

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT
WILD SPRINGS SOLAR, LLC FOR A PERMIT)	MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF
OF A SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY IN)	SETTLEMENT STIPULATION;
PENNINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION
)	TO HAVE WITNESSES,
)	REPRESENTATIVES, AND
)	COUNSEL APPEAR VIA VIDEO
)	CONFERENCE OR
)	TELEPHONICALLY
)	
)	EL20-018

On May 15, 2020, the Commission received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Wild Springs Solar, LLC (Wild Springs or Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Energy, 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 ½ mile south of New Underwood, South Dakota. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 128 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The Project is expected to be completed in 2022. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$190 million. On July 14, 2020, the Commission received an application for party status for the Bundorf Family Trust and on July 28, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Granting Party Status to the Bundorf Family Trust. On August 6, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Adopting Procedural Schedule. On October 30, 2020, Wild Springs, Bundorf Family Trust, and Commission staff (collectively “the parties”) filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation resolving all issues between the parties, except for the appropriate decommissioning financial assurance. On November 4, 2020, Wild Springs filed a Motion to Have Witnesses, Representatives, and Counsel Appear via Video Conference or Telephonically and a Motion for Approval of Decommissioning Condition. On November 5, 2020, Commission staff filed a memorandum in support of the Settlement Stipulation. On November 6, 2020, the Bundorf Family Trust filed a letter regarding Settlement Stipulation and Evidentiary Hearing.

On May 21, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 14, 2020, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv.

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

On November 12, 2020, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting the Joint Motion for Approval of the Settlement Stipulation and had no objection to Wild Springs appearing telephonically at the evidentiary hearing. Judy Bundorf, representing the Bundorf Family Trust, provided comments for Commission consideration. 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. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and to grant Wild Springs' Motion to Have Witnesses, Representatives, and Counsel Appear via Video Conference or Telephonically. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that Wild Springs' Motion to Have Witnesses, Representatives, and Counsel Appear via Video Conference or Telephonically is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of November 2020.

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 Dettrick</u>
Date: <u>11/16/20</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner