

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) OF CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A) FACILITY PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A 230) KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND) ASSOCIATED FACILITIES FROM) CODINGTON COUNTY TO THE BIG) STONE SOUTH SUBSTATION))))	ORDER GRANTING JOINT) MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF) SETTLEMENT STIPULATION;) ORDER APPROVING) SETTLEMENT STIPULATION) AND ORDER GRANTING PERMIT) TO CONSTRUCT TRANSMISSION) FACILITY; NOTICE OF ENTRY))))
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EL17-050

On December 5, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application from Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (Crowned Ridge). Crowned Ridge proposes to construct a new reactive power compensation substation and an approximately 34-mile 230-kilovolt generation tie line that will connect two 300 megawatt wind projects (Crowned Ridge Wind and Crowned Ridge Wind 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. On November 5, 2018, PUC staff and Crowned Ridge filed a Settlement Stipulation and a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation.

On December 7, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 5, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On January 22, 2018, the Commission held a public input hearing in Milbank, SD. No Applications for Party Status were filed. On November 5, 2018, Staff and Crowned Ridge filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and a Settlement Stipulation.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically, 49-41B-1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-22, and 49-41B-24; as well as ARSD 20:10:01:19 and 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after making further inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and approve the Settlement Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted, and the Settlement Stipulation is hereby approved. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further,

ORDERED, that a permit to construct the 230-kV transmission line and its associated facilities is hereby granted to Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC, subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth in the Settlement Stipulation.

NOTICE OF ENTRY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Transmission Facility was duly issued and entered on the 21st day of November 2018.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.
By: <u>Karen E. Bremer</u>
Date: <u>11/21/18</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner