

**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 FOR A WIND)
ENERGY FACILITY AND A 230-KV)
TRANSMISSION FACILITY IN HAND)
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE)
SWEETLAND WIND FARM PROJECT)**

**ORDER GRANTING PARTY
STATUS AND ESTABLISHING
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

EL19-012

On March 6, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application to construct the Sweetland Wind Farm, a wind energy facility located on approximately 20,979 acres of land in Hand County, South Dakota, in the townships of Pearl, Hulbert, and Rose Hill, South Dakota, and a 230-kV transmission line (Project). The total installed capacity of the Project would be approximately 200 MW nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 71 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground electrical power collector lines connecting the turbines to the Project substation, an operations and maintenance facility, and temporary construction areas, including crane paths, pull sites, access roads, a laydown yard, and a concrete batch plant(s) (as needed), and four permanent meteorological towers. The Project would interconnect to the regional electric grid along the Western Area Power Administration's existing Fort Thompson to Huron transmission line via a new switchyard located in Rose Hill Township. The Project will result in the installation of approximately 7 miles of 230-kV overhead transmission line. The Applicant does not currently have a purchase agreement for the Project but is currently in discussions with interested parties.

On March 7, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 6, 2019, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. A public input meeting to take public comments regarding the Project was held on April 25, 2019, in Miller, South Dakota. On May 2, 2019, staff filed a Motion for Adoption for Procedural Schedule. On May 6, 2019, Theresa Lichy filed an application for party status.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22, specifically 20:10:22:40.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 14, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting party status and adopting procedural schedule. Sweetland Wind Farm did not object to the procedural or granting intervention to Theresa Lichy. The Commission voted unanimously to grant party status to Theresa Lichy and adopt the procedural schedule proposed by Staff. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the parties shall follow the procedural schedule as set forth below except as otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Submit Application & Applicant Direct Testimony	March 6, 2019
Public Input Meeting	April 25, 2019
Deadline for Intervention	May 6, 2019

Commission Meeting on Intervention Applications	May 14, 2019
Applicant Supplemental Direct Testimony Due	May 20, 2019
Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due	June 19, 2019
Rebuttal Testimony Due	July 10, 2019
Final Discovery to All Parties	July 12, 2019
Final Responses to Discovery Due	July 22, 2019
Witness and Exhibit List Due	July 24, 2019 (File marked exhibits by July 26, 2019)
Final Prehearing Conference (if applicable)	July 30, 2019
Evidentiary Hearing	July 31-August 2, 2019
Post-Hearing Briefs and Proposed Findings of Fact	August 21, 2019

It is further

ORDERED, that responses to discovery are due ten business days after receipt. It is further

ORDERED, that party status is granted to Theresa Lichty.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of May 2019.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.	
By:	<u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date:	<u>05/15/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner