South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

EL19-003 - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant and Codington Counties – Evidentiary Hearing

June 11, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

Room 413 - Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D.

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**South Dakota Public Utilities Commission** 

EL19-003 - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant and Codington Counties – Evidentiary Hearing June 11, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

Room 413 – Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D.

# **Please Print Legibly**

Full Name ME (ISSA	Lynch	City/State Water Town, SD

1	THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
2	OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
3	=======================================
4	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION EL19-003
5	BY CROWNED RIDGE WIND II, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN GRANT AND CODINGTON COUNTIES ORIGINAL
6	
7	Transcript of Proceeding
8	June 11, 2019 1:00 p.m.
9	Volume II, Pages 115-327
10	
11	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, GARY HANSON, CHAIRMAN
12	CHRIS NELSON, VICE CHAIRMAN KRISTIE FIEGEN, COMMISSIONER
13 14	COMMISSION STAFF
	Karen Cremer
15	Greg Rislov Adam de Hueck
16	Darren Kearney Kaitlyn Baucom
17	
18	APPEARANCES
19	Miles Schumacher and Brian Murphy, appearing on behalf of Crowned Ridge Wind II;
20	
21	David Ganje, appearing on behalf of the Intervenors;
22	Kristen Edwards and Mikal Hanson,
23	appearing on behalf of Staff.
24	Reported By Cheri McComsey Wittler, RPR, CRR
25	Precision Reporting, 213 S. Main, Onida, South Dakota cwittler@venturecomm.net

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The following transcript of proceedings was
 1
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     held in the above-entitled matter at the South Dakota
     State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre,
 3
     South Dakota, on the 11th day of June, 2019, commencing
 4
 5
     at 1:00 p.m.
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CHAIRMAN HANSON: At this time we will reconvene the evidentiary hearing and everything that was iterated during the opening of the hearing stands at this time. I won't regurgitate what I went through previously.

Ms. Cremer, you are in charge.

MS. CREMER: Thank you, Chairman Hanson.

Good afternoon, everyone. I'll call the evidentiary hearing for EL19-003, Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a permit for a wind energy facility in Grant and Codington Counties back into session following the recess.

And I just have a few reminders. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace. The mics. are push to touch. When the light is green, it's on. When you're not speaking, turn it off.

Please mute your cell phone when you're in this room. And this is how we will proceed from here forward. We'll have the case in chief from Crowned Ridge. That will be followed by the Intervenors' case. And that will be followed by Staff's case. Crowned Ridge as the Applicant will have the final rebuttal.

Witnesses that have filed multiple rounds of testimony must offer all of their testimony when they are initially called. Cross-examination will include all of the witnesses' testimony.

As all the parties have prefiled testimony and we have all had the opportunity to read it, please just have your witness give a brief summary of their testimony so that we can go to cross-examination.

1.3

2.1

Are there any exhibits the parties have stipulated to? And, if so, if someone could recap that for us.

MS. EDWARDS: This is Kristen Edwards for Staff. At this time, if it's agreeable with the parties, I would read into the record what I sent out this morning. I sent out an exhibit list and I've provided copies now to the Hearing Examiner.

It does not include anything that Applicant filed this morning because I was otherwise detained this morning. So anything after A54 is not included. In addition, there's a blank spot where A52 should have been, A52 is a cover letter, so you need to write that in there.

For the exhibits that were stipulated to, everything filed by the Applicant up to A54, with the exception of the following: A1-H, A1-I, A2, A3, A5, A8, A9, A10, A11, A22-1.

Did you have A22?

MR. GANJE: Indeed. That is one that we would not stipulate to, and we advised you of that.

1 MS. EDWARDS: Sorry. I failed to mark on here. 2 A22, A22-2, A22-3, A25, A30, A43, A43-1, A43-2, A43-3, 3 A43-4, A43-5. All of Staff's exhibits and all of Intervenors' exhibits are stipulated to. 4 5 MS. CREMER: So to be clear, what you read off 6 are the ones that are not stipulated to? 7 MS. EDWARDS: Correct. 8 MS. CREMER: Other than Staff and --9 MS. EDWARDS: And all of Staff's exhibits and 10 all of Intervenors' exhibits are stipulated to, correct. 11 MR. GANJE: Yes. If it may please the 12 Commission, I'll go back to A22 in a moment just for clarification. 1.3 14 But she read off those exhibits to which we did 15 not stipulate. The proposed stipulation is subject to 16 the approval of the Commission, and it is that the 17 exhibits or testimony identified in the exhibit list 18 created by the PUC Staff counsel may be admitted in this 19 proceeding except for the ones that she's described here 20 today on the record which would include some testimony 21 and some exhibits, provided that objections on the 22 grounds of authenticity, hearsay, double hearsay, due 23 process, lack of foundation, improper opinion, relevance, 24 qualification of a witness, nonresponsive witness, 25 speculation, legal conclusion, or other legal grounds for

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objection, as well as motions to strike testimony or
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2
     evidence and the right to cross-examine shall be
 3
     preserved in favor of the Intervenors on all the
 4
     testimony and exhibits that have been stipulated to and
     have not been stipulated to herein.
 6
              And I would have a question if counsel for Staff
7
     would repeat the A22 list again.
8
              MS. EDWARDS: Included in the list that is not
     stipulated to is -- or are Exhibits A22 and then A22-1
10
     through A22-3.
11
              MR. GANJE: That is correct.
                                             Thank you.
12
              MS. CREMER: Crowned Ridge, would you agree with
13
     the list by Staff?
14
              MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, we do.
                                             Thank you.
15
                           Thank you.
              MS. CREMER:
16
              And, Mr. Ganje, you agreed with the list as
17
     read?
18
              MR. GANJE: I do.
19
              MS. CREMER: Thank you.
20
              As all the parties have stipulated to the
2.1
     admission of these aforementioned exhibits, they are
22
     admitted into the record, noting Mr. Ganje's list of
23
    possible objections.
2.4
              That brings us to opening statements. Crowned
25
     Ridge, did you want to do an opening statement?
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- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: No, thank you.
- 2 MS. CREMER: Thank you.

Intervenors can do an opening statement now or they can waive that until they put their case in chief

5 on.

- 6 MR. GANJE: We would reserve, please.
- 7 MS. CREMER: Thank you. And Staff.
- MS. EDWARDS: Waived.
- 9 MS. CREMER: All right. Crowned Ridge, you may
- 10 | call your first witness.
- 11 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Applicant calls
- 12 Andrew Baker.
- 13 (The oath is administered by the court reporter.)
- 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 15 BY MR. SCHUMACHER:
- Q. State your name, business title, and company for the
- 17 record.
- 18 A. Sure. My name is Andrew Brock Baker. I'm a
- 19 director at Valbridge Property Advisors, commercial real
- 20 estate company in Kansas City.
- 21 | Q. And you may want to move just a little bit closer to
- 22 the microphone.
- 23 A. Sure.
- Q. What is your role with the Crowned Ridge Wind
- 25 Project?

- 1 A. Sure. In November of last year, NextEra Energy
- 2 Resources hired me to do a value impact study on the
- 3 proposed project to see if and how it might impact
- 4 | surrounding property values.
- 5 | Q. Please provide a short overview of your education
- 6 and experience.
- 7 A. Sure. I graduated college from Case Western Reserve
- 8 University in 2008. I majored in economics. Since I
- 9 | graduated college, I've been working as a fee appraiser,
- 10 which means a company hires me for a fee to do an
- 11 appraisal.
- 12 And I got my certified general license in the state
- of Kansas and Missouri in 2012. Kansas has a reciprocity
- 14 agreement with South Dakota so I was able to get a
- 15 temporary license in South Dakota to do this project.
- 16 I've appraised all different types of property
- 17 | types, commercial properties, agricultural land. And so
- 18 | in 2015 I received my MAI designation from the Appraisal
- 19 | Institute, which is the highest designation for
- 20 | commercial appraisers of the Appraisal Institute.
- 21 Q. Mr. Baker, did you file Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony
- 22 on May 24, 2019, that is marked as Exhibit A39 with
- 23 | accompanying exhibits marked A39-1, A39-2, and A39-3?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Do you have any changes or correction to your

testimony or the exhibits?

A. No.

- Q. In that event, Mr. Baker, could you please provide a short summary of your prefiled testimony?
- A. Sure.

So I am here to talk about the Intervenors' permit condition, I believe it's No. 37. And let me just read that really quickly. It says, "To offer each nonparticipating landowner within two miles of the boundary footprint reimbursement of a preconstruction property appraisal up to \$2,500 per landowner. This offer shall be completed before any construction is completed and reimbursement must be made by the Applicant within 30 days of submission of the receipt to the PUC."

And so this recommendation, permit condition, is based on the incorrect assumption that this is going to impact surrounding property values. I completed a value impact study last December on the property, and I did that -- I reviewed zoning conditions in each of the counties. I toured the areas to see what the surrounding land uses generally were. And then from that, I researched academic literature, reviewed three studies that had over 50,000 sales of homes that were completed in the United States that used a regression analysis to see how wind turbines might impact property values.

I then completed a paired sales analysis for agricultural land in Brookings County. I interviewed a number of brokers in Brookings County, South Dakota, who had had experience selling land, people on the ground who really are getting in there with their hands and talking to buyers and sellers.

I did another paired sales analysis in Spearville,
Kansas, which is a town that's completely surrounded by
wind turbines. There's, I believe, six turbines within a
mile of there. Sales of homes that occurred shortly
before and shortly after the wind project was completed.
Also interviewed buyers and sellers over there.

Based on the totality of the evidence, it's clear to me that the project won't impact surrounding properties measurably.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Baker.

MR. SCHUMACHER: That concludes Applicant's direct examination of this witness.

MS. CREMER: Thank you.

Mr. Ganje, did you have cross?

MR. GANJE: Thank you. Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION

#### BY MR. GANJE:

1.3

2.4

- Q. Good morning, Mr. Baker.
- 25 A. Good morning. Good afternoon.

- 1 Q. I'll let you determine that. I apologize.
- 2 The basis of your opinion is a study you did in
- 3 | Brookings County, South Dakota; is that correct?
- 4 A. It's based on the totality of the work I did.
- 5 Q. And as regards an analysis of South Dakota sales,
- 6 | where were those sales located?
- 7 A. They were located in Brookings County.
- 8 Q. And what was your conclusion regarding those sales
- 9 in Brookings County?
- 10 A. That based upon my interviews and the paired sales
- 11 | analysis that I did, that it didn't impact the property
- 12 value.
- 13 Q. And did you attach a list of the sales from
- 14 | Brookings County with your report?
- 15 A. Yes. There's a sale write-up of each of the sales.
- 16 Q. And you also interviewed, I believe, two brokers
- 17 | licensed to practice in Brookings County, South Dakota?
- 18 A. I thought it was -- let me see.
- 19 Yes. Two brokers, a county assessor, and somebody
- 20 | who works at a farmland manager company.
- 21 Q. Did you provide any notes on your interview with
- 22 those brokers in your report?
- 23 A. Yeah. I talked about what our discussion with each
- 24 of them are.
- 25 Q. How many rural residences -- I'm not talking about

- 1 | farmstead or farm operations but rural residences did you
- 2 | analyze to produce your value impact study?
- 3 A. Sure. So I pulled all the sales in Brookings County
- 4 | since 2011. I would have loved to have had some rural
- 5 residences in there but I didn't have any sales. So
- 6 none.
- 7 Q. There were none.
- 8 And what was the average, what they call, the
- 9 average market for sale for the properties in Brookings
- 10 | County near the wind farm preconstruction and
- 11 | postconstruction as you've determined in your report?
- 12 A. Say that again. What were the average sales?
- 13 Q. What was the average time on the market? Let me put
- 14 | it that way.
- 15 A. Sure.
- 16 Sale 1, it was sold at auction. Sale 2 was sold at
- 17 | auction. Sale 3 was sold at auction. And sale 4 was --
- 18 | it was sold -- it was put on the market but I'm not sure
- 19 how long it was on the market.
- 20 Q. And did you identify the location of those vis-a-vis
- 21 operating wind farms in Brookings County?
- 22 A. I do.
- Q. Did you do an analysis of those that were near wind
- 24 farms as against those that were a distance of two to
- 25 three miles away?

- l A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Did you do a similar analysis for Grant and
- 3 | Codington County?
- 4 A. Well, Grant and Codington County did not have any
- 5 | wind turbines at present, but I did look in Deuel County
- 6 and Day County.
- 7 Q. With regard to Grant and Codington County, there are
- 8 outstanding options or easements with regard to the
- 9 construction of turbines, aren't there?
- 10 A. I assume so, yes.
- 11 Q. Did you take into consideration any maps where there
- 12 | were an identification the Applicant showed you of
- 13 | potential turbine sites in Grant or Codington County when
- 14 | you did your analysis?
- 15 A. Yes. I looked at those maps.
- 16 Q. Okay. So then was that a part of your analysis of
- 17 Grant County?
- 18 A. No. We go on past sales. We look backward.
- 19 Q. And what was the date of your report, please?
- 20 A. December 13, 2018.
- 21 Q. Are you aware of any sales of land in Grant County
- 22 that took place during the calendar year 2018 in which
- 23 | the land had an identified Geronimo Energy wind easement
- 24 | indicated in a part of the auction sale bill for the
- 25 sale?

- L A. I am not.
- 2 Q. Are you aware that a closing took place in 2018 with
- 3 | regard to the sale of 135 acres of land which included
- 4 | and identified sale item called Geronimo Energy wind
- 5 | easement which closed in that county on November 26 of
- 6 2018?
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm going to interpose an
- 8 objection here. That assumes facts not in evidence.
- 9 MR. GANJE: I'm not putting anything in
- 10 evidence. I'm asking about his knowledge. It's a proper
- 11 question for cross-examination. The extent of his
- 12 knowledge is an appropriate question in
- 13 cross-examination.
- I'm sorry, Ms. Cremer. I should not have argued
- 15 with counsel.
- MS. CREMER: I would agree with you there. And
- 17 | I will overrule the objection.
- 18 You may answer.
- 19 A. Yeah. I haven't looked at any sales in Grant County
- 20 because they don't have a wind farm there.
- 21 | Q. And you didn't look at any sales in Grant County
- 22 that had easements or options regarding potential wind
- 23 farm or wind turbines, did you?
- 24 A. No. No, I did not.
- 25 Q. And would your answer be the same for Codington

- 1 County?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. I think in your impact study you define a term and
- 4 | you call it "local owner"; is that correct?
- 5 A. Say that again.
- 6 Q. I think in your impact study you use a defined term
- 7 | called "local owner"; is that correct?
- 8 A. Local owner? I'm not familiar with that term.
- 9 Q. Would you be kind enough to look at page 16 of your
- 10 study?
- 11 A. Sure.
- 12 Yes.
- 13 Q. Did you determine how many comparable local owners
- 14 existed of a similar nature in Grant County as a part of
- 15 your study?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Did you determine as a part of your study how many
- 18 | so-called local owners existed in Codington County?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Did you do any analysis in which you compared sales
- 21 | in the project area which had wind easements with sales
- 22 in the project area which did not have any designated
- 23 wind easements?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. At the time you did the study that you've testified

- 1 to here today, were you licensed in South Dakota?
- 2 A. I was.
- MR. GANJE: I have no further questions.
- 4 MS. CREMER: Thank you. Staff.

### <u>CROSS-EXAMINATION</u>

#### 6 BY MS. EDWARDS:

- 7 Q. When did you begin your analysis in Brookings
- 8 County?

5

- 9 A. When I was engaged. I believe I was engaged in late
- 10 | 20 -- late November of 2018.
- 11 Q. So you began your analysis in November of 2018?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And when did you become licensed here?
- 14 A. I became licensed on -- well, what happened is I got
- 15 | the engagement letter, and then sent my information to
- 16 | the South Dakota Appraisal Department. And I think they
- 17 | signed the -- the license on December 5, I believe.
- 18 Q. So is that to say you engaged in appraisal work for
- 19 | a period of time without a license?
- 20 A. No. I -- this is pretty typical. It takes a few
- 21 days to get a license. You get an engagement letter. By
- 22 | the time I issued this report and completed my analysis,
- 23 I was a licensed appraiser.
- Q. Okay. Did I understand you right to say there were
- 25 | no sales in Brookings County since 2011?

- 1 A. Day County and -- Day County there were no sales
- 2 | around the turbines. I also looked in Deuel County and
- 3 there were no sales around the turbines.
- 4 Q. Were there sales around the turbines in Brookings
- 5 County?
- 6 A. Yes. And that was analyzed.
- 7 Q. In the course of your work, did you have a chance to
- 8 review any of the prior dockets before the Commission?
- 9 A. I have reviewed documents. I don't know
- 10 | specifically what you're referring to.
- 11 Q. Prior dockets. I'm sorry. I should have been more
- 12 | specific. Any prior wind siting dockets that have
- 13 recently been before this Commission.
- 14 A. I looked at a map -- a map of where the wind
- 15 turbines were going to be that was provided by the client
- 16 at the time.
- 17 Q. Have you had a chance to review any of the prior
- 18 property value analyses done in South Dakota?
- 19 A. In South Dakota?
- 20 Q. In the prior dockets.
- 21 A. Oh. Yes. There was another analysis that was done
- 22 in North Dakota that I reviewed.
- 23 Q. Have you ever reviewed any analyses --
- MS. EDWARDS: I'm going to withdraw that
- 25 question. No further questions.

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1
              MS. CREMER: Thank you.
2
              Chairman Hanson.
 3
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Caught me off-guard. Good
 4
    afternoon.
5
              THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.
 6
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you for traveling all
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    the way here to enlighten us on property values.
8
    Appreciate it.
              Your testimony appears that you had a reciprocal
10
    license; is that correct?
11
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
12
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: So you were licensed in
13
    Kansas. Other states that you're licensed in?
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              THE WITNESS: I have a permanent license in
15
    Kansas and Missouri.
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Call them permitted [sic]
16
17
     licenses as opposed to reciprocal?
18
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
19
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. They're the same thing.
20
              THE WITNESS: I have a permanent annual license
2.1
    in Kansas and Missouri. I have a reciprocal temporary
22
     license with South Dakota.
23
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: You said you -- in determining
24
    your valuations, you examined auctions?
25
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
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1 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Primarily auctions? 2 Not primarily auctions. THE WITNESS: No. 3 looked at all the sales in the county. And it's somewhat typical for ag land in the county to be sold at auction. 4 5 CHAIRMAN HANSON: In order to get a fair market 6 value, you really need to compare similar properties and 7 similar situations, locations, types of properties, et cetera; correct? 8 THE WITNESS: Correct. 10 CHAIRMAN HANSON: And do you feel you 11 accomplished that by not -- well, do you feel that you 12 accomplished that? 1.3 THE WITNESS: T do. 14 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Why would you not go to, as 15 you answered Mr. Ganje's questions, that you did not 16 examine another county in proximity that did not have 17 wind turbines? Wouldn't it make sense to examine 18 properties with wind turbines and compare like properties to those without? 19 20 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I think there's a location 21 adjustment that needs to be made. Generally, the 22 adjacent properties are going to be experiencing the 23 effects of the wind turbines the greatest. And so I 24 wanted to not have to consider a location adjustment. 25 CHAIRMAN HANSON: In your analysis, market

analysis, you wouldn't be using replacement minus depreciation; you'd probably be looking at just the market value of properties. Did you look at the third method as from the income standpoint? THE WITNESS: No. CHAIRMAN HANSON: One would assume not necessary to do that; however, we have a number of hunting preservation in South Dakota. And if wind turbines were to affect a hunting operation, would it not make sense to examine those via an income approach? THE WITNESS: Yeah. I am not aware of a hunting operation in the footprint. I know that there are hunting operations that are located very close to wind turbines in South Dakota so --CHAIRMAN HANSON: But you did not look -- you didn't examine for that. THE WITNESS: I looked at all the sales, yeah. We looked at all the sales we could get. CHAIRMAN HANSON: You didn't search out

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CHAIRMAN HANSON: You didn't search out different types of income approaches in -- on the footprint, though. You didn't search -- you're testifying you did not look for any type of operation other than an ag -- or indicated. Would that be correct?

THE WITNESS: Yep. That was the data that we had, yes.

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CHAIRMAN HANSON: Well, your testimony was short
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2
     and sweet, and I'm not going to make it any longer.
 3
     Appreciate your testimony.
 4
              Thank you.
 5
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Good afternoon.
 6
              Just so I'm clear, in your analysis, did you
     find sales of rural residences in Brookings County --
7
8
              THE WITNESS:
                            No.
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: -- since 2011?
10
              THE WITNESS:
                            No. Not that were adjacent to
11
     wind turbines.
12
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: How do you define a rural
     residence as you just used it?
13
14
              THE WITNESS: You mean as you used it?
15
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Well, you introduced the
16
     term to us so I'm using your term.
17
              THE WITNESS: Sure. It's farmland that has a
18
    residence on it.
19
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: And so is there a limit on
20
     the amount of acreage that you'd include when you talk
2.1
     about a rural residence?
22
              And let me tell you where I'm going here.
23
              THE WITNESS:
                            Sure.
24
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: I mean, when you use the
25
     term "rural residence," is that what we commonly think of
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as an acreage where you've got a house and maybe five or 1 2 10 acres or is it a house on 160 acres or both? 3 THE WITNESS: I would probably say for a value impact study, you know, it would be nice to look at it on 4 5 the basis of as small of land as possible. Because obviously the bigger the land, the more the land will be 6 7 a percentage of the value. 8 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And so -- but you did not find any sales of rural residences in Brookings County 10 since 2011; correct? 11 THE WITNESS: Correct. That were located 12 adjacent to wind turbines. 13 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And when you say 14 "adjacent," how far away do you include in the word 15 "adjacent"? THE WITNESS: Hopefully within, I would say, a 16 17 mile or two. 18 COMMISSIONER NELSON: No further questions. 19 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Thank you. And it's --20 it's kind of hard to ask questions because there's lots 21 of probablies, lots of hopefullys. I feel like the 22 record isn't becoming completely clear. 23 I'm just going to go back to your auctions, 24 because you gave us four examples of items that you 25 looked at, and three of them were auctions. So I am

assuming that wasn't just a resident. I guess I want to ask you, those auctions, is that with farmland or just the resident?

2.4

THE WITNESS: That was the farmland.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. And earlier in your testimony, you said you talked to a number of brokers.

THE WITNESS: Yes. And I think that's very important, to talk to people on the ground and who are doing this.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So why only two? When I heard you say a number, I thought only 8, 10, 12, and then, all of a sudden, when you were cross-examined, you said only two.

THE WITNESS: Sure. I did talk to additional brokers. I talked to everybody I could. I talked to appraisers in Watertown and Sioux Falls. I wanted to only include, though, interviews with people who had actually sold a property next to and actually had, you know, knowledge of this and are on the ground talking to buyers and sellers about the property they're listing.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So another question came up in cross-examination of if you had the opportunity to -- you know, we had other wind projects. We certainly had Prevailing Winds. Have you heard of Prevailing Winds?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2.4

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Did you look at --

THE WITNESS: I did. That's a new project. We appraisers are backward-looking people. Okay. We want to look at the actual sales data.

And so if a project's just a year old or whatever, there probably isn't going to be very many good sales for us to use. So we want projects that have been in operation for a number of years because it's more likely that we'll have good sale data to use.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Sure. So I think we had Crocker. We had Deuel Harvest. We had several. And I'm going to have to go check my memory tonight when we're done with the evidentiary hearing because I could have -- I mean, my memory is that there was Brookings County residents that were close to wind turbines that were evaluated and, I believe, that were say -- I'm going to have to look because now my memory is very foggy since it's conflicting with what you're saying today. So I guess I'll go check that out.

You said you were hired -- or approximately in November. Now I can't remember. And you wrote your report in -- when did you write your report?

THE WITNESS: December. I finished it December 13, is the date.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. So when you look at land value, we have been told in a different evidentiary hearing -- do you believe one month or 30 days or 15 days, or whatever you did for your report and your investigation in South Dakota with residents close to wind turbines, do you believe that is a thorough, comprehensive evaluation?

1.3

2.1

THE WITNESS: Well, one thing you've got to realize is that, in South Dakota, when you compare it to a state like Kansas, for instance, there are a lot more wind projects in Kansas. They've been around a lot longer so they've had a lot more experience with this.

I was -- honestly, when I was engaged, I was hoping there was going to be a lot more projects for me to look at and a lot more sales data for me to analyze. I used the best I had. I talked to the best brokers I could. And so, yes, I think given the limitations, this is a thorough investigation.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So you talked about North Dakota. You talked about Kansas. You talked about different evaluations. Did you bring all of that other information?

Because like Iowa actually has had wind turbines and Minnesota has had wind turbines longer probably than South Dakota, and probably more of them.

1 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh. 2 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Did you -- so what you're 3 telling me right now is that your few weeks' evaluation 4 is a comprehensive, that this Commission can make a 5 comprehensive decision? 6 Because at other projects we've heard --THE WITNESS: Yeah. So, obviously, I try to 7 8 make my reports readable and short, because these things normally get passed around to people and you don't always 10 know -- you know, they want to read the report and get to 11 the point, I quess. 12 You know, I've done these in Kansas and Missouri 13 too. And so, yeah, this definitely takes into account 14 the totality of work I've done on this so --15 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you. 16 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'm just going to say to 17 Commissioner Fiegen, your memory is correct. 18 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Thank you, Lord. I was 19 getting nervous there. 20 (Discussion off the record.) 21 MS. CREMER: Crowned Ridge, do you have 22 redirect? 23 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. 2.4 25

## REDIRECT EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. SCHUMACHER:
- 3 Q. Mr. Baker, the question of local ownership came up.
- 4 Is that one of the established criteria that you would
- 5 | typically employ in doing an appraisal?
- 6 A. No.

1

- 7 Q. And then with regard to the summary and report that
- 8 you provided, do the conclusions you reached in that
- 9 report include your years of experience analyzing
- 10 | property near wind projects --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- in Kansas and other states?
- 13 A. Yes. I've done these paired sales analysis in
- 14 Kansas and Missouri.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
- 16 MS. CREMER: That would take us to recross but
- 17 only as to Commission questions or redirect.
- Mr. Ganje.
- MR. GANJE: Thank you.
- I believe that two of the Commissioners went
- 21 | into the area of sales and the area of auction sales and
- 22 the value of them and making an opinion. In that regard,
- 23 I would like to offer an impeachment exhibit and have it
- 24 marked.
- MS. CREMER: Yeah. Please proceed.

```
(Exhibit I28 is marked for identification.)
1
2
              MR. GANJE: May I approach the witness and hand
 3
     him the exhibit?
 4
              MS. CREMER:
                          Yes.
5
               (Attorney hands witness the exhibit.)
 6
                        RECROSS-EXAMINATION
7
     BY MR. GANJE:
8
         Mr. Baker, I show you --
              MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm going to object that
10
     Applicant doesn't know what this exhibit is. He did not
11
     provide us a copy.
12
              MR. GANJE: My apologies. My sincere apologies.
13
              May I?
14
              MS. CREMER: Yep. Did you have copies for
15
     anyone else?
16
              MR. GANJE: Yes, we do.
17
                  (The document is distributed.)
18
              MR. GANJE: May I proceed?
19
              MS. CREMER: Yes. Please.
20
              MR. GANJE:
                          Thank you.
21
         (BY MR. GANJE) Mr. Hanson [sic], I have had marked
22
     and handed you Exhibit I28. Have you had a chance to
23
     look at that?
24
         Yes.
     Α.
25
         Does that identify property that is sold in Twin
```

- 1 | Brooks Township near Milbank, South Dakota?
- 2 A. That's what it says.
- 3 Q. And does this bill of sale or sale bill, as it were,
- 4 | identify that this property -- it comes with a Geronimo
- 5 | Energy for a wind easement condition as a part of the
- 6 | advertised language for the sale?
- 7 A. Yeah. The last sentence says, "There are two
- 8 | easements on the property. One with Geronimo Energy for
- 9 a wind easement and one for access to neighboring
- 10 fields."
- 11 Q. Thank you.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Excuse me. I need to interpose
- 13 | an objection with regard to any further questions on the
- 14 exhibit.
- A portion of it appears to be something that
- 16 came out of a flyer or a newspaper or somewhere else.
- 17 And then there's additional information typed on the
- 18 | bottom that is clearly hearsay. We have