

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE;
BY CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A)	ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY)	DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO
IN GRANT AND CODINGTON COUNTIES)	CONSULTING CONTRACTS;
)	ORDER GRANTING PARTY
)	STATUS
)	
)	
)	EL19-003

On January 30, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit for a wind energy facility (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (Crowned Ridge or Applicant) to construct a wind energy conversion facility to be located in Grant County and Codington County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated on approximately 53,186-acres in the townships of Waverly, Rauville, Leola, Germantown, Troy, Stockholm, Twin Brooks, and Mazeppa, South Dakota. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 300 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 130 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, one permanent meteorological tower, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project will utilize the Crowned Ridge 34-mile 230-kV generation tie line and a new reactive power compensation substation to transmit the electricity from the Project's collector substation to the Project's point of interconnection located at the Big Stone South 230-kV Substation, which is owned by Otter Tail Power Company. Applicant has executed a power purchase agreement with Northern States Power Company (NSP) to sell NSP the full output of the Project. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$400 million. On February 6, 2019, the Commission received applications for party status from Amber Christenson, Allen Robish, and Kristi Mogen.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent for the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs plus one-twentieth of one percent of all additional estimated construction costs of the Project, with a minimum total fee chargeable of not less than eight thousand dollars. The fee shall be deposited in a subfund in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee Fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon the Application.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-12, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-26, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 15, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$400,000 with an initial deposit of \$8,000, and to authorize the executive director to enter into consulting contracts needed for review of the Application. Applicant stated it did not object to the fee assessment nor to granting party status to Amber Christenson, Allen Robish, and Kristi Mogen. The Commission voted unanimously to assess Crowned Ridge a filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, with an initial deposit of \$8,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date. The Commission further voted unanimously to authorize the executive director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. The Commission further voted unanimously to grant the requests for party status to Amber Christenson, Allen Robish, and Kristi Mogen. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Crowned Ridge shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$400,000 with an initial deposit of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Commission's finance manager. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director is authorized to enter into necessary consulting contracts. It is further

ORDERED, that party status is granted to Amber Christenson, Allen Robish, and Kristi Mogen.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of February 2019.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Karen E. Cremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>02/22/19</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner