

Harmony Solar ND, LLC
Harmony Solar Project
Docket No. PU-18-219

Late-Filed Exhibit No. 15 – Decommissioning Plan

North Dakota does not have specific decommissioning plan or financial assurance requirements for solar facilities. However, Harmony Solar ND, LLC (“Harmony Solar”), is committed to ensuring the Project is properly decommissioned at the end of its useful life. Therefore, based, in part, on N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-09-09, Harmony Solar proposes the following with respect to decommissioning restoration and financial assurance for the Harmony Solar Project.

Project Decommissioning and Site Restoration:

Project decommissioning will include:

- Removing all facilities to a depth of four feet below grade. Any soil disturbance associated with decommissioning would include topsoil segregation.
- Removing the operation and maintenance facility and access roads, unless the landowners request in writing that either remain in place.
- Restoration of the Project site, including decompaction and revegetation.

Following decommissioning, the site will be restored so as to be able to return to row-crop production, if the landowners so choose.

Decommissioning Financial Assurance:

Prior to commencement of construction of the Project, Harmony Solar shall provide financial assurance equal to five percent of the Project’s estimated cost of construction that may be used to decommission the facility in the event it is abandoned prior to operation. Within sixty days of receipt of written notice from Harmony Solar that the facility is commercially operational, the Commission shall return or release said financial assurance to Harmony Solar.

During operation, Harmony Solar would provide the following financial assurance for the Project equal to the following:

- Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Project’s estimated decommissioning cost prior to commercial operation;
- Fifty percent (50%) of the Project’s estimated decommissioning cost at year 10 of operation;
- One hundred percent (100%) of the Project’s decommissioning cost at year 20 of operation.

Harmony Solar also proposes that an updated decommissioning cost estimate be provided at year 10 of operation, which would be used to establish the decommissioning cost financial security required at year 10 and year 20 of operation. Harmony Solar specifically requests the ability to provide financial assurance in the form of a performance bond either as, or combination of, a surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, self-guarantee, parent guarantee, or another form of financial assurance that is acceptable to the Commission.

Based on a decommissioning cost estimate for the Project provided by Westwood Engineering, the total estimated cost to decommission the Harmony Solar Project is \$16,575,439. Based upon current scrap prices, Westwood Engineering estimates the salvage value of the decommissioned Project components to be \$18,221,114. Conservatively assuming only half of the estimated salvage value, the net cost to decommission the Project would be \$7,464,882. Harmony Solar requests that the initial twenty-five percent (25%) of financial assurance for the project be based on this conservative decommissioning cost estimate of \$7,464,882.