

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING PARTY</b>
<b>BY MERIDIAN WIND PROJECT, LLC FOR )</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY )</b>	
<b>AND A 345-KV TRANSMISSION FACILITY )</b>	<b>EL20-013</b>
<b>IN HYDE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>	
<b>)</b>	
<b>)</b>	

On April 23, 2020, the Commission received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Meridian Wind Project, LLC (Meridian or Applicant), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of ENGIE North America, Inc. 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, Chappelle, Highmore, and Holabird, 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-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, and one permanent meteorological tower. The Project will interconnect to the high-voltage transmission grid via a 345-kV interconnection switch station (Chappelle Station) located at the western end of the Project's transmission line. Chappelle Station is owned and operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and is under construction in conjunction with the Triple H Wind Project. The power produced by the Project will be injected at the Chappelle Creek Substation and into Basin Electric Power Cooperative's existing electrical infrastructure. The Project, at the time of filing this Application, has not executed a Power Purchase Agreement. The Project is expected to be completed in 2021. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$220 million.

On April 30, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 22, 2020, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On April 27, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. On June 10, 2020, a public input hearing was held as scheduled. On June 22, 2020, the Commission received an application for party status from Nicolas Ferens.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapters 20:10:22 and 20:10:01, specifically 20:10:01:15.02.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 8, 2020, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting party status. Meridian did not object to granting intervention to Nicolas Ferens. The Commission unanimously voted to grant party status to Nicolas Ferens. It is therefore

ORDERED, that party status is granted to Nicolas Ferens.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Adam de Hueck</u></p> <p>Date: <u>7/9/20</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner