

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT
BY SWEETLAND WIND FARM, LLC FOR)	MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF
FACILITY PERMITS FOR A WIND)	SETTLEMENT STIPULATION;
ENERGY FACILITY AND A 230-KV)	ORDER GRANTING PERMIT TO
TRANSMISSION FACILITY IN HAND)	CONSTRUCT FACILITY; NOTICE
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE)	OF ENTRY
SWEETLAND WIND FARM PROJECT)	

EL19-012

On March 6, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application to construct the Sweetland Wind Farm, LLC (Sweetland), 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.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26 and 49-41B-1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-25, and ARSD 20:10:01:19 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

On March 7, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 6, 2019, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. A public input meeting to take public comments regarding the Project was held on April 25, 2019, in Miller, South Dakota. On May 2, 2019, staff filed a Motion for Adoption for Procedural Schedule. On May 6, 2019, Theresa Lichy filed an application for party status. On May 14, 2019, party status was been granted to one individual, Theresa Lichy. On June 26, 2019, Applicant filed a Settlement Stipulation and Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation between Applicant and Theresa Lichy. On July 11, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, Approving the Settlement Stipulation between Applicant and Teresa Lichy, and Granting Withdrawal of Party Status to Theresa Lichy. On July 18, 2019, Commission Staff filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and a Settlement Stipulation between Applicant and Commission Staff resolving all issues.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 25, 2019, the Commission considered whether to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after making further inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to find the Project meets the

requirements of SDCL 49-41B-22. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted, and the Settlement Stipulation is hereby approved. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that the Applicant is granted the requested permits to construct the wind energy facility and the 230-kV transmission line, both subject to the conditions set forth in the Settlement Stipulation.

NOTICE OF ENTRY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility was duly issued and entered on the 31st day of July 2019.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31st day of July 2019.

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 deHueck</u>
Date: <u>7/31/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner