

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

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

**SD PUC DOCKET EL 19-012**

**PRE-FILED SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARK WENGIERSKI  
ON BEHALF OF SWEETLAND WIND FARM, LLC**

May 20, 2019

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2

3 **Q. Please state your name.**

4 A. My name is Mark Wengierski.

5

6 **Q. On March 6, 2019, did you provide Direct Testimony on behalf of the**  
7 **Sweetland Wind Farm (“Project”)?**

8 A. Yes.

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10 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

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12 **Q. What is the purpose of your Supplemental Direct Testimony?**

13 A. The purpose of my testimony is to address the following topics:

- 14 • Provide an update regarding the status of securing agreements for the three  
15 out-lots identified in revised Figure A-2, which was filed in this docket on April  
16 24, 2019;
- 17 • Provide an update regarding obtaining shadow flicker waiver agreements and  
18 the removal of Turbine 43;
- 19 • Provide an update regarding the selection of the preferred route for the Gen-  
20 Tie Line;
- 21 • Address comments raised at the public input hearing regarding the Project’s  
22 insurance coverage; and
- 23 • Provide an update regarding the status of securing an off-taker for the  
24 Project.

25

26 **III. FIGURE A-2 UPDATES**

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28 **Q. Could you explain the updates made in revised Figure A-2, which was filed in**  
29 **this docket on April 24, 2019?**

30 A. Yes. While we were completing title review for the Project, we identified three out-  
31 lots that were not previously identified on our original Figure A-2 submitted with the

32 Application. Two of the parcels are owned by non-participating landowners, and the  
33 other is owned by a participating landowner. In revised Figure A-2, the three out-lots  
34 are shown as “pending participation,” since the landowners had indicated they were  
35 interested in executing agreements with Sweetland Wind Farm, LLC (“Sweetland”).  
36

37 **Q. What is the status of securing those agreements?**

38 A. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens executed an amendment to add the out-lot they own to their  
39 existing Wind Energy Lease and Easement Agreement for the Project, and Mr.  
40 Fanning executed a Good Neighbor Agreement for his out-lot. Mr. and Mrs.  
41 Letsche, who own the remaining out-lot, have also received a proposed Good  
42 Neighbor Agreement and we plan to discuss the agreement with them further in  
43 early June.  
44

45 **IV. SHADOW FLICKER WAIVERS AND TURBINE ADJUSTMENTS**

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47 **Q. In the Application, Sweetland indicated that it planned to secure shadow**  
48 **flicker waiver agreements from the owners of four residences with modeled**  
49 **shadow flicker levels above 30 hours per year. What is the status of securing**  
50 **those waiver agreements?**

51 A. Receptor 6 is the Fanning residence, which was determined to be on an unleased  
52 parcel during our title review. In discussions with Mr. Fanning, he indicated he was  
53 willing to sign a Good Neighbor Agreement if Turbine 43 was moved, or removed, to  
54 reduce the potential shadow flicker level. As a result, we analyzed the potential of  
55 shifting Turbine 43 to reduce the expected shadow flicker level at the Fanning  
56 residence, and in analyzing the new location and modeling results, all parties  
57 decided it was best to remove Turbine 43. The updated shadow flicker modeling  
58 discussed in Mr. Robert O’Neal’s testimony confirms that removal of Turbine 43  
59 reduces the expected shadow flicker level to comply with a maximum of 30 hours  
60 per year at the Fanning residence. See Supplemental Testimony of Robert O’Neal.  
61 As a result, a shadow flicker waiver from Mr. Fanning is no longer needed.  
62

63 Additionally, Sweetland has determined through further field verification that  
64 Receptor 34 (located on the Christiansen property, a participating landowner) is not  
65 an occupied residence. Sweetland took photographs to document the condition of  
66 the residence and consulted with the Hand County Tax Assessor. The Assessor  
67 was in agreement with Sweetland that Receptor 34 did not classify as an occupied  
68 residence. Specifically, we have confirmed that the structure is dilapidated and does  
69 not have utility service. As a result, that receptor has been removed from the list of  
70 identified receptors and a waiver will not be needed.

71  
72 Regarding the other two residences, both residences are owned by participating  
73 landowners, and Sweetland anticipates the waivers will be executed by the end of  
74 May.

75

76 **Q. Have there been other adjustments to the Project?**

77 A. Yes. We determined that, with the removal of Turbine 43, it was unnecessary to use  
78 low noise trailing edge (“LNTE”) blades on Turbine 42. Specifically, as discussed in  
79 Robert O’Neal’s supplemental direct testimony, there was no appreciable difference  
80 in the modeled dBA levels at receptors when LNTE blades were used on Turbine 42  
81 versus when they were not. See Supplemental Testimony of Robert O’Neal.

82

83 **V. GEN-TIE LINE ROUTE**

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85 **Q. Do you have an update regarding the proposed route for the Gen-Tie Line?**

86 A. Yes. In a letter dated April 5, 2019, Commission Staff requested that Sweetland  
87 select a single proposed route for the Project. As indicated in a letter filed in the  
88 docket on April 11, 2019, Sweetland identified the preferred route as the proposed  
89 route going forward.

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91 **VI. INSURANCE COVERAGE**

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93 **Q. At the public input hearing, there were questions regarding insurance**  
94 **coverage for the Project. Could you clarify whether the Project will have**  
95 **insurance coverage both during construction and during operation?**

96 A. Yes. Sweetland has had insurance coverage, and will continue to have insurance  
97 coverage both during construction and after the Project is operational. Specifically,  
98 Sweetland will carry both property insurance and liability insurance that complies  
99 with the Wind Energy Lease and Easement Agreements and industry best practices.

100

101 **VII. OFF-TAKER UPDATE**

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103 **Q. Can you provide an update regarding securing an off-taker for the Project?**

104 A. Yes. Sweetland has made the short-list for a potential off-take opportunity.  
105 Sweetland met with the potential counter-party the week of May 6th and continues to  
106 respond to requests for information from the potential off-taker.

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108 **VIII. CONCLUSION**

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110 **Q. Does this conclude your Supplemental Direct Testimony?**

111 A. Yes.

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113 Dated this 20th day of May, 2019.

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117 Mark Wengierski

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