



Bob Sahr, Chair  
Gary Hanson, Vice-Chair  
Jim Burg, Commissioner

## SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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June 21, 2004

Mr. Robert Harris  
Regional Manager  
Upper Great Plains Region  
WAPA  
2900 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. North  
Billings, MT 59101-1266

Dear Mr. Harris:

Following WAPA's public meeting in Pierre, South Dakota on June 15, 2004, we have the following additional comments to offer regarding the proposed Dakotas Wind Transmission Study:

1. The PUC has worked closely with Dr. Michael Ropp from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in establishing the South Dakota Wind Resources Assessment Network (WRAN). Through a cooperative effort between the PUC, rural electric cooperatives, SDSU, U.S. Department of Energy, and Florida Power & Light Energy, we are establishing a network of anemometers throughout South Dakota to gain a better understanding of our state's wind resources. It is our suggestion that WAPA make every effort to incorporate and utilize data collected through the WRAN as you assess South Dakota's wind energy potential.
2. We also support the comments made by other meeting participants regarding the need to keep your study process open and allow input from interested parties as it progresses. The PUC is especially interested in the idea of establishing a technical review committee that can periodically review the study with WAPA at key development stages before the study is finalized. We sincerely believe that the use of a technical review committee, comprised of stakeholders and applicable interested parties, will result in a study that is comprehensive and meets the wind energy development needs of our region. The PUC is very interested in participating on such a technical review committee.

Once again, we appreciate this opportunity to comment on the draft study scope for the Dakota Winds Transmission Study. We look forward to a successful working relationship with WAPA as this study moves ahead.

Sincerely,

Bob Sahr  
Chairman

Gary Hanson  
Vice Chairman

Jim Burg  
Commissioner