

**Exhibit CC**  
**Decommissioning Plan**  
**April 2021**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION / PURPOSE**

The Grover Hill Wind Farm project (Grover Hill) is a wind farm project being developed by Grover Hill Wind, LLC (the “Applicant”) (wholly owned by Starwood Energy Group Global, Inc.) in Paulding County, Ohio. The project includes the construction of permanent facilities of up to 23 turbines totaling up to 150 MW, access roads, a voltage step-up facility, underground collection lines, and an operation and maintenance (O&M) facility. The purpose of this Decommissioning Plan is to outline, define, and describe protocols, methods and processes necessary to reclaim, restore and return the land areas altered during the construction of the wind farm to predevelopment condition and use to the extent feasible. The plan identifies project areas and components which will be removed once the wind farm is no longer needed or when the project has surpassed the useful lifespan of the turbines and facilities. Applicant acknowledges that decommissioning activities are accomplished at the facility owner’s expense.

At least 30 days prior to the commencement of construction, this plan will be finalized and submitted to Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Staff and the Paulding County Engineer for review and confirmation it meets the conditions set forth in Grover Hill’s Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (CECPN). The final Decommissioning Plan will be subsequently updated and re-filed with OPSB Staff and the Paulding County Engineer every five (5) years from the date on which construction commences. The revised plans will reflect advancements in engineering techniques and reclamation equipment and standards. The decommissioning cost estimate will also be revised every five years to reflect the changes made in the Decommissioning Plan. Before implementation, concurrence will be obtained from OPSB Staff that the revised and updated version of the Decommissioning Plan meets the conditions set forth in Grover Hill’s CECPN.

## **2.0 PROPOSED FUTURE LAND USE**

Prior to the development of Grover Hill, the land use in the areas affected by development was predominantly agricultural. Once the areas affected by development are decommissioned, these areas will be returned to their predevelopment condition to the extent feasible.

## **3.0 ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES**

Decommissioning of the wind farm includes several phases and activities such as:

- Widening of turning radii (and removal) for transporting turbine components off site
- Grading of crane pads for removal of turbine components
- Removal of above ground components (turbines, transformers, overhead collection lines, substation and operation and maintenance facility)
- Removal of turbine foundations to a depth of 36 inches
- Removal of access roads (unless the landowners request the roads to remain)

- Re-grading and restoration of disturbed areas
- Application of necessary sediment and erosion controls during and following decommissioning activities

During decommissioning, participating landowners will be consulted to determine the scope and extent of reclamation work to be completed. Some project infrastructure such as the access roads may be left in place if the landowner so requests. Underground utility lines, deeper than three (3) feet below the ground surface elevation, may be left in place to minimize land disturbance and associated impacts to future agricultural land use.

Decommissioning will include the removal and transportation of all wind turbines from the site. Decommissioning will also include the removal of cabling, electrical components, access roads and any other associated facilities in the manner described in this Decommissioning Plan, unless otherwise agreed upon by the facility owner/operator and the applicable landowner. All dismantling, removal, recycling and disposal of materials generated during decommissioning will comply with rules, regulations and prevailing laws at the time decommissioning is initiated and will use approved local or regional disposal or recycling sites as available. Recyclable materials will be recycled to the furthest extent practicable. Non-recyclable materials will be disposed of in accordance with state and federal law.

### **3.1 DECOMMISSIONING**

#### *Turning Radius and Access Road Modifications and Removal*

Temporary modifications to existing turning radii will be needed to allow for efficient transportation of decommissioned turbine components from the project site. Temporarily increased turning radii will be constructed at intersections where necessary. It is anticipated the radius modifications will be made at the same intersections used during the initial construction of the facility. Further, private access roads will be temporarily widened from their operational width of 16 feet to approximately 32 feet wide to facilitate crane access and material removal. Following removal of the decommissioned turbine components, turning radius modifications will be removed and any disturbed areas will be restored to preconstruction condition using thorough de-compaction techniques and re-application of topsoil.

#### *Crane Pad Removal and Restoration*

A 40 foot by 80 foot crane pad will remain at each turbine location following the construction of the facility. These crane pads will be used for turbine maintenance and repair throughout the life of the facility and will be utilized during dismantling of the decommissioned turbines. Temporary alteration of turbine pads may be necessary to facilitate crane movements during removal of decommissioned, above-ground turbine components. If such alteration is necessary, topsoil from the additional disturbed areas will be stripped and isolated, for re-spreading after turbines have been dismantled and crane pads removed, turbine components will be temporarily stored in the area surrounding the crane pad prior to removal from the project area. Upon

removal of all turbine components, the crane pad area will be removed by excavation and disturbed areas restored to preconstruction condition suitable for pre-construction use using de-compaction techniques and re-application of topsoil to the extent feasible.

#### *Wind Turbine Removal*

Each turbine consists of steel tower segments, nacelle, rotor and hub assembly, and three blades. The turbine disassembly will be accomplished using large industrial cranes. The components of the wind turbines will be refurbished and reused where feasible, recycled, or sold for scrap material value. The disassembled components will be removed from the site on tractor-trailers and placed at a prearranged receiving location.

#### *Turbine Foundation Removal and Restoration*

Turbine foundations are fabricated of concrete and rebar. As discussed above, topsoil from the area surrounding the foundations will be stripped and stockpiled proximal to the work site to keep the soil separate and secure from contamination prior to reapplication during restoration activities. The turbine foundation will be exposed using backhoes, bulldozers and other earth moving equipment. The upper part of the turbine foundation will be removed to a depth of 36 inches below the ground surface using heavy machinery to break up the concrete. Concrete and rebar will be broken into manageable-sized pieces and placed into containers to be hauled off site to be recycled or disposed.

Following the removal of turbines and upper foundations, the resulting voids will be backfilled with native subsoils and compacted to at least 90% of the fill material's standard Proctor density. Topsoil will then be reapplied to the site and graded to match surrounding grade to preserve or promote pre-existing drainage patterns. The topsoil will be de-compacted to a minimum depth of 18 inches and tilled to a farmable condition where applicable. If necessary, the site will be temporarily or permanently re-vegetated, depending upon location, time of year and anticipated post-decommissioning land use. Any drain tile lines damaged during removal and restoration of turbine foundation areas will be repaired to ensure proper drainage is maintained.

#### *Access Road Removal and Restoration*

Access roads will be removed or retained based on the individual landowner request. Removal of access roads will entail removal of the road base and any other materials utilized for the construction of the access road. During removal, the topsoil proximal to both sides of the access roads will be stripped and stockpiled in a windrow paralleling the access road. The road base materials will then be removed by bulldozer and backhoe and hauled off site to be recycled or disposed at an off-site facility. If geotextile fabric is utilized under the aggregate base, it will be recycled if recoverable or disposed of in a landfill off site. The access road removal will proceed from the turbine area to the township / county roads to limit tracking and provide a stable access during the removal activity and process. Following removal, topsoil will be reapplied and

graded to match surrounding grade to promote existing drainage patterns. The topsoil will then be de-compacted to a minimum depth of 18 inches and tilled to a farmable condition or re-vegetated depending upon location, time of year and anticipated post-decommissioning land use. Any drain tile lines damaged during removal and restoration of access roads will be repaired to ensure proper drainage is maintained.

#### *Individual Step-up Transformers and Underground Electrical Collection Lines*

Any electrical cables or fiber optic conduits serving the facility will be rendered non-functional and left in place, provided they are buried at a depth of three (3) feet or more and contain no materials known to be harmful to the environment. The individual step-up transformers and any cable at a depth of less than three (3) feet (e.g. cable entering and exiting the turbine foundations or any associated wind farm facilities) will generally be removed. Collection cables will be removed by trench excavation and back-filling. Following any necessary cable removal, disturbed areas will be restored by the restoration methods described above for access roads, including the reapplication of topsoil to match the surrounding grade and preserve or promote pre-existing drainage patterns. Topsoil will be de-compacted to a minimum depth of 18 inches and tilled to a farmable condition or re-vegetated depending upon location, time of year and anticipated post-decommissioning land use.

#### *Over Head Electrical Collection Lines*

The only anticipated overhead electrical lines associated with the project would be an overhead interconnection transmission line connecting the Project step-up facility to the AEP Haviland substation located approximately 5.5 miles west. Any support structures (poles), conductors, switches and lines associated with this interconnection will be removed and hauled off site to a recycling facility or disposal site. Support structure holes will be filled with a suitable clean compactable material. Topsoil will be applied and areas returned to a tilled, farmable condition or seeded to promote re-vegetation depending upon location, time of year and anticipated post-decommissioning land use. If any support structures associated with this interconnection are shared with other utility infrastructure, they will be left in service and only the equipment exclusively affiliated with the project (conductors, switches and lines) would be removed and hauled off site to a recycling facility or disposal site.

#### *Voltage Step-Up Facility*

All steel, conductors, switches, transformers and other components of the voltage step-up facility will be disassembled and recycled or reused off-site. However, improvements to electrical infrastructure will only be removed if doing so will not disrupt the electrical grid or the applicable regional transmission organization and interconnection utility concur in the removal. Foundations and underground components will be removed to a depth of three (3) feet. The rock base will be removed using bulldozers and backhoes. The material will be hauled from the site using dump trucks to be recycled or disposed at an off-site facility. Additionally, any permanent

storm water treatment facilities will be removed. Topsoil will be reapplied to match surrounding grade to promote pre-existing drainage patterns and de-compacted to a minimum depth of 18 inches and the site will be either tilled to a farmable condition or re-vegetated, depending upon location, time of year and anticipated post-decommissioning land use.

#### *Operations and Maintenance Facility*

The O&M facility will be a sturdy, general purpose steel building, similar to many of the farm buildings in the area used for storing agricultural equipment. The O&M facility decommissioning will consist either of the sale of the building or the demolition and removal of the building structure, foundation and rock base parking lot and associated vegetated / storm water treatment facilities. If demolition is undertaken, all associated materials, concrete and rock will be removed from site using backhoes, bulldozers and hauled off site in dump trucks. All materials which are able to be recycled will be brought to appropriate facilities; the remaining materials will be disposed of at an approved landfill facility. Topsoil will be reapplied at the site and graded to match surrounding grade to promote existing drainage patterns. The topsoil will be de-compacted to a minimum depth of 18 inches and tilled to a farmable condition or re-vegetated depending upon location, time of year and anticipated post-decommissioning land use.

### **3.2 RECLAMATION**

In addition to the reclamation activities described above for each decommissioning phase, all unexcavated areas compacted by equipment and activity during the decommissioning work will be de-compacted to a depth of 18 inches or to a depth as needed to ensure proper density of topsoil consistent and compatible with the surrounding area and associated land use. All materials and debris associated with the wind farm decommissioning will be removed and properly recycled or disposed of at off-site facilities.

As necessary, the topsoil will be stripped and isolated prior to removal of structures and facilities for reapplication to promote future land use activities. The topsoil will be reapplied following back fill (as necessary) and graded to match adjacent existing contours to promote existing drainage patterns. The topsoil reapplied will be free from rocks greater than four inches and will not contain debris from the decommissioning activities. De-compaction of the topsoil will be done at a minimum depth of 18 inches and will be either tilled to a farmable condition or re-vegetated using seed mixes approved by the landowner and compatible with the local Farm Service Agency, Soil and Water Conservation District, or Natural Resource Conservation Service requirements and specifications. Temporary erosion protection such as mulch, hydromulch or erosion control blanket will be applied depending upon location and land use activities.

