

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY MERIDIAN WIND PROJECT, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345-KV TRANSMISSION FACILITY IN HYDE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	<b>) ) ) ) ) ) )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING DEADLINE EXTENTION AND ADOPTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE  EL20-013</b>
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On April 23, 2020, the South Dakota Public Utility Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Meridian Wind Project, LLC (Meridian or Applicant). Meridian proposes to construct a wind energy conversion facility and an 8.9-mile, 345-kV transmission line to be located in Hyde County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated within approximately 15,043-acres in the townships of Van Order, Eagle, Chapelle, Highmore, and Bramhall, South Dakota. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 175 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 64 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kV electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, and one permanent meteorological tower.

On April 30, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 22, 2020, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On June 10, 2020, the Commission held a telephonic public meeting on the Application. On July 9, 2020, the Commission granted party status to Nicolas Ferens. On July 31, 2020, staff filed a Motion for Procedural Schedule. On August 21, 2020, Applicant filed a Motion to Extend Deadline for Commission Action. On September 9, 2020, staff filed an Amended Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 15-6, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 15, 2020, the Commission considered the matter. The Applicant supported staff's Amended Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule, and Mr. Ferens did not appear at the Commission meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Applicant's Motion to Extend Deadline for Commission Action and to grant staff's Amended Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule, subject to a change in evidentiary hearing dates.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion to Extend Deadline for Commission Action is granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the parties shall follow the procedural schedule as set forth below except as otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Staff/Intervenor Testimony Due	February 5, 2021
Rebuttal Testimony Due	March 5, 2021
Final Discovery to All Parties	March 22, 2021
Final Responses to Discovery Due	April 7, 2021
Witness and Exhibit Lists Due and Exhibits Prefiled	April 14, 2021

Final Prehearing Conference  
Evidentiary Hearing  
Final Order Due

April 19, 2021  
April 21 OR 22, 2021  
June 11, 2021

It is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:22.06 prefiled testimony is required for all witnesses who plan to testify at the evidentiary hearing. It is further

ORDERED, that responses to discovery are due ten business days after service of discovery except as provided in the procedural schedule above.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Kristie Fiegen</u>
Date: <u>17 Sept 2020</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner