

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)
CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF)
A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN GRANT AND)
CODINGTON COUNTIES)

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST
TO APPROVE PUBLIC
LIAISON OFFICER

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 July 17, 2019, Applicant filed a letter requesting the Commission approve Brian Riniker as the public liaison officer. On July 26, 2019, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility (Permit). Condition 42 of the Permit requires Applicant to submit the identity and qualifications of a public liaison officer to the Commission for approval at least 30 days prior to commencement of construction.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B.

On July 25, 2019, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. Brian Riniker was present to answer questions from Intervenors and the Commission. Following the questioning, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the request to approve Brian Riniker as the public liaison officer. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Brian Riniker is approved as the public liaison officer.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31st day of July 2019.

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>Karol B. Bremer</u>
Date: <u>07/31/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner