

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
BY WILD SPRINGS SOLAR, LLC FOR A )  
PERMIT OF A SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY )  
IN PENNINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH )  
DAKOTA )  
)  
)  
)**

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

**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 proposed Project includes solar panels and racking, inverters, security fencing, laydown areas, Project substation, an O&M building and parking lot, on-site below-ground or above-ground electrical collection and communication lines, and up to three weather stations. The Project will interconnect to the high-voltage transmission grid via Western Area Power Administration’s New Underwood Substation, located adjacent to the Project. Applicant has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with Basin Electric Power Cooperative to take the entire output of the Project for 15 years. The Project is expected to be completed in 2022. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$190 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 May 26, 2020, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$295,000 with an initial deposit of \$8,000, and to authorize the executive director to enter into consulting contracts needed for review of the Application. Wild Springs stated it did not object to the fee assessment. The Commission voted unanimously to assess Wild Springs a filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$295,000, 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 Wild Springs shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$295,000 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 28th day of May 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: Adam Jettneck

Date: May 28, 2020

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner