

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	ORDER ASSESSING FILING
APPLICATION BY NORTH BEND)	FEE; ORDER AUTHORIZING
WIND PROJECT, LLC FOR A PERMIT)	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO
TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE)	ENTER INTO CONSULTING
THE NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT)	CONTRACTS
IN HYDE COUNTY AND HUGHES)	
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)	EL21-018

On June 23, 2021, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from North Bend Wind Project, LLC (North Bend Wind), 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. 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. The Project, at the time of filing this application, has not executed a purchase power agreement. The Project is expected to be operation in late 2022. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be between \$265 and \$285 million.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent for the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs plus one-twentieth of one percent of all additional estimated construction costs of the Project, with a minimum total fee chargeable of not less than eight thousand dollars. The fee shall be deposited in a subfund in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee Fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon the Application.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-12, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 6, 2021, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$342,500 with an initial deposit of \$8,000, and to authorize the executive director to enter into consulting contracts that may be needed for review of the Application. North Bend Wind stated it did not object to the fee assessment. The Commission voted unanimously to assess North Bend Wind a filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$342,500, with an initial deposit of \$8,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date. The Commission further voted unanimously to authorize the executive director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that North Bend Wind shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$342,500 with an initial deposit of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Commission's finance manager. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director is authorized to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of July 2021.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</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 or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u>Adam de Hueck</u></p> <p>Date: <u>7/8/21</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner