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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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OF TEXAS

APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR: A
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE
AND NECESSITY AUTHORIZING
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
OF WIND GENERATION AND
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IN TEXAS
AND NEW MEXICO, AND RELATED
RATEMAKING PRINCIPLES; AND
APPROVAL OF A PURCHASED
POWER AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN
WIND-GENERATED ENERGY

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**SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S
RESPONSE TO COMMISSION STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION
FINDING NOTICE AND APPLICATION SUFFICIENT**

On April 6, 2017, Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") Staff filed a pleading recommending that the Commission find Southwestern Public Service Company's ("SPS") application and proposed notice in this docket to be sufficient. As part of that pleading, Staff noted that SPS has requested Commission findings on certain ratemaking treatment with respect to the wind facilities that SPS proposes to construct in Texas and New Mexico. Staff did not make specific recommendations regarding SPS's request for ratemaking treatment, but Staff stated that it "anticipates recommending that any ratemaking issues should be listed as issues not to be addressed in this case."¹

Before the Commission makes any ruling with respect to the proper scope of this hearing, SPS requests an opportunity to explain why the Commission should adjudicate SPS's requests for findings on the proper ratemaking treatment of the wind facilities. The most appropriate forum to provide that explanation is in the pleading in which SPS sets forth its list of proposed issues. On April 6, 2017, SPS requested that this case be referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings ("SOAH").² If the case is referred to SOAH, the parties will be asked to identify issues that should be addressed and issues that should not be addressed. In that

¹ Docket No. 46936, Commission Staff's Recommendation Finding Notice and Application Sufficient at 2 (Apr. 6, 2017).

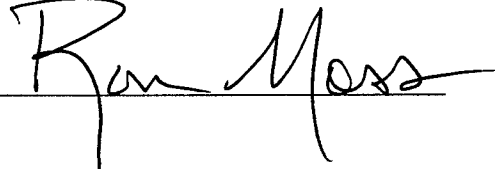
² Docket No. 46936, Southwestern Public Service Company's Request for Referral to the State Office of Administrative Hearings at 1 (Apr. 6, 2017).

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pleading, SPS will explain why it is in the best interest of customers if the ratemaking issues are addressed in this docket.

For the foregoing reasons, SPS requests that the Commission refrain from making any ruling on the proper scope of issues to be addressed in this docket until after this docket has been referred to SOAH and the parties have filed their list of issues. SPS further requests any other relief to which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Moss", is written over a horizontal line.

XCEL ENERGY SERVICES INC.

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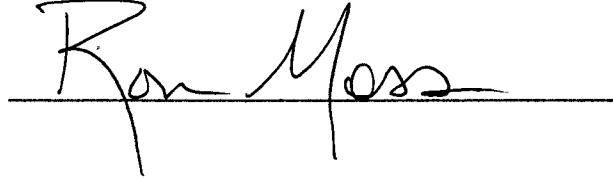
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ATTORNEYS FOR
SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 7, 2017, a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument was served on all parties of record by electronic service, hand delivery, Federal Express, regular first class mail, certified mail, or facsimile transmission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Moss", is written over a horizontal line.