BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF SOUTHWESTERN)
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S)
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL AND)
AUTHORITY TO: (1) ENTER INTO)
SEPARATE PURCHASED POWER)
AGREEMENTS WITH NEXTERA ENERGY)
RESOURCES' MAMMOTH PLAINS AND) CASE NO. 13UT
PALO DURO WIND ENERGY CENTERS)
AND INFINITY WIND POWER'S)
ROOSEVELT WIND RANCH FOR WIND)
ENERGY; AND (2) RECOVER THE)
ASSOCIATED ENERGY COSTS THROUGH)
ITS FUEL AND PURCHASED POWER COST)
ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE,)
·)
SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE)
COMPANY,)
·)
APPLICANT.)
)

SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THREE LONG-TERM PURCHASE POWER AGREEMENTS

In accordance with the New Mexico Public Utility Act (NMSA 1978, §§ 62-3-1 et seq. – "PUA") and New Mexico Public Regulation Commission ("Commission") Rule 551 (17.9.551 NMAC – "Rule 551"), Applicant Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS") applies to the Commission for a final order granting the following relief:

authorizing SPS to enter into a purchased power agreement with NextEra Energy Resources' Mammoth Plains Wind Project Holdings, LLC ("Mammoth") for the purchase of 199 MW of wind energy beginning no later than December 31, 2014 and continuing for twenty years ("Mammoth PPA");

- (2) authorizing SPS to enter into a purchased power agreement with NextEra Energy Resources' Palo Duro Wind Project Holdings, LLC ("Palo Duro") for the purchase of 249 MW of wind energy beginning no later than December 2014 and continuing for twenty years ("Palo Duro PPA");
- (3) authorizing SPS to enter into a purchased power agreement with Infinity Wind Power's Roosevelt Wind Ranch, LLC ("Roosevelt") for the purchase of 250 MW of wind energy beginning no later than December 31, 2015 and continuing for twenty years ("Roosevelt PPA");
- authorizing SPS to recover through its fuel and purchased power cost adjustment clause ("FPPCAC") the New Mexico retail customer jurisdictional share of purchased power costs under these three purchased power agreements ("PPAs"); and
- (5) granting to SPS all other approvals, authorizations, waivers, or variances that the Commission determines are necessary to implement and effectuate the relief granted in this case.

In support of this Application, SPS states the following:

I. Jurisdiction and Affected Parties

- 1. SPS is a public utility as defined in Section 62-3-3(G) of the PUA. The Commission has jurisdiction over this application under the PUA and Rule 551.
- 2. This Commission regulates SPS's New Mexico retail service and rates and the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT") regulates SPS's Texas retail rates and operations. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") regulates SPS's wholesale power sales and transmission of electricity in interstate commerce.

- 3. SPS, a New Mexico corporation, is a fully integrated generation, transmission, and distribution utility serving approximately 371,000 retail customers in a 52,000 square-mile area that encompasses the eastern and southeastern portions of New Mexico, as well as the Panhandle and South Plains areas of Texas. Approximately 104,000 of those retail customers reside in New Mexico. SPS serves wholesale electric customers as well.
- 4. SPS's principal office in New Mexico is located at 111 East Fifth Street, Roswell, New Mexico 88201, and its principal corporate office is located at 600 S. Tyler Street, Suite 2900, Amarillo, Texas 79101.
- 5. SPS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc. ("Xcel Energy"), which is a holding company under FERC regulations adopted under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005.¹ In addition to SPS, Xcel Energy is the parent company of three other rate-regulated utility operating companies,² a regulated natural gas pipeline company, a non-profit service company that was established under the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, but which is now under the supervision of the FERC,³ and other legal entities.

II. Authorized Representatives and Service of Documents

6. SPS's corporate representatives and attorneys who should receive all notices, pleadings, discovery requests and responses, and other documents related to this case are:

¹ 18 C.F.R. Part 366.

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation; Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation; and Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation.

³ Xcel Energy Services Inc.

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SPS/Xcel Energy Services
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III. Notice

- 7. On the same day SPS files this Application, it will serve a copy of this Application, and the supporting testimony, on the Commission's Utility Division Staff, the New Mexico Attorney General, and the parties in SPS's currently pending general electric rate case, No. 12-00350 UT.
- 8. A copy of the proposed notice, except for the case number and the specific dates for the procedural schedule, is attached to this Application as Exhibit 1. SPS proposes to publish notice one time in a newspaper of general circulation in each of the counties in which SPS operates.

IV. SPS's 2013 Request for Proposals for Wind Generation Resources

- 9. During 2011 and 2012, SPS received unsolicited bids for sales of wind generation resources. The proposed prices were favorable and were trending downward. SPS believes this trend was in part due to wind resource developers attempting to acquire and secure bilateral agreements to take advantage of Production Tax Credits ("PTCs") that were scheduled to expire in December of 2012. On January 2, 2013, legislation was signed extending the PTCs for one year. With the extension of the PTCs and the indication that wind energy prices were economical and beneficial for SPS's customers, SPS decided to issue its 2013 Wind RFP.
- 10. SPS issued its Request for Proposals for Wind Generation Resources on March 15, 2013 ("2013 Wind RFP" or "RFP"), requesting proposals for more than 10 MW of wind generation under a PPA beginning on or after January 1, 2014, but no later than December 31, 2015. Responses to the RFP were due on April 12, 2013.
- 11. SPS ranked the bids it received based on levelized cost and considered any issues that might arise due to existing unit operations, transmission constraints, transmission service requests, PPA exceptions provided by the bidders, and issues relating to renewable energy certificates ("REC"). SPS then narrowed the selection and weighted the bids based on six criteria: (a) price; (b) location; (c) generation interconnection status; (g) ability to facilitate execution of the PPA; (e) balancing authority location; and (f) financial plan. As a result of this analysis, SPS determined that the Mammoth PPA, Palo Duro PPA, and Roosevelt PPA would provide the greatest benefit to SPS's resource portfolio and customers.
- 12. The additional wind generation resources provided under the proposed PPAs are consistent with SPS's 2012 Integrated Resource Plan ("2012 IRP"), which was filed on July 16, 2012 in Case No. 12-00298-UT. The Commission issued its Final Order accepting SPS's 2012

IRP as compliant with 17.7.3 NMAC on August 30, 2012. SPS's 2012 IRP recommended following the conclusions from SPS's 2009 IRP, which recognized that some amount of wind was economic in virtually all circumstances and that additional wind resources should be part of SPS's portfolio.

V. Mammoth PPA

- 13. In May 2013, SPS began negotiations regarding SPS's purchase of wind energy resources from Mammoth, and on July 9, 2013, SPS and Mammoth entered into the Mammoth PPA.
 - 14. The Mammoth PPA includes, in material part, the following terms and conditions:
- (A) The Mammoth facility will be a new 199 MW capacity wind project that will be located in Dewey and Blaine Counties, Oklahoma. The project will consist of 117 1.7 MW wind turbines.
- (B) The Mammoth project will produce on an annual basis an estimated 996,000 MWh of wind energy. The point of delivery will be the Tatonga 345 kV substation owned by Oklahoma Gas & Electric in Dewey County, Oklahoma.
- (C) The term for the Mammoth PPA will be twenty years, and the commercial operation date will begin on or before December 31, 2014.
- (D) Although the Mammoth PPA follows the Edison Electric Institute's Model PPA ("Model PPA"), there are five substantive modifications to the Model PPA:
 - (i) Because of unknown costs, availability, and timing of transmission service and associated curtailment risks, SPS negotiated a block of "Allowable Curtailment" hours, *i.e.*, curtailments that can be initiated by SPS for any reason without an obligation to compensate the seller. SPS is not required to compensate the Seller for up to 30,000

MWhs of curtailments per year during the first six Commercial Operation Years. These allowable curtailments are in addition to the non-compensable curtailment provisions contained in Section 8.2C of the PPA.

