

Memorandum

To: Commissioners Brian Kroshus, Julie Fedorchak, and Randy Christmann
From: Adam Renfandt
Date: October 30, 2020
Subject: Northern Divide Wind, LLC, 200 MW Northern Divide Wind Energy Center – Burke County, Decommissioning Plan & Cost (Case No. PU-20-270)

On September 22, 2020, Northern Divide Winds, LLC (Northern Divide) filed a decommissioning plan and cost estimate. The Northern Divide wind facility is estimated to be operational in 2020 with a nameplate capacity of 197.92 MWs with 74 installed turbines. Excluding salvage offsets, the decommissioning estimate was approximately \$9.7 million, or \$131,283 per turbine.

Based on review of the initial decommissioning plan, Staff raised concerns that the plan's costs were developed based on a reconditioning option versus an option that treated the components as scrap, cut-up to a manageable size, and hauled a further distance to a scrap yard. Staff also notes that the project footprint for this facility decreased roughly 50% from its initial proposed project footprint, which originally was to cover 22,933 acres.

On October 16, 2020, Northern Divide filed a revised decommissioning plan and cost estimate. Excluding salvage offsets, the decommissioning estimate is approximately \$13.6 million, or \$183,588 per turbine.

Staff has reviewed Northern Divide's revised decommissioning plan and cost estimate and recommends Commission approval.