

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)
NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT, LLC FOR A)
PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE)
THE NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT IN)
HYDE COUNTY AND HUGHES COUNTY,)
SOUTH DAKOTA)**

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION
TO APPROVE ESCROW
AGREEMENT**

EL21-018

On June 23, 2021, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from North Bend Wind Project, LLC (North Bend Wind or Applicant) for an application for a permit to construct the North Bend Wind Project, a wind energy facility located on approximately 46,931 acres of land in Hyde County and Hughes County, South Dakota, in the townships of Butte, Chapelle, Harrold, Holabird, Pleasant Valley, Pratt, and Webster (Project). The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 200 megawatts nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 71 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 230-kV collection substation, a 230-kV interconnection switching station, an aircraft detection lighting system and one permanent meteorological tower. The Project will interconnect to Western Area Power Administration's Fort Thompson-Oahe 230-kV transmission line, which crosses the southern portion of the project area. On January 10, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation; Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility; Notice of Entry (Permit).

Condition 39 of the Permit requires Applicant to file an escrow account plan for Commission approval. On May 12, 2023, North Bend filed a Motion to Approve Escrow Agreement with a proposed agreement among North Bend, the Commission, and Citibank, N.A.

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

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 23, 2023, the Commission considered this matter. No party objected to North Bend's Motion to Approve Escrow Agreement. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Motion to Approve Escrow Agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion to Approve Escrow Agreement is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of May 2023.

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>Adam Detrick</u>
Date: <u>5/24/23</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner