

**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**

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* **AFFIDAVIT OF MARK WENGIERSKI**
* **IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR**
* **APPROVAL OF TRANSMISSION LINE**
* **ADJUSTMENTS**
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EL 19-012

STATE OF COLORADO)
) SS.
COUNTY OF BOULDER)

I, Mark Wengierski, being first duly sworn on oath, state and allege as follows:

1. I am the Project Manager for the Sweetland Wind Farm and associated 230 kV Transmission Line (“Project”), which is owned and being developed by Sweetland Wind Farm, LLC (“Sweetland”). I have the authority to provide this affidavit on behalf of Sweetland.
2. I am providing this Affidavit pursuant to paragraph 25 of the Settlement Stipulation approved by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) in its July 31, 2019 Order Granting Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation; Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility; Notice of Entry (“Order”) in the above-referenced docket.
3. Since issuance of the Order, Sweetland has determined that an adjustment to the 230 kV Gen-Tie Line is needed that extends outside of the 150-foot-wide right-of-way, which is a material change. The change is necessary to accommodate a request by the Western Area Power Administration (“WAPA”). WAPA owns the Fort Thompson to Huron 230 kV transmission line with which the Project will interconnect, and WAPA will construct, own, and operate the switching station connecting the 230 kV Gen-Tie Line and WAPA’s transmission line. WAPA has recommended two potential revised switching station locations (one on the Anderberg parcel in the SE/4 of Section 3, Township 110 North, Range 66 West and one on the Horsley parcel in the SW/4 of Section 2, Township 110 North, Range 66 West) because of their proximity to maintained county roads and the willingness of the landowners (who are already Project participants) to host the facility (*see* WAPA letter, attached as **Exhibit A**). Sweetland proposes to utilize the switching station location on the Anderberg parcel, as it is closer to the Project boundary, would result in a shorter Gen-Tie Line, and is more economical. The proposed switching station change would extend the 230 kV Gen-Tie Line from the original switching station location to the revised switching station location, paralleling WAPA’s existing Fort Thompson to Huron 230 kV transmission line.

4. Additionally, for engineering reasons, the 230 kV Gen-Tie Line needs to cross the existing Fort Thompson to Huron 230 kV transmission line as close to an existing structure as possible. To meet this engineering requirement, the alignment of the 230 kV Gen-Tie Line approaching the Fort Thompson to Huron 230 kV transmission line from the north was adjusted slightly to the east.
5. An overview map showing the 230 kV Gen-Tie Line route, with the proposed adjustments, is provided as **Exhibit B** (public and confidential versions). **Exhibit B** shows the Gen-Tie Line centerline approved by the Commission (yellow and black dashed line), the Gen-Tie Line adjustment (solid purple line), the previously proposed switching station location (red hatching), and the currently proposed switching station location (green hatching). The total length of the 230 kV Gen-Tie Line with the modification is approximately 6.44 miles (an up to 7-mile-long line was analyzed in Sweetland's Facility Permit Application).
6. The adjusted Gen-Tie Line right-of-way and revised switching station location (as shown in **Exhibit B**) have been surveyed for wetlands and cultural resources, and the confidential version of **Exhibit B** identifies the locations of cultural resources and wetlands in relation to both. The Gen-Tie Line structures and the switching station facilities will be sited so as to avoid cultural resource and wetland impacts. Attached are copies of Addendum 3 to the Level III Intensive Cultural Resource Survey Report (**Exhibit C**) and the Wetland Delineation Report (**Exhibit D**), which include the results of survey work conducted for the adjusted 230 kV Gen-Tie Line and revised switching station location.
7. All landowners within one-half mile of the proposed 230 kV Gen-Tie Line route and switching station location were sent notice of the Project prior to the public input hearing held on April 25, 2019. **Exhibit B** shows the those parcels within one-half mile of the original Project boundary (blue line) and those additional parcels within one-half mile of the currently proposed 230 kV Gen-Tie Line route and switching station location (blue and purple dashed line), as well as land ownership information. The only parcel outside of the original notice area boundary is the Gary Hofer Trust parcel in Section 2, Township 110 North, Range 66 West. Mr. Gary Hofer, the Trustee of the Gary Hofer Trust, is also the President of N.M.D. Properties, LLC, a Project participant that owns land in Sections 7, 12, 13, 23, 25, and 26, Township 111 North, Range 67 West. Notice of the public input hearing was sent to Mr. Gary Hofer as contact for N.M.D. Properties, LLC (*see* Sweetland's Landowner Notice Proof of Mailing, submitted on April 11, 2019).
8. All modifications are located on land under lease, easement, or option for the Project.
9. With respect to the Project, including the proposed Gen-Tie Line and switching station adjustments, Sweetland will comply with the Commission's Order and all other applicable regulations and requirements.
10. Based on the foregoing, Sweetland requests approval of the proposed transmission line adjustments.


FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2019.



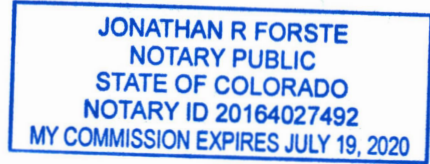
Mark Wengierski

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 18th day of November, 2019.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 7/19/20



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