- (ii) The PPA permits SPS to commission a transmission study outside of the normal SPP transmission service study process to estimate expected transmission service upgrade costs, timing, and related curtailment risks. Should such a study show that these costs or associated curtailments risks are unacceptable to SPS, SPS has the ability to terminate the PPA provided termination notice is given prior to October 18, 2013.
- (iii) The PPA provides for the purchase of an "energy only" product. For this reason, all references to SPS's ownership of or rights to RECs and associated environmental attributes as part of the energy purchase were removed. The PPA includes a provision that allows SPS to purchase RECs at a future date.
- (iv) Guaranteed Mechanical Availability Percentage ("GMAP") replaced the Committed Renewable Energy provisions in the model contract. The GMAP accomplishes the same goal as the Committed Renewable Energy provisions it replaced by providing a way to ensure that generating equipment is maintained to provide a certain level of performance.
- (v) The PPA contains a joint ownership purchase option not contained in the Model PPA. The joint ownership purchase option allows SPS or a wholly-owned affiliate of Xcel Energy to purchase up to 50% of the facility interests anytime before the facility achieves Commercial Operation.
- 15. The Model PPA and the terms of the Mammoth PPA are discussed in the direct testimony of SPS witness Jessica Collins.

VI. Palo Duro PPA

- 16. In May 2013, SPS began negotiations regarding SPS's purchase of wind energy resources from Palo Duro and on July 9, 2013, SPS and Palo Duro entered into the Palo Duro PPA.
 - 17. The Palo Duro PPA includes, in material part, the following terms and conditions.
- (A) The Palo Duro facility is a new 249 MW capacity wind project that will be located in Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas. The project will consist of 147 1.7 MW wind turbines.
- (B) The Palo Duro project will produce on an annual basis an estimated 1.18 million MWh of wind energy. The point of delivery will be SPS's Beaver County Tap on the Hitchland-Woodward 345 kV line in Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas via a 15.2 mile generation tie-line.
- (C) The term for the Palo Duro PPA will be 20 years, and the commercial operation date will begin on or before December 31, 2014.
- (D) Although the Palo Duro PPA follows the Model PPA, it contains the same five substantive modifications as the Mammoth PPA.
- 18. The terms of the Palo Duro PPA are discussed in the direct testimony of SPS witness Jessica Collins.

VII. Roosevelt PPA

19. In May 2013, SPS began negotiations regarding SPS's purchase of wind energy resources from Roosevelt and on July 9, 2013, SPS and Roosevelt entered into the Roosevelt PPA.

- 20. The Roosevelt PPA includes, in material part, the following terms and conditions.
- (A) The Roosevelt facility is a new 250 MW capacity wind project that will be located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico. The type and number of wind turbines has not been finalized but will include: (i) 108 2.3 MW Wind Turbines (total 248.4MW); (ii) 147 1.7MW Wind Turbines (total 249.9MW); or (iii) 125 2MW Wind Turbines (total 250MW).
- (B) The Roosevelt project will produce on an annual basis an estimated 1.06 million MWh of wind energy. Roosevelt will construct an approximately 9 mile 345 kV interconnection line to connect to SPS's Eddy Co Tolk 345 kV line near Dora, New Mexico.
- (C) The term for the Roosevelt PPA will be 20 years, and the commercial operation date will begin on or before December 31, 2015.
- (D) Although the Roosevelt PPA follows the Model PPA, there are two substantive modifications to the Model PPA.
 - (i) As in the Mammoth and Palo Duro PPAs and for the same reasons, all references to SPS's ownership of or rights to RECs were removed. SPS retains the option to purchase such RECs at a future date.
 - (ii) The Purchase Option provision in the model contract was removed.
 However, SPS retains to right to purchase the facility after the Commercial Operation
 Date under the Right of First Offer provisions.
- 21. The terms of the Roosevelt PPA are discussed in the direct testimony of SPS witness Jessica Collins.

VIII. Cost Recovery

- 22. SPS estimates that the PPAs will result in substantial savings for SPS's customers, including New Mexico retail customers. The current estimated net present value of these savings for all SPS jurisdictions is projected to be in excess of \$481 million. The direct testimony of SPS witness Bennie F. Weeks discusses and quantifies these projected customer savings.
- 23. SPS requests approval to recover the New Mexico retail jurisdictional allocated share of energy costs associated with the PPAs through SPS's FPPCAC in accordance with Rule 550. The total energy cost for the PPAs will be proportionally allocated among SPS's three jurisdictions (New Mexico retail, Texas retail, and wholesale). The New Mexico retail share of the PPAs total energy costs will be approximately 16 percent.
- 24. The PPAs will serve the interests of SPS's retail customers, its investors, and the interests of the public because: (a) the PPAs are consistent with SPS's 2012 IRP; (b) the cost of wind energy under the PPAs is reasonable and recovery of the cost of energy under the PPAs is consistent with the requirements of Rule 550; (c) the PPAs are consistent with SPS's ability to provide safe and reliable electric utility service to its customers at the lowest reasonable cost; and (d) the PPAs satisfy the approval criteria set out in Rule 551.

IX. Miscellaneous Matters

25. In support of this Application, SPS is concurrently filing the direct testimony of:
(a) Bennie F. Weeks, whose testimony explains the basis for SPS's selection of the Mammoth,
Palo Duro, and Roosevelt PPAs as an additional system resource; and (b) Jessica L. Collins,
whose testimony discusses the terms and conditions of the Mammoth, Palo Duro, and Roosevelt

PPAs. As permitted by 17.9.551.8(E) NMAC, SPS is submitting confidential portions of the

PPAs under seal.

26. Concurrent with the filing of the Application, SPS is also filing its motion for a

protective order and proposed protective order and confidentiality agreement, which is being

submitted to protect confidential documents that relate to this filing and also to expedite Staff's

and the Intervenors', if any, review of SPS's filing and the discovery process in the case.

27. To obtain the benefit of the PTCs and the favorable pricing provided by the PPAs,

SPS requests that the Commission enter its final order approving the PPAs by December 31,

2013.

X. Prayer for Relief

For the reasons set out in this Application and the accompanying testimony, SPS

respectfully requests that the Commission enter its final order by December 31, 2013 granting

the following relief: (A) authorizing SPS to enter into the Mammoth, Palo Duro, and Roosevelt

PPAs; (B) authorizing SPS to recover through its FPPCAC the New Mexico retail jurisdictional

share of purchased power costs under the Mammoth, Palo Duro, and Roosevelt PPAs; and (C)

granting to SPS all other approvals, authorizations, waivers, or variances that the Commission

determines are necessary to implement and effectuate the relief granted in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

HINKLE, HENSLEY, SHANOR & MARTIN, LLP

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ATTORNEYS FOR SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

APPLICATION EXHIBIT 1

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF SOUTHWESTERN)
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S)
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ROOSEVELT WIND RANCH FOR WIND	`
ENERGY; AND (2) RECOVER THE	`
ASSOCIATED ENERGY COSTS THROUGH	\(\frac{1}{2}\)
ITS FUEL AND PURCHASED POWER COST	
ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE,	
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SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE))
COMPANY,)
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APPLICANT.)
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NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that:

1. On July 10, 2013, Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS") filed an Application with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission ("Commission" or "NMPRC") requesting the Commission grant the following relief: (1) authorize SPS to enter into a purchased power agreement ("PPA") with NextEra Energy Resources' Mammoth Plains Wind Energy Center for the purchase of 199 megawatts ("MW") of nominal wind energy capacity ("Mammoth

PPA") beginning no later than December 31, 2014 and continuing for twenty years; (2) authorize SPS to enter into a PPA with NextEra Energy Resources' Palo Duro Wind Energy Center for the purchase of 249 MW of nominal wind energy capacity ("Palo Duro PPA") beginning no later than December 31, 2014 and continuing for twenty years; (3) authorize SPS to enter into a PPA with Infinity Wind Power's Roosevelt Wind Ranch for the purchase of 250 megawatts ("MW") of nominal wind energy capacity ("Roosevelt PPA") beginning no later than December 31, 2015 and continuing for twenty years; (4) authorize SPS to recover its energy related costs under the PPAs through its fuel and purchased power cost adjustment clause ("FPPCAC") in accordance with Rule 550 (17.9.550 NMAC); and (5) grant all other approvals, authorizations, waivers, and variances that may be required for SPS to implement and effectuate the relief granted in this case.

