project area, ten miles northeast of Watertown, South Dakota (Project Area). The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 302.4 MW nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 72 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines connecting the turbines to the collection substation, underground fiber-optic cable for turbine communications co-located with the collector lines, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, up to five permanent meteorological towers, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project would interconnect to the high-voltage transmission grid via the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line which crosses the Project site. The Project is expected to be completed in 2021. Applicant estimates the total construction cost to be \$380 million. 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. On January 6, 2020, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed a Motion for Approval of Transfer of Permit which the Commission granted on March 9, 2020. Condition 36 of the permit requires the permit holder to provide a public liaison officer, approved by the Commission prior to commencement of construction. On July 22, 2020, NSP filed a letter regarding its proposed public liaison officer.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B.

On July 29, 2020, at an Ad Hoc Meeting, the Commission considered this matter. NSP requested the Commission approve the proffered public liaison officer. Commission staff recommended approval of Eric Munz as the public liaison officer. Eric Munz was available to answer questions. No other parties appeared. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the request to approve Eric Munz as the public liaison officer for the Dakota Range Project.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request to approve Eric Munz as the public liaison officer is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31st day of July 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 Oetzel</u>
Date: <u>7/31/20</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner