

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL NO. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, 49E, 49L  
MINNESOTA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA

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To: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)  
From: Jason George – Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers,  
Local 49  
Date: December 7, 2020  
RE: Docket Number: **IP7013/CN-19-408 & IP7013/WS-19- 619**

**In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit, and Route Permit for an up to 308 MW Wind Farm in Cottonwood and Watonwan County**

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49 ("Local 49") which represents over 14,000 heavy equipment operating engineers across Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, I am submitting a formal comment related to the Big Bend Wind Farm Project certificate of need and site permit.

This project along with its counterpart Red Rock Solar project will further Minnesota's goals of increasing renewable energy output while minimizing the intermittency of that supply. We were happy to hear that Big Bend Wind, LLC has identified using local labor as one of its development priorities. We agree that this project should prioritize Minnesota workers for the construction of this project, as this would retain most of the project's benefits in the local economy.

It is our belief, at Local 49, that a commitment to utilizing contractors that pay local standard wages ensures these goals and protects responsible local contractors from being undercut by low wage fly by night contractors. To allow the project to move forward without this kind of commitment would be a missed opportunity to maximize the value this project provides to our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason A. George  
Business Manager - Financial Secretary  
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49

**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submitted Public Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:08:42 PM

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Provide the docket's number. *	IP7013/CN-19-408 & IP7013/WS-19-619
Leave a comment on the docket. *	Submitting comment letter on behalf of IUOE Local 49.
Attach a File	 <a href="#">big_bend_wind_comment.pdf</a> 105.56 KB · PDF