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August 27, 2019

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Honorable James R. Mortenson
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

Re: *In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Dodge County Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Dodge, Steele, and Olmsted Counties, Minnesota, Docket No. IP-6981/CN-17-306*

In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the Dodge County Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota, Docket No. IP-6981/WS-17-307

In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Route Permit for the 345 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Associated with the Dodge County Wind Project in Dodge and Olmsted Counties, Minnesota, Docket No. IP-6981/TL-17-308

OAH Docket No. 5-2500-35668

Dear Judge Mortensen:

The Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA) is not a party to the above dockets, but files this Reply to the Applicant's August 14, 2019 Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule in the above dockets, to indicate that DOC EERA has no objection to Your Honor granting the motion.

Because of the change in the transmission interconnection contemplated in the Applicant's request to suspend the procedural schedule, the draft EIS released by the DOC EERA on July 29, 2019, is no longer the appropriate environmental review document for the project, and the DOC EERA has closed the comment period on the Draft EIS. When more information is known about how the Project will proceed, one or more new environmental document(s) will be prepared:

- The wind farm will require an environmental report (ER).
- Depending upon the voltage and length of the transmission interconnection, an Environmental Assessment (EA) (assuming that it is under 200 kV) and possibly an Environmental Report (ER) would be required for the transmission interconnect.

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The tasks associated with the above cannot be completed in time to proceed with the public and evidentiary hearings presently scheduled for the week of September 16, 2019.

Respectfully,

/s/ **Linda S. Jensen**

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SERVICE LIST
Docket No. IP-6981/CN-17-306

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