

**WAPA WIND STUDY  
SCOPING MEETING**

**JUNE 15, 2004  
PIERRE, SD**

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION COMMENTS**

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THIS EVENING TO APPEAR ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. MY NAME IS PAM BONRUD AND I AM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE PUC.

OUR THREE COMMISSIONERS, CHAIRMAN BOB SAHR, VICE CHAIRMAN GARY HANSON, AND COMMISSIONER JIM BURG, SUPPORT THE COMMENTS OFFERED EARLIER TONIGHT BY DUSTIN JOHNSON ON BEHALF OF GOVERNOR ROUNDS AND HIS ADMINISTRATION. THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS ARE SUPPORTIVE OF EFFORTS THAT WILL RESULT IN THE SUCCESSFUL AND TIMELY DEVELOPMENT OF WIND ENERGY IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

DURING THE 2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, THE PUC JOINED WITH GOVERNOR ROUNDS, OUR RURAL ELECTRIC PROVIDERS, AND LEGISLATURE IN PUTTING TOGETHER A PACKAGE THAT BROUGHT THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO SOUTH DAKOTA. WE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION AND HELPED TO COMMEMORATE THE DAY WHEN THE TURBINES WERE OFFICIALLY TURNED ON. THE PUC IS LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF MORE WIND ENERGY FARMS IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

THE PUC IS HOPEFUL THAT THE WIND TRANSMISSION STUDY UNDER DISCUSSION TONIGHT WILL RESULT IN WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BY WAPA IN SOUTH DAKOTA'S NEAR FUTURE. WE JOIN GOVERNOR ROUNDS IN ASKING THAT AS WAPA EVALUATES THE WIND

ENERGY POTENTIAL AND TRANSMISSION CHALLENGES IN RELATION TO THE SITES IDENTIFIED IN THE SCOPING DOCUMENT THAT THE STUDY IS EQUALLY DIRECTED TOWARD SOUTH DAKOTA'S POTENTIAL AS WELL AS NORTH DAKOTA'S LIMITATIONS.

IN OUR MARCH 22, 2004, LETTER TO WAPA PROVIDING COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE DAKOTAS WIND TRANSMISSION STUDY, WE IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT WE BELIEVE DEMAND A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BY WAPA. THOSE ISSUES THAT THE PUC IDENTIFIED INCLUDED:

1) AN EXHAUSTIVE IDENTIFICATION OF BOTH AVAILABLE AND PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S TRANSMISSION SYSTEM. IF SOUTH DAKOTA-LOCATED TRANSMISSION CAN MORE EASILY SUPPORT EXPORT, WE EXPECT THAT THE STUDY WILL SAY SO.

2) OVER 25 PERCENT OF WAPA'S TOTAL TRANSMISSION CIRCUIT MILES ARE LOCATED IN SOUTH DAKOTA. AS A RESULT, WAPA IS OUR STATE'S DOMINANT TRANSMISSION PROVIDER. IT IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT THE STUDY WILL ADDRESS EACH SITE IN OUR STATE WITH ACCESS TO WAPA TRANSMISSION.

3) WE ALSO ANTICIPATE THAT THE STUDY WILL GENERATE DETAILED DATA ON CAPACITY ISSUES, POWER FLOW ISSUES, UPGRADE ISSUES, AND A COMPARISON OF THE EASE AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS TO THE SYSTEM WHICH WILL FACILITATE ADDITIONAL CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM.

ONE ADDITIONAL ISSUE THAT WE BELIEVE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE STUDY'S SCOPING DOCUMENT CONCERNS THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF WIND DEVELOPMENT OR TRANSMISSION

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ENHANCEMENT. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE WAPA INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF HOW POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOTRATION ISSUES WILL BE WEIGHED IN EVALUATING POTENTIAL SITES.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH WAPA IN DEVELOPING A PLAN THAT SERVES THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED.