

**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
DECOMMISSIONING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Issued: July 22, 2019

**In the Matter of Department of Commerce Working Group on Decommissioning of Wind and  
Solar Facilities**

**PUC Docket Number(s):** E-999/M-17-123

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes September 20, 2019 at 4:30pm

Reply comment period closes October 21, 2019 at 4:30pm

*Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not  
be considered by the Commission.*

**Issues and Topics Open for Comment:**

- Comments on the August 31, 2018 Working Group Decommissioning Report (Report) and the Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review & Analysis' (DOC EERA) January 24, 2019 Comments and Recommendations (DOC EERA Recommendations).
- Comments on the two reports may include, but need not be limited to:
  - Comments or information on the decommissioning funding mechanisms specified, recommendations on what funding types should be utilized (or not), for whom, and why.
  - Discussion of step-wise decommission funding mechanisms, and input on milestones or timeframes in which increases or modifications in funding should be required.
  - Whether the information listed in the Report would be sufficient for a decommissioning plan (page 12), and if not, why and how should it be modified.
  - Reasonable timeframes or milestones that would trigger *Commission* evaluation of established decommissioning plans and cost estimates.
  - Whether the recommendations sufficiently address potential default scenarios or other issues that may arise.
- Are there considerations that should be made for the decommissioning of a project owned by an Independent Power Producer versus a project owned by regulated utility?
  - If so, what should be considered and how should it be factored into the decommissioning process?
- What Information should the Commission consider in its review and implementation of decommissioning requirements for permitted and future projects?
- What level of detail is reasonable to require in a decommissioning plan, and should it vary at differing stages of a project?

- What other best practices or considerations on the decommissioning of facilities should be considered by the Commission.
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

**Background:** On March 8, 2017 the Commission issued an Order authorizing the creation of a Wind and Solar Decommissioning Workgroup (WSDW or Workgroup). The Workgroup was intended to gather stakeholder input on wind and solar decommissioning and decommissioning best practices for consideration in Commission site permits and in compliance monitoring. On August 31, 2018, the DOC EERA released the [Solar and Wind Decommissioning Working Group Report and Recommendation](#) and following, on January 24, 2019, the DOC EERA provided its [Comments and Recommendation](#) to the Commission on the working group findings.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!* to find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion or email your comments to [publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us).

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (17) and the docket number (123), select *Search*.

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**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Tricia DeBleekere, at 651-201-2254 or [tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us); or Charley Bruce, at 651-201-2251 or [Charley.Bruce@state.mn.us](mailto:Charley.Bruce@state.mn.us).

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