

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF WILD SPRINGS SOLAR, LLC FOR A
PERMIT OF A SOLAR ENERGY
FACILITY IN PENNINGTON COUNTY,
SOUTH DAKOTA**

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**MOTION FOR RELEASE OF
DECOMMISSIONING SURETY
BOND AND APPROVAL OF
REPLACEMENT
DECOMMISSIONING SURETY
BOND**

EL20-018

Applicant Wild Springs Solar, LLC ("Wild Springs"), by and through counsel, files this motion requesting that the Commission release of the current decommissioning surety bond and approve a replacement decommissioning surety bond for the Wild Springs Solar Project ("Project").

On October 14, 2022, Wild Springs filed with the Commission a copy of Decommissioning Surety Bond No. 190047588 issued in the amount of \$3 million. The bond was put in place prior to construction in order to satisfy Pennington County's decommissioning financial security requirement, and a copy was provided to the Commission, since it was named as a beneficiary with the Pennington County Planning Commission. On March 28, 2024, Wild Springs filed a Bond Rider to Bond No. 190047588 changing the bond amount from \$3 million to \$4,142,602, in accordance with the decommissioning cost estimate for the Project's as-built design. On April 1, 2024, Wild Springs filed an update to the Bond Rider to No. 19007588 to list both the Commission and Pennington County Planning Commission as beneficiaries.

Wild Springs now requests that the Commission release Decommissioning Surety Bond No. 190047588 and the associated (updated) Bond Rider (copies enclosed as **Attachment A**). Additionally, Wild Springs requests that the Commission approve as the replacement Decommissioning Surety Bond No. EACX4046853, effective July 1, 2025, and three associated Surety Riders: Surety Rider, dated November 7, 2025 to correct the bond number (originally missing the last 3); Surety Rider, dated November 7, 2025 to increase the bond amount from \$3 million to \$4,142,602;

and Surety Rider, effective November 17, 2025 to add Pennington County Planning Commission as a beneficiary (copies enclosed as **Attachment B**). Like the current bond, replacement Decommissioning Surety Bond No. EACX4046853 and associated Surety Riders are in the amount of \$4,142,602 and issued in favor of the Commission and the Pennington County Planning Commission.

The purpose of the request is solely to change the surety from The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company to Endurance Assurance Corporation. As shown in **Attachments A and B**, except for the surety, the amount and the provisions of the surety bond remain the same. Endurance Assurance Corporation is licensed to transact business in South Dakota, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SOMPO, one of the largest surety companies in the U.S.

Wild Springs notes that The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company sent a Notice of Cancellation and/or Termination, dated October 29, 2025, to the Commission, indicating that Decommissioning Surety Bond No. 190047588 would be cancelled as of December 27, 2025, or the earliest date that is in compliance with the cancellation/termination provisions of said bond. Wild Springs understands that the cancellation of Decommissioning Surety Bond No. 190047588 is subject to the Commission's approval of release and acceptance of the replacement bond, which is the subject of this motion.

For the reasons set forth above, Wild Springs respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Motion to release Decommissioning Surety Bond No. 190047588, including its associated Bond Rider (**Attachment A**), and accept replacement Decommissioning Surety Bond No. EACX4046853, including its associated Surety Bonds (**Attachment B**).

Dated: November 18, 2025

WILD SPRINGS SOLAR, LLC

By: /s/ Mollie M. Smith

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