

**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 MOTION FOR
RELEASE OF ROAD AND PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE BOND**

EL19-012

On March 6, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Sweetland Wind Farm LLC (Sweetland or Applicant) 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). On July 31, 2019, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility (Permit). The total installed capacity of the Project is approximately 200 MW nameplate capacity. The Project, as permitted, 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 interconnects 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 includes approximately 7 miles of 230-kV overhead transmission line.

Sweetland filed a South Dakota Energy Facility Permit Act Bond, Bond No. SU 1188761 on February 21, 2023, in accordance with Condition 9(h) of the Permit. The Project began commercial operations on November 1, 2023. On December 19, 2023, Sweetland filed a Motion for Release of Road and Public Infrastructure Bond that requests an order from the Commission releasing Bond No. SU 1188761.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-38.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 23, 2024, the Commission considered this matter. After reviewing the Certificates of Completion from Hand County and Pearl Township, the Commission voted unanimously to grant Sweetland's Motion for Release of Road and Public Infrastructure Bond. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Sweetland's Motion for Release of Road and Public Infrastructure Bond is hereby granted and the Executive Director or Commission Counsel is authorized to execute any necessary documents to release Arch Insurance Company Bond No. SU 1188761.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25th day of January 2024.

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><i>Arch Marie Rein</i></u>
Date:	<u>1/25/2024</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner