

**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 APPROVING ESCROW
AGREEMENT**

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). 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).

Condition 42 of the Permit requires Applicant to file an escrow account plan for Commission approval. On September 1, 2023, Sweetland filed a proposed escrow agreement among Sweetland, the Commission, and U.S. Bank National Association. Sweetland filed a revised proposed escrow agreement on September 27, 2023.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-39.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 10, 2023, the Commission considered this matter. No party objected to the proposed escrow agreement. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the escrow agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicant's request for approval of the escrow agreement filed on September 27, 2023, as required by Condition 42 of the Permit is hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of October 2023.

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| 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>Kristie Fiegen</u> |
| Date: <u>12/08/2023</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner