

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

WHAT: Permit to Construct a 230 kV Transmission Line - Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC - An approximately 34-mile, 230 kV Transmission line in Grant and Codington counties and associated facilities in Grant County that will connect to the Big Stone South Substation, located near Big Stone, South Dakota.

WHEN: Monday, January 22, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. CST

WHERE: Milbank High School Cafeteria, 1001 E. Park Ave., Milbank, S.D.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public input hearing at the above time and place on an application to construct a 230 kV Transmission Line and associated facilities (Project). Crowned Ridge proposes to construct a new reactive power compensation substation and an approximately 34-mile 230-kilovolt (kV) generation tie line that will connect two 300 megawatt (MW) wind projects (Crowned Ridge Wind (CRW) and Crowned Ridge Wind II (CRW II)) to the Big Stone South Substation owned by Otter Tail Power Company (together the new reactive power compensation substation and 34-mile generation tie line are the Project). The planned Crowned Ridge Wind facilities will be permitted separately and are not included as a part of the Project. The generation tie line will be located in Codington and Grant counties, South Dakota, while the new reactive compensation substation will be located in Grant County. The Project is expected to be in service by December 31, 2019. Crowned Ridge estimates the total construction cost to be approximately \$30 million for the single circuit option and \$40 million for the double circuit option.

The purpose of the public input hearing will be to hear public comments regarding the permit Application and the Project. At the hearing, Applicant will present a brief description of the Project, following which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Grant and Codington county auditors pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Projects, may be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2017 Electric Dockets, EL17-050 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, or by phone at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the Project; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the Project is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the Project is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's website or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m. CST on February 5, 2018.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, the Commission's staff, or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or ad hoc meeting of the Commission.

For approval, the Applicant must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: ph (800) 332-1782; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.