

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY WILD )  
SPRINGS SOLAR, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A SOLAR )  
ENERGY FACILITY IN PENNINGTON COUNTY, )  
SOUTH DAKOTA )  
)  
)**

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR  
PARTIAL EXEMPTION OF  
CONDITION 38; ORDER  
APPROVING BOND  
  
EL20-018**

On May 15, 2020, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Wild Springs Solar, LLC. Wild Springs proposes to construct a solar energy facility to be located in Pennington County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated within approximately 1,499 acres and located approximately 1/2 mile south of New Underwood, South Dakota. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 128 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. On December 4, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility. The permit includes Condition No. 38 which requires Wild Springs to file a surety bond with the Commission, for Commission approval, in the total amount of the approved decommissioning cost estimate, at least 60 days prior to commencement of commercial operation. On February 16, 2024, Wild Springs filed an updated decommissioning cost estimate, proposed surety bond, and a Motion for Partial Exemption from Condition No. 38. The Motion for Partial Exemption from Condition No. 38 requests that the Commission accept submittal of the surety bond less than 60 days prior to commencement of commercial operation to allow Wild Springs to commence commercial operation as early as March 15, 2024.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-39 and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 12, 2024, the Commission considered these matters. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after making further inquiry of the parties, the Commission, having sufficient time to review the filing, voted unanimously to grant Wild Spring's Motion for Partial Exemption of Condition 38 and to approve the proposed surety bond for decommissioning in the amount of \$4,142,602.00 with Wild Springs filing an updated decommissioning estimate in ten years. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Wild Spring's Motion for Partial Exemption of Condition 38 is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the surety bond in the amount of \$4,142,602.00.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
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>Loyan Schuffler</i></u>
Date:	<u>3/15/2024</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Kristie Fiegen*  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

*Gary Hanson*  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

*Chris Nelson*  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner