

September 26, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Secretary
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Informational Filing – Sweetland Wind Project

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Sweetland Wind Farm, LLC (“Sweetland”), is developing a wind energy conversion facility known as the Sweetland Wind Farm (“Project”) in Hand County, South Dakota. The Project is currently anticipated to be up to 200 megawatts (“MW”), and Sweetland has leased approximately 13,000 acres for the Project to-date.

In December 2016, Sweetland performed certain work to qualify the Project for the full federal Production Tax Credit (“PTC”). During December 13-22, 2016, Sweetland contracted with a third party to excavate three planned turbine foundation sites and to construct approximately 2,300 linear feet of 14-foot-wide access road between the three excavations. All work was done on land under easement and with the consent of the landowner. Other than routine maintenance work, such as fence repair around the excavation sites, implementing weed and erosion control measures, and reseeded temporarily disturbed areas, no additional work has been conducted since December 22, 2016.

At the time of undertaking the PTC-qualification work, Sweetland was not aware that an energy facility permit from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) was required before conducting such work. Sweetland recently learned that a permit should have been obtained from the Commission prior to conducting the work when counsel was retained to assist with permitting for the Project. After learning a permit should have been obtained, Sweetland asked its permitting attorney to contact Commission Staff regarding the situation, and will be meeting with Commission Staff on October 4, 2017 to provide additional information regarding the Project and the work conducted.

Although a permit was not obtained from the Commission, Sweetland obtained the other approvals required, and fully implemented the requirements of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention

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Plan prior to, during, and after the work. Sweetland also confirmed with Hand County that county permits were not required for the PTC-qualification work, and provided the Board of County Commissioners and other County representatives with updates both prior to and after the work. Sweetland will be providing another update on the Project to the Board of County Commissioners on October 3, 2017. Additionally, prior to conducting the work, Sweetland consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in selecting the proposed Project site, and had a critical issues analysis of the site prepared by an environmental consulting firm.

Sweetland is providing this filing to ensure the Commission is informed of the situation and its coordination with Commission Staff. Sweetland regrets the mistake made, appreciates the cooperation Commission Staff has shown, and looks forward to discussing the matter further with Commission Staff on October 4th.

In the meantime, if the Commission or Commission Staff have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Michael Rucker
Manager

cc: Kristen Edwards, PUC (*via e-mail*)
Mollie Smith, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.