

**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 ASSESSING  
FILING FEE; ORDER  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO  
CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

**EL19-012**

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. The Applicant does not currently have a purchase agreement for the Project but is currently in discussions with interested parties. A public input meeting to take public comments regarding the Project will be held on April 25, 2019, at 5:30 PM CDT at the Miller Community Center in Miller, South Dakota.

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, 49-41B-26, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$320,000 with an initial deposit of \$8,000, and to authorize the executive director to enter into consulting contracts needed for review of the Application. Applicant stated it did not object to the fee assessment. The Commission voted unanimously to assess Sweetland Wind Farm a filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$320,000, with a minimum filing fee 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 Sweetland Wind Farm shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$320,000 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2019.

<p style="text-align: center;"><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 or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u>Karen E. Cremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>03/21/19</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner