


Memorandum

To: Commissioners Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart, and Fedorchak
From: Adam Renfandt 
Date: September 11, 2024
Subject: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Thunder Spirit Wind, Adams County, PU-18-105

On August 16, 2024, Montana Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an updated decommissioning plan and cost estimate with the Commission for its Thunder Spirit Wind (Thunder Spirit) facility along with a self-guaranty to ensure its decommissioning.

The Thunder Spirit facility has a nameplate capacity of 107.5 MW and consists of 43 turbines. The updated decommissioning cost estimate excluding scrap value is \$14,034,017, or approximately \$326,372 per turbine, and the self-guaranty is for the full amount. The prior 2019 decommissioning estimate, excluding scrap value was \$11,494,099. The updated plan utilizes the same decommissioning technique whereby the turbines will be dismantled with a crane, the components downsized, and the scrap hauled to a disposal site.

Staff has reviewed Thunder Spirit's updated decommissioning plan and cost estimate and find them to be reasonable and consistent with the Commission's rules. Furthermore, MDU meets the Commission's criteria to provide a self-guarantee. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the decommissioning plan, cost estimate, and self-guaranty.