

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION OF SWEETLAND
WIND FARM, LLC FOR FACILITY
PERMITS FOR A WIND ENERGY
FACILITY AND A 230-KV
TRANSMISSION FACILITY IN HAND
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE
SWEETLAND WIND FARM PROJECT**

* **STAFF'S SECOND SET OF DATA**
* **REQUESTS TO APPLICANT**
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* **EL19-012**
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Below, please find Staff's Second Set of Data Requests to Applicant. Please submit responses within 10 business days, or promptly contact Staff to discuss an alternative arrangement. In addition, please specify the responder when answering each interrogatory. Should any response have subparts answered by more than one individual, identify the respondent by subpart. Consider each question ongoing and update answers as they evolve or change.

- 2-1) Refer to Page 3-4 of the Application. Please explain the role of the tribal monitor during construction.
- 2-2) Refer to Page 6-1 of the Application. Please provide the basis for a 35-year useful life for the Project. Does the Applicant propose to use this estimate for the funding of the financial assurance for decommissioning? Please explain.
- 2-3) Provide GIS shape files for the project and project facilities.
- 2-4) Provide the safety and operations manuals for the General Electric 2.82-127 turbines.
- 2-5) For each non-participating residence that is located less than 1 mile from the closest turbine in the Project Layout, please provide the following information:
 - (a) Name of property owner
 - (b) Address
 - (c) Distance from closest turbine
 - (d) Receptor ID
 - (e) Predicted Shadow Flicker (Hours per Year)
 - (f) Predicted Sound Level

- 2-6) Are there any private airstrips within 1 mile of the Project Area? If yes, please provide the location, a description, and the distance from the closest turbine of each private airstrip.

Dated this 10th day of June 2019.



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**STAFF'S THIRD SET OF DATA
REQUESTS TO APPLICANT**

EL19-012

Below, please find Staff's Third Set of Data Requests to Applicant. Please submit responses within 10 business days, or promptly contact Staff to discuss an alternative arrangement. In addition, please specify the responder when answering each interrogatory. Should any response have subparts answered by more than one individual, identify the respondent by subpart. Consider each question ongoing and update answers as they evolve or change.

- 3-1) Provide a map that shows the proposed turbines within 1/2 mile from the property line of the properties owned by Theresa J. Lichty. See Page 88 of 156 of Staff Exhibit_JT-1 in Docket EL18-003 for an example (<http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2018/EL18-003/exhibits/staff/s1.pdf>). In addition, please identify the distance in feet of all turbines within 1/2 mile.
- 3-2) Provide a proposal for an indemnity bond pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-38.
- 3-3) Refer to Page 3-3 of the Application regarding ADLS. The Applicant states "Wind turbines will be illuminated in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and will employ an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS), *if required.*" (*emphasis added*)
 - a) Is Hand County requiring the employment of an ADLS? Please explain.
 - b) If the answer to (a) was no, will the Applicant agree to install ADLS for the state permit? If no, please explain.
- 3-4) Refer to Page 7, lines 181 – 187 of the pre-filed direct testimony of Mr. Wengierski. Mr. Wengierski states the Applicant has secured 32 wind leases and 4 good neighbor agreements for the project.
 - a) Please provide the name(s) of the four landowners that signed good neighbor agreements.

- b) Please explain why each of the four landowners were offered good neighbor agreements.
- c) How does the Applicant determine which landowners will be offered good neighbor agreements?
- 3-5) Refer to Page 7, lines 163 – 168 of the direct testimony of Ms. Barton. Does the Applicant expect WAPA will approve a final EA and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact by the hearing in this docket on July 31, 2019? Please provide an update on the process.
- 3-6) Refer to Page 2-3 of the Application. The Applicant states “Sweetland entered into a Development Agreement with Hand County, which was approved by the County Commission on November 8, 2018, and executed on December 4, 2018.” Did Gilbert Rodgers vote for approval of the Development Agreement as a County Commissioner in Hand County? Please provide supporting documentation.
- 3-7) Refer to Page 9, lines 249 - 251 of the direct testimony of Robert O’Neal. Mr. O’Neal states “an uncertainty factor of 2.0 dBA was added to the sound power level for the proposed turbine to account for uncertainty in the manufacturer’s sound data.” Please explain the basis of adding a 2.0 dBA uncertainty factor to the sound power level. Is there an industry standard that suggests this uncertainty factor? Please explain.
- 3-8) Refer to Page 12, lines 331 - 332 of the direct testimony of Robert O’Neal. Mr. O’Neal states “the most common limit is 30 hours per year.” Please provide the other shadow flicker limits Mr. O’Neal is aware of and please provide supporting documentation.
- 3-9) Refer to Page 3, lines 72 – 74 of the supplemental direct testimony of Mark Wengierski. Mr. Wengierski stated that the Applicant anticipated receiving two shadow flicker waivers by the end of May. Please provide an update on the status of the waivers.

Dated this 12th day of June 2019.



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* **STAFF'S FOURTH SET OF DATA**
* **REQUESTS TO APPLICANT**
* **EL19-012**
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Below, please find Staff's Fourth Set of Data Requests to Applicant. Please submit responses within 10 business days, or promptly contact Staff to discuss an alternative arrangement. In addition, please specify the responder when answering each interrogatory. Should any response have subparts answered by more than one individual, identify the respondent by subpart. Consider each question ongoing and update answers as they evolve or change.

- 4-1) Please describe the technology that will be employed at each turbine to detect and assess ice buildup.
- 4-2) Refer to the Safety Manual for the proposed turbines request in Commission Staff data request 2-4.
 - a) Refer to Section 8.4. Is Sweetland installing an ice detector as discussed in the Safety Manual?
 - b) If the answer to (a) is no, please provide documentation from General Electric confirming that the technology being employed by Sweetland to assess and detect ice buildup alleviates the need to cordon off an area during freezing weather conditions pursuant to the formula identified in Section 8.4.1.
- 4-3) In Docket EL18-026, the Commission ordered Prevailing Wind Park to fund a decommissioning escrow account annually at a rate of \$5,000 per turbine per year for the first 30 years, commencing no later than the commercial operation date. See Condition 40, subparts (a) – (j) of the Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facilities and Notice of Entry for the entire condition. Does the Applicant agree to the decommissioning condition referenced above for this permit? Please explain.

- 4-4) In Docket EL17-055, Crocker Wind Farm stated that “a conservative decommissioning cost estimate in current dollars is between \$100,000 to \$150,000 per turbine after salvage value, including associated facilities” (Exhibit A6, Page 14, Lines 407 – 408). In Docket EL18-046, Dakota Range III provided a decommissioning cost estimate of \$101,420 per turbine in 2018 dollars, and \$183,710 per turbine in 2050 dollars, assuming no resale of the Project’s major components (Appendix M, Page 20). Sweetland is representing a decommissioning cost estimate of \$37,091 per 89-meter hub height turbines and \$40,956 per 114-meter hub height turbines, assuming salvage of wind turbine and transmission facility components. (Application Page 23-1).
- a) Please explain why Sweetland’s estimate of decommissioning costs is significantly lower per turbine than other wind facilities that have been recently permitted. Please list some of the major assumptions that would drive significant differences in decommissioning cost estimates.
 - b) Regarding the decommissioning cost estimate of \$37,091 per 89-meter hub height turbines, please provide the estimated cost estimate in 2050 dollars. Please provide and explain the assumptions and calculations to determine the 2050 dollars estimate.
 - c) Regarding the decommissioning cost estimate of \$40,956 per 114-meter hub height turbines, please provide the estimated cost estimate in 2050 dollars. Please provide and explain the assumptions and calculations to determine the 2050 dollars estimate.
 - d) Please explain why a salvage credit should be included in the decommissioning estimate when determining an appropriate amount to establish a financial assurance.

Dated this 14th day of June 2019.



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**STAFF'S FIFTH SET OF DATA
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EL19-012

Below, please find Staff's Fifth Set of Data Requests to Applicant. Please submit responses within 10 business days, or promptly contact Staff to discuss an alternative arrangement. In addition, please specify the responder when answering each interrogatory. Should any response have subparts answered by more than one individual, identify the respondent by subpart. Consider each question ongoing and update answers as they evolve or change.

- 5-1) Refer to page 27-3 of the application. Pursuant to SDCL 49-32-3.1, provide an update on the status of notifying all telecommunications companies in the project area and an update on any meetings with the telecommunications companies Sweetland has had. When will this step of the process be complete?

Dated this 18th day of June 2019.



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