

Memorandum

To: Commissioners Brian Kroshus, Julie Fedorchak, and Randy Christmann

From: Adam Renfandt

Date: November 13, 2020

Subject: Aurora Wind Project - Williams County, Decommissioning Plan & Cost Estimate (Case No. PU-19-318)

Aurora Wind Project, LLC (Aurora) is constructing a 298.8 MW wind facility comprised of 71 turbines in Williams County, North Dakota. Prior to operations, which is expected to be the fourth quarter of 2020, Aurora is required to file a form of financial assurance necessary to ensure decommissioning.

On November 12, 2020, Aurora filed a letter of credit form detailing the terms of a decommissioning letter of credit, which will be issued after Commission approval of the form. The form indicates that:

- A letter of credit will be issued for the full amount of the approved decommissioning estimate without salvage offsets, or \$13,868,887.
- The letter of credit will expire on November 15, 2021.
- The letter of credit will be automatically renewable for additional one-year terms unless a ninety-day notice is given to the Commission.
- In the event Aurora provides notice of its intent to terminate the letter of credit and if Aurora does not replace it with another letter of credit or other suitable form of financial assurance, the Commission has thirty days from receipt of the notice to draw on the letter of credit.

Staff has reviewed Aurora's proposed letter of credit form and believes that the terms of the form comply with the Commission's rules regarding decommissioning financial assurance. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the letter of credit form for execution filed on November 12, 2020.