

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING MOTION</b>
<b>SWEETLAND WIND FARM, LLC FOR )</b>	<b>FOR EXEMPTION FROM</b>
<b>FACILITY PERMITS FOR A WIND ENERGY )</b>	<b>SETTLEMENT STIPULATION</b>
<b>FACILITY AND A 230-KV TRANSMISSION )</b>	<b>CONDITION NO. 35</b>
<b>FACILITY IN HAND COUNTY, SOUTH )</b>	
<b>DAKOTA FOR THE SWEETLAND WIND )</b>	<b>EL19-012</b>
<b>FARM PROJECT )</b>	

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. On July 31, 2019, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility (Permit). On November 27, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Approving Transmission Line Adjustments, Turbine Model Change, and Turbine Adjustments.

Condition 35 of the Permit requires Applicant to undertake two years of independently conducted post-construction avian and bat mortality monitoring for the Project. Condition 44 allows for requests for exemptions from Permit terms and conditions. On January 8, 2021, Applicant filed a Motion for Exemption from Settlement Stipulation Condition No. 35 (Motion). In its Motion, Sweetland requested an exemption from conducting the second year of avian and bat mortality monitoring required in Condition 35 subject to Sweetland helping to fund a three-year prairie grouse telemetry study in the Project area as requested by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-41B, specifically, 49-41B-25.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 19, 2021, the Commission considered this matter. Staff did not object to Sweetland's Motion. Hearing no objection from Staff, the Commission voted unanimously to grant Sweetland's Motion conditioned upon Sweetland helping to fund a three-year prairie grouse telemetry study. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Sweetland's Motion for Exemption from Settlement Stipulation Condition No. 35 is granted subject to Sweetland helping to fund a three-year prairie grouse telemetry study. It is further,

ORDERED, that in the event the State Wildlife Grant does not authorize funding for the proposed three-year grouse telemetry study at the Project, Applicant would then conduct a second year of postconstruction avian and bat mortality monitoring.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021.

<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u><i>Anah M. Weiss</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u>1/21/2021</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Chris Nelson*  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

*Kristie Fiegen*  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

*Gary Hanson*  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner