

In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 308 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System and a Route Permit for the 161 kV Transmission Line in Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota;

In the Matter of the Application of Red Rock Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 60MW Red Rock Solar Project in Cottonwood County, Minnesota.

Dockets No. IP7013/WS-19-619; IP7013/TL-19-621; IP7014/GS-19-620

Commissioner Tuma offers the following decision option amendment:

As a condition of issuance of the draft site permit, the Applicant shall fund an independent study of visual impacts using the Key Observation Points identified in the applicant's visual impact assessment providing the following:

- a) An evaluation of the applicant's visual impact assessment of the proposed project site (Appendix A to the application). The evaluation shall provide alterations to the view shed depictions if and as warranted by the independent evaluator, along with an analysis of the Key Observation Points identified in the applicant's visual impact assessment;
- b) A view shed analysis and depictions of the three wind siting alternatives identified in the May 21, 2021 DOC EERA Scoping Summary and Recommendation, and
- c) A view shed analysis and depictions of one hypothetical alternative site layout incorporating an 8-mile buffer from the Jeffers Petroglyphs site identified in DOC EERA Scoping Summary and Recommendations, with all turbines within 10 miles of the site no taller than 570 feet total height.

The Commission requests EERA, as part of the EA, to engage an independent contractor to conduct the independent study of visual impacts, to be funded by the applicant, and incorporate its analysis of the independent visual impact study into its analysis of the application.