

**Section 29
Decommissioning Plan**

1.0 Anticipated Life of Wind Turbines

Megawatt-scale wind turbines are designed and certified by independent agencies for a minimum expected operational life of 20 years.

As the wind turbines approach the end of their expected life, it is expected that technological advances will make available more efficient and cost-effective generators that will economically drive the replacement of the existing generators.

Following the commencement of operation of the Project, absent the existence of a Force Majeure event, as defined herein, there will be a rebuttable presumption that owner shall decommission the Project in the event that there is an absence of electricity generated by the project for a continuous period of twelve (12) months. In addition to the Force Majeure exception, the owner may also provide reasonable evidence that the Project has not been abandoned and should not be decommissioned.

“Force Majeure” as used herein shall mean fire, earthquake, flood, tornado or other acts of God and natural disasters; strikes or labor disputes; war, civil strife or other violence; any law, order, proclamation, regulation, ordinance, action, demand or requirement of any government agency; suspension of operations of all or a portion of the Project for routine maintenance, overhaul, upgrade or reconditioning; or any other act or condition beyond the reasonable control of a party.

2.0 Estimated Cost of Decommissioning

The cost of decommissioning the Project is offset by the salvage value of the towers and the turbine component, as well as associated facilities that are not placed into productive alternative use. As of the date hereof, estimated cost of decommissioning, minus salvage value is \$794,000, detailed below.

Category	Decommissioning Cost	Salvage Value	Net
Project Management (contractor costs, equipment, etc) & O&M Building removal	\$1,600,000	\$300,000	(\$1,300,000)
Site work/Civil (site reclamation)	\$6,667,000	\$757,000	(\$5,910,000)
Wind Turbine Foundations	\$1,576,000	\$82,000	(\$1,494,000)
Wind Turbine Generators (towers/hub/nacelle/blades/etc.)	\$10,900,000	\$20,600,000	\$9,700,000
Electrical Collection System	\$4,636,000	\$2,773,000	(\$1,863,000)
Substation	\$90,000	\$333,000	\$243,000
TLine	\$600,000	\$430,000	(\$170,000)
Totals			(\$794,000)

3.0 Ensuring Availability of Decommissioning and Site Restoration Funds

On or prior to December 31 of each calendar year beginning with the calendar year in which the Project commences commercial operations through and including calendar year 7, an amount equal to \$47,000 shall be reserved for decommissioning and site restoration. Such amount may be in the form of a performance bond, surety bond, letter of credit, parental guaranty or other acceptable form of financial assurance (the “Financial Assurance”).

On or prior to the end of calendar year 15 of the Project’s operation, the estimated cost of decommissioning (minus salvage value) will be reassessed and an amount equal to the balance of such updated estimated cost of decommissioning (minus salvage value) less the amounts reserved pursuant to the immediately preceding paragraph will be reserved for decommissioning and site restoration.

The Financial Assurance shall be kept in place until such time as the decommissioning work has been completed, provided, however, to the extent available as liquid funds, the Financial Assurance may be used to offset the costs of the decommissioning.

4.0 Decommissioning Process Description

Decommissioning and restoration activities will adhere to the requirements of appropriate governing authorities, and will be in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local permits. The Applicant will follow the erosion and sedimentation control measures and other BMPs currently in place for construction of the Project, except as modified in a plan submitted to and approved by the Department prior to commencing removal activities.

The decommissioning and restoration process comprises removal of above-ground structures; removal of below-ground structures to a depth of 24 inches; grading, to the extent necessary; restoration of topsoil and seeding.

The process of removing structures involves evaluating and categorizing all components and materials into categories of recondition and reuse, salvage, recycling and disposal. In the interest of increased efficiency and minimal transportation impacts, components and material may be stored on-site in a pre-approved location until the bulk of similar components or materials are ready for transport. The components and material will be transported to the appropriate facilities for reconditioning, salvage, recycling, or disposal.

Above-ground structures include the turbines, transformers, overhead collection or transmission lines, substation(s), wind farm-owned portions of the interconnection facilities (if any), meteorological towers, and maintenance building(s). Below-ground structures include turbine, substation, and building foundations; collection system conduit and cable; fiber optic facilities; and subterranean drainage structures (if any). The above-ground structures and below-ground structures are collectively referred to herein as the "Wind Farm Components".

In connection with the decommissioning of the Wind Farm Components and removal as further set forth below, in the event that on or prior to decommissioning owner provides evidence of a plan of continued beneficial use of any of the Wind Farm Components, such items shall be excepted from the requirements of decommissioning and the existing license shall be amended to reflect such revisions.

Turbine removal. Access roads to turbines will be widened to a sufficient width to accommodate movement of appropriately sized cranes, trucks, and other machinery required for the disassembly and removal of the turbines. Control cabinets, electronic components, and internal cables will be removed. The rotor, nacelle and tower sections will be lowered to the ground where they may be transported whole for reconditioning and reuse, or disassembled/cut into more easily transportable sections for salvageable, recyclable, or disposable components.

Turbine and substation foundation removal. Topsoil will be removed from an area surrounding the foundation and stored for later replacement, as applicable. Turbine foundations will be excavated to a depth sufficient to remove all anchor bolts, rebar, conduits, cable, and concrete to a depth of 24 inches below grade. The remaining excavation will be filled with clean sub-grade material of quality comparable to the immediate surrounding area. The sub-grade material will be compacted to a density similar to surrounding sub-grade material. All unexcavated areas compacted by equipment used in decommissioning shall be de-compacted in a manner to adequately restore the topsoil and sub-grade material to the proper density consistent and compatible with the surrounding area.

Underground collection cables. The cables and conduits contain no materials known to be harmful to the environment. As part of the decommissioning, these items will be cut back to a depth greater than 24 inches. All cable and conduit buried greater than 24 inches will be left in place and abandoned.

Overhead collection lines. The conductors, insulators, and other pole-top material will be removed. The supporting poles will be removed and the holes filled in with compatible sub-grade material. In areas where environmental damage from complete removal may outweigh the benefits, the poles will be sawed flush with the surrounding grade. Line components may be stored on site during deconstruction of the line, but will then be transported off site for salvage or disposal.

Substation and interconnection facilities. Disassembly of the substation and interconnection facilities will include only the areas owned by the Applicant. Components (including steel, conductors, switches, transformers, fencing, control houses, etc.) will be removed from the site and reconditioned and reused, sold as scrap, recycled, or disposed of appropriately at the Applicant's sole discretion. To the extent possible to remove foundations and underground components without damaging or impacting adjacent facilities, such foundations and underground components will be removed to a depth of 24 inches and the excavation filled, contoured, and re-seeded.

Access roads. Unless requested otherwise by the underlying landowner, permanent access roads constructed to accommodate the Project will remain in place. Ditch crossings connecting access roads to public roads will be removed unless required that they remain by the landowner.

Improvements to Town and County roads that were not removed after construction will remain in place.

5.0 Site Restoration Process Description

Topsoil will be removed prior to removal of structures from all work areas and stockpiled, clearly designated, and separate from other excavated material. The topsoil will be de-compacted to match the density and consistency of the immediate surrounding area. The topsoil will be replaced to original depth, and original surface contours reestablished where possible. Any topsoil deficiency and trench settling shall be mitigated with imported topsoil consistent with the quality of the affected site.

Following decommissioning activities, the sub-grade material and topsoil from affected areas will be de-compacted and restored to a density and depth consistent with the surrounding areas to a maximum depth of 24 inches. The affected areas will be inspected, thoroughly cleaned, and all construction-related debris removed.

Disturbed areas will be reseeded to promote re-vegetation of the area to a condition reasonably similar to the original condition, reasonable wear and tear excepted. In all areas restoration shall include, as reasonably required, leveling, terracing, mulching, and other necessary steps to prevent soil erosion, to ensure establishment of suitable grasses and forbs, and to control noxious weeds and pests.