

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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
BY CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A ) EL19-003  
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY )  
IN GRANT AND CODINGTON COUNTIES ) **APPLICANT'S SUPPLEMENTAL**  
 ) **RESPONSES TO STAFF'S SIXTH**  
 ) **SET OF DATA REQUESTS TO**  
 ) **CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC**

Attached, please find Applicant's Supplemental Responses to Staff's Sixth Set of Data Requests to Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC.

6-10) Referring to page 13, lines 8-16 of Ms. Sappington's testimony, please provide studies or past research demonstrating that prairie grouse leks within 1 mile of wind turbines are not disrupted or abandoned as a result of wind turbine operations.

**Response:**

Ms. Sappington's testimony on page 13, lines 8-16 is mischaracterized in the above question. The Applicant does not agree with post-construction monitoring as stated in the rebuttal testimony in response to Staff Witness Kirschenmann's testimony. As described in the Application, Sections 11.3.1.3.3 and 11.3.1.4, pre-construction grouse lek surveys were conducted for earlier iterations of the Project Area. The Applicant sited the project to avoid and minimize effects to grassland communities and impacts to grouse leks. The Applicant is unaware of any empirical per-reviewed data looking at the effects of wind turbine development on greater prairie-chicken or sharp-tailed grouse activities at lek locations in the Upper Great Plains (including South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota).

**Respondent:** Sarah Sappington, Director

  
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