2. Consistent with SPS's 2012 Integrated Resource Plan ("2012 IRP"), filed in Case No. 12-00298-UT on July 16, 2012, SPS issued a Request for Proposals for Wind Generation Resources on March 15, 2013. SPS selected the Mammoth, Palo Duro, and Roosevelt projects through the competitive bid solicitation process and began contract negotiations. The Mammoth facility is a new 199 MW capacity wind project that will be located in Dewey and Blaine Counties, Oklahoma. The Palo Duro facility is a new 249 MW capacity wind project that will be located in Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas. The Roosevelt facility is a new 250 MW capacity wind project that will be located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico. Over the term of the PPAs, SPS estimates that the PPAs will result in substantial energy cost savings for SPS's customers, including New Mexico retail customers.

- 3. SPS's filing establishes that: (a) the Mammoth, Palo Duro, and Roosevelt PPAs are consistent with SPS's 2012 IRP; (b) the Mammoth, Palo Duro, and Roosevelt PPAs satisfy the approval requirements for PPAs established by NMAC 17.9.551; (c) the cost of energy under the Mammoth, Palo Duro, and Roosevelt PPAs is reasonable and recovery of the wind energy related costs is consistent with the requirements of Rule 550.
- 4. The present procedural schedule established by the Commission for this proceeding is as follows:

a. Leave to Int	Any person desiring to become a party to this case must file a Motion for the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC or the servene in conformity with Rules 1.2.2.2.23(B) NMAC or
b.	A settlement conference is scheduled on
the settleme	nt conference.
c. testimony or	The Commission Staff shall, and any Intervenors may, file direct affidavits on or before
d.	Rebuttal testimony may be filed on or before
e. a.m.	A public hearing will be held beginning at at the offices of the Commission, P.E.R.A. Building, 1120 Paseo De Peralta,
Sania re, Ne	w Mexico, (or such other location as the Commission may designate) to hear estimony, exhibits, arguments, and any other appropriate matters relevant to

5. The procedural dates and requirements currently set in this case are subject to further Order of the Commission or the Hearing Examiner. Interested persons should contact the Commission for confirmation of the hearing date, time and place, since hearings are occasionally rescheduled.

this proceeding.

6. The Commission has assigned Case No. 13-____-UT to this filing and inquiries should refer to that case number.

- 7. Any interested person may obtain further information about this case and examine the rate filing together with any exhibits and related papers that may be filed in this case by contacting SPS or the Commission at the following addresses and telephone numbers: SPS, Mike McLeod, 111 East Fifth Street, Roswell, NM 88201, Telephone: (575) 625-5499; Karen Roberts, 600 S. Tyler, Amarillo, Texas, telephone (806) 378-2505; or the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, P.E.R.A. Building, 1120 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269, Telephone: 1-888-427-5772.
- 8. The Commission's Rules of Procedure, 1.2.2.1 NMAC, et seq., shall apply to this proceeding unless modified by order of the Commission or the Hearing Examiner. A copy of such Rules may be obtained from the offices of the Commission.
- 9. Any person desiring to become a party to this case must file a Motion for Leave to Intervene in conformity with 1.2.2.23(A) and 1.2.2.23(B) NMAC on or before _______, 2013.
- 10. Any interested person may appear at the time and place of hearing and make a written or oral comment as allowed under 1.2.2.23(F) NMAC without becoming an Intervenor. Interested persons may also send written comments, which shall reference Case No. 13-______-UT. Such comments will not be considered as evidence in this case.
- 11. Anyone filing pleadings or pre-filed testimony will serve copies on all parties of record, Commission Staff, and the Hearing Examiner. Any person whose testimony has been pre-filed will attend the hearing and submit to examination under oath. If you file documents in person, the location for filing is the Commission's address listed in Paragraph 10. If you file documents by mail, send them to: NMPRC, P.O. Box 1269, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269.

12. Any person with a disability requiring special assistance in order to participate in
this proceeding should contact the Commission as soon as possible prior to the commencement
of the hearing.
ISSUED at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this day of, 2013. NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

))))) CASE NO. 13UT)))))))))))
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that true and correct copies of Southwestern Public Service Company's Application and Direct Testimonies of Jessica L. Collins and Bennie F. Weeks were electronically served and sent via hand-delivery, as indicated below, to each of the following on this 10th day of July, 2013:

VIA EMAIL:

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Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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