

# Memorandum

To: Commissioners Julie Fedorchak, Randy Christmann, and Brian Kroshus  
From: Adam Renfandt  
Date: December 30, 2020  
Subject: Aurora Wind Project, LLC's Operational-Phase Letter of Credit Approval  
(Case No. PU-19-318)

Aurora Wind Project, LLC (Aurora) is an approximately 300 MW wind facility currently under construction in Williams County, North Dakota. On April 15, 2020, the Commission approved the construction-phase of its decommissioning financial assurance in the form of a \$19.25 million letter of credit. Prior to operations, Aurora is required to file an operational-phase financial assurance acceptable to the Commission.

On December 22, 2020, Aurora filed its operational-phase letter of credit in the amount of \$13,868,887, which provides decommissioning financial assurance during the operational life of the facility. The amount represents the approved decommissioning estimate for Aurora without subtracting salvage value. The letter of credit was issued by US Bank on December 21, 2020, and it will expire December 17, 2021. The letter of credit will be automatically renewable for additional one-year terms unless notice is given to the Commission at least ninety days prior to termination.

Staff and Legal have reviewed the operational-phase letter of credit, and believe it is acceptable as financial assurance. Therefore, Staff recommends approval of Aurora's operational-phase letter of credit filed on December 22, 2020.