### **4.0 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)**

During decommissioning of the facility, erosion and sediment control BMPs will be implemented to minimize potential for sedimentation of surface waters and waters of the state. Because decommissioning of the facility will entail disturbance to more than one acre of soil, owner/opera-

tor will prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and process a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit prior to initiating soil disturbing activities. Potential BMPs are described below but are subject to refinement in the SWPPP. The BMPs to be used will meet the specifications contained within the edition of Ohio's Rainwater and Land Development manual current at the time decommissioning work commences. The decommissioning team will review the permitting requirements at the time of decommissioning and obtain any other necessary permits, which may include a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit to Discharge Dredged or Fill Material.

#### **4.1 EROSION CONTROL**

Erosion control measures are described generally here but will be refined based on the state-of-the-art current at the time the SWPPP is developed for decommissioning activities. All disturbed areas without permanent impermeable or gravel surfaces will be vegetated for final stabilization. In areas being restored to agricultural use, a nurse crop of annual oats or rye will be planted to stabilize the soil until it is planted to an agricultural crop. This step may be skipped if the completion of topsoil restoration is timed to coincide with the planting of agricultural crops. Areas being restored to agricultural use will be graded to match the surrounding topography and topsoil will be re-spread, de-compacted and tilled to return it to farmable condition.

Project Phasing / Design BMP: Time periods during which disturbed soils are exposed will be minimized to the degree possible. Stabilization of soils will generally be accomplished immediately following decommission activity of the access roads, turbine sites, electrical, substation and O&M facility. Where this is not possible, temporarily exposed soils will be temporarily stabilized with vegetation in accordance with the SWPPP for decommissioning activities.

Erosion control blankets and seed BMP: Erosion control blanket (double sided netting with wood fiber or weed-free straw fiber blanket) will be used as temporary stabilization for areas of slopes steeper than 4:1 and for areas of concentrated flow, such as ditches, swales and similar areas around culverts. Seed will be applied in these areas with the blanket for temporary and / or permanent vegetative growth as necessary. The SWPPP developed for decommissioning activities will provide detailed specifications for erosion control blankets to be used under various slope and drainage conditions.

Temporary mulch cover and seed BMP: Temporary mulch cover (corn mulch or clean weed free straw / hay mulch) will be applied at a rate of 2 tons per acre (and / or tackifier should be applied at the manufactures recommended rate) to provide temporary erosion protection of exposed soils areas with slopes flatter than or equal to 4:1. Seed will be applied with the mulch for temporary and / or permanent vegetative growth as called for in the SWPPP. Straw mulch (straw / hay type) will be used for all soil types where slopes are flatter than 3:1 and no significant concentrated flows are present. The mulch will be disc-anchored to the soil to keep it from



blowing away. The mulch prohibits the impact of the rain drop from dislodging soil and subsequently carrying the soil away during sheet drainage. In sandy soils tackifier may be used to assist the disc anchoring if the mulch cannot be secured to the sandy soils. Again, the foregoing BMP may be refined in the SWPPP prepared for decommissioning activities.

Permanent seed and temporary mulch and / or erosion control blanket BMP: In areas at final grade where row crops will not be planted, permanent seed will be applied to promote vegetative cover for permanent erosion control. Such areas may include temporary crane paths, areas adjacent to access roads, lay-down yards, and temporary batch plant location when the areas are no longer needed. Temporary mulch and / or erosion control blanket will be applied as appropriate in areas to provide temporary erosion protection until the permanent seed is established. The foregoing BMP may be refined in the SWPPP prepared for decommissioning activities.

#### **4.2 SEDIMENT CONTROL**

Ditch Crossing BMP: Temporary ditch crossings may be needed to accommodate the movements of cranes or other heavy equipment. Perimeter controls such as silt fence will be used at crossing locations to minimize runoff from exposed soils. Crossings will be done during dry conditions if possible. If a stream is wet at the time of the crossing, alternative BMPs will be applied. These could include a temporary dam and bypass pump to install the crossing in dry conditions. Timber construction mats will be used as needed to prevent compaction and rutting at crossing locations. All temporary fills and construction mats will be removed immediately after the crossing is successfully completed and the temporarily disturbed area restored using the appropriate BMPs as described above. The foregoing BMP may be refined in the SWPPP prepared for decommissioning activities.

Dewatering: A temporary sump and rock base will be used if a temporary pump is used to dewater an area of accumulated water. If a rock base cannot be used, the pump intake will be elevated to draw water from the top of the water column to avoid the intake and discharge of turbid water. Energy dissipation riprap will be applied to the discharge area of the pump hose. The water will be discharged to a large flat vegetated area for filtration / infiltration prior to draining into receiving waters of conveyances / ditches. If discharge water is unavoidably turbid, dewatering bags, temporary traps, rock weepers or other adequate BMP will be used to control sediment discharge. The foregoing BMP may be refined in the SWPPP prepared for decommissioning activities.

Silt Fence BMP or Fiber Logs: Silt fences or fiber Logs will be used as perimeter controls down-gradient of exposed soils during construction to capture suspended sediment particles on site to extent possible. Silt fences and / or fiber logs will be installed near constructed roads where they intersect existing roads to protect ditches from sediment laden runoff as well. Silt fence and / or fiber logs will be used around the turbine locations, access roads, crane paths, lay-down area and temporary concrete batch plant area. The standard silt fence or fiber logs will also be

used in smaller watershed areas where the contributing areas are typically less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of drainage per 100 feet of standard silt fence or the fiber logs. Standard silt fence or fiber logs will also be used for stockpiles that are 8 feet high or higher and have slopes of 3:1 or steeper. Silt fence or fiber logs should provide adequate protection if placed 3 – 5 feet from the toe of the stockpile. Standard silt fence or fiber logs should not be used in areas of highly erodible soils which are found within streams, slopes / banks of creeks and streams with the project area. The foregoing BMP may be refined in the SWPPP prepared for decommissioning activities.

Rock Entrance / Exit Tracking Control BMP: Rock construction entrances will be installed where access to a construction area is needed from adjacent paved surfaces. Such rock entrances will minimize sediment tracking and may be used at access road connections to public roads, lay down area(s), batch plant location and wherever else construction traffic will exit the site onto existing paved surfaces.

Street Scraping / Sweeping BMP: Street scraping and sweeping will be used to retrieve tracked or washed sediment onto paved surfaces at the end of the working day or as needed.

BMPs for drain tile work, modification and working: Drain tiles are shallow and very extensive across the project site. Avoidance during excavation activities will seldom be feasible, particularly for underground electrical collector cables. Where tiles are encountered during excavation and avoidance is not feasible, the contractor will locate and GPS each exposed tile crossing point to facilitate repairs. Dewatering of the areas may be needed to facilitate tile repairs and should be done according to the dewatering BMP options above. The existing drain tile ends should be capped to protect them from sedimentation if repairs are not undertaken immediately. Tile repair segments crossing cable trenches will be bedded on gravel or otherwise structurally supported to minimize the potential for sagging. Landowners will be consulted on drain tile alterations and repairs to minimize the potential for problems and confirm that drain tile systems have been repaired to the satisfaction of the landowner.

#### **4.3 PERMITTING**

All decommissioning and restoration activities will comply with local, state and federal permit requirements. As stated above, decommissioning activities will disturb more than one acre of soil and will generate the need for a SWPPP and the filing of a Notice of Intent for an NPDES permit. Because it will be based on the final engineering plans for the project, the SWPPP will provide a more detailed plan for erosion and sediment control than presented in this Decommissioning Plan. Also, there will likely have been advances in the state-of-the-art erosion and sedimentation control BMPs by the time future decommissioning might occur. Development of a SWPPP just prior to decommissioning will allow owner/operator to take advantage of advances in BMPs and further reduce the potential for adverse impacts to down-gradient waters of the state.

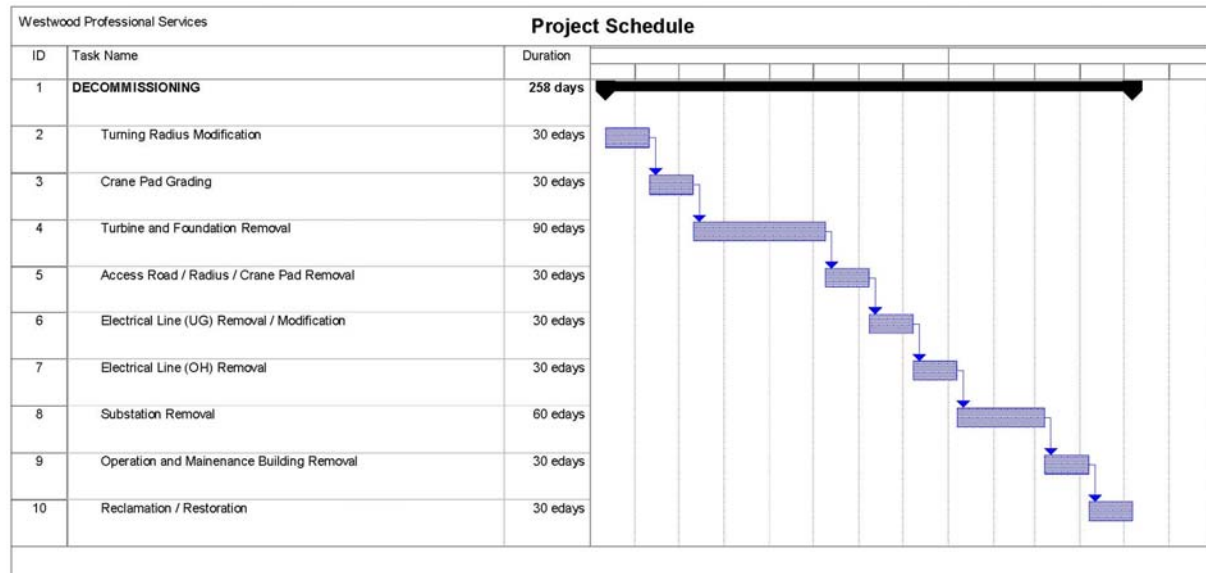
If removal of permanent access crossings can be accomplished without the discharge of dredged or fill material, a Section 404 permit would likely not be required for the decommissioning of the wind farm. If any temporary dams and bypass pumping is required for de-watering, this may generate the need for a Section 404 permit. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will be notified of the work to take place at the time of decommissioning to verify whether a Section 404 permit will be required. No air permits are currently required for construction activities typical of decommissioning. However, State of Ohio air quality rules will be reviewed at the time the work is scheduled to confirm this. Further, no operating air quality permits are needed for ongoing operation of the wind farm facility. Coordination, if required, with the County Farm Service Agency will be made regarding any USDA conservation program lands upon which decommissioning activity must occur. Should any interim permits become needed, they will be closed out with documentation of compliance at decommissioning.

## **5.0 TIMELINE**

Decommissioning of the facility or individual turbines will be initiated within twelve (12) months after the end of the useful life of the facility or the applicable individual turbines. Applicant acknowledges the facility or individual turbines may be deemed beyond their useful lives if: (1) no electricity is produced by the facility or the applicable individual turbines and no payments to landowners have been made for a period of 12 continuous months; (2) the OPSB deems the facility or specified individual turbines to be in a state of disrepair warranting decommissioning and owner/operator is unable to reasonably restore the facility or specified individual turbines to a normal state of operation; or (3) the OPSB finds that health, safety, wildlife impact or other concerns applicable to one or more individual turbines prevent such turbines from operating within the terms of the CECPN. The following sub-sections outline timetables for: (1) the Decommissioning Plan; (2) compliance with applicable air and water quality laws and regulations; and (3) compliance with health and safety standards. Depending on the applicable circumstances, owner/operator may request the OPSB to extend the useful life of the facility or individual turbines and will provide documentation in support of any such request.

### **5.1 DECOMMISSIONING SCHEDULE**

The following schedule outlines steps and timing of decommissioning activities, once owner/operator or the OPSB determines that decommissioning of the facility or individual turbines is warranted.



*\*Some tasks may be completed concurrently depending upon scheduling and methods of the contractor.*

## 5.2 WATER REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Water Quality: NPDES permitting will include the following steps for compliance.

1. Complete a SWPPP consistent with the requirements of the Ohio EPA NPDES General Construction Permit applicable at the time of decommissioning.
2. Submit the NPDES Notice of Intent 21 days or more prior to starting construction activity associated with the decommissioning phase.
3. Once notification of permit coverage is received, the decommissioning activity will commence.
4. During decommissioning activities, compliance with the NPDES permit (applicable at the time of decommissioning) will be adhered to including inspections, documentation, maintenance of BMPs, record keeping, amendments to the plan and implementation of the SWPPP.
5. Within 45 days of completing the decommissioning activities and restoration, a Notice of Termination (NOT) will be submitted to the Ohio EPA to terminate coverage of the NPDES permit.

Water Quality: Section 404 Discharge of dredged and fill material will include the following steps for compliance.

1. Notification to the Corps of Engineers if needed, of expected activities such as temporary stream/water body crossings.
2. Verification of necessary permits (if any).
3. Apply for any necessary Section 404 permits prior to commencing work within waterways / wetlands.
4. As applicable, plans will be developed to comply with necessary permit regulations.

5. Once receipt of applicable permits, decommissioning work will commence adhering to rules, timelines and requirements stated in applicable permits.

### **5.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS**

Work on the site will be conducted in strict accordance with the facility owner/operator's health and safety plan. The construction contractor hired to perform the decommissioning work will also be required to prepare a site-specific health and safety plan. All site workers, including sub-contractors, will be required to read, understand, and abide by the health and safety plan. A site safety office shall be designated by the construction contractor to ensure compliance. This official shall have stop-work authority over all activities on the site should unsafe conditions or lapses in the safety plan be observed.

### **6.0 DECOMMISSIONING COSTS AND FINANCIAL ASSURANCE**

The estimation of decommissioning costs and the provision of financial assurance will be done in a manner that complies with the decommissioning condition of the CECPN for the facility. Upon confirmation by OPSB Staff that the final Decommissioning Plan meets the conditions of the CECPN and seven (7) days prior to the preconstruction conference, Applicant will retain an independent professional engineer licensed to practice in the State of Ohio to develop an estimate of the total cost of decommissioning. This estimate will be prepared: (1) in current dollars; (2) without regard to the salvage value of equipment or materials and (3) using the methods set forth in the CECPN condition on decommissioning. The estimate will be updated every five (5) years in conjunction with updates to the Decommissioning Plan.

The Applicant, facility owner/operator will post and maintain funds, a surety bond or similar financial assurance acceptable to the OPSB. The posted financial assurance will be in an amount equal to the per-turbine decommissioning costs multiplied by the number of turbines constructed or under construction. At least 30 days prior to the preconstruction conference, the Applicant, facility owner/operator will provide the OPSB with an estimated timeline for the posting of decommissioning funds based on the construction schedule for each turbine. Funds or financial assurance will be maintained throughout the term of the CECPN and will be adjusted upward or downward to offset any increases or decreases in decommissioning costs determined during five-year Decommissioning Plan updates. If decommissioning of the facility or individual turbines is undertaken, the Applicant, facility owner/operator will, upon satisfactory completion, provide supporting documentation to the OPSB with a request for the release of the posted funds or financial assurance.

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