

# Memorandum

To: Commissioners Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart and Fedorchak

From: Adam Renfandt, Public Utility Analyst

Date: January 17, 2023

Re: Ashtabula Wind III, LLC, Wind Energy Center - Barnes County,  
Decommissioning Plan & Cost, Case No. PU-11-171

On December 22, 2020, Ashtabula Wind III, LLC (Ash) filed a decommissioning financial assurance with the Commission in the form of a parent guarantee with NextEra Energy Capital Holdings, Inc. as the guarantor.

On January 6, 2021, the Commission approved the financial assurance.

On May 16, 2022, Ash and Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) filed a Joint Application (Application) to transfer Ash's certificate of site compatibility for the wind facility to OTP (Case No. PU-22-195).

On August 17, 2022, the Commission approved the transfer. In the Application, Ash stated it would notify the Commission upon the closing of the sale to OTP.

On November 10, 2022, the Commission approved OTP's decommissioning financial assurance in the form of a self-guaranty for Ash.

On January 10, 2023, the Commission was notified that the sale to OTP was closed.

Since the certificate of site compatibility was transferred to OTP, and since the Commission has approved OTP's decommissioning financial assurance, Staff recommends a release of the prior decommissioning financial assurance approved on January 6, 2021, that was guaranteed by the prior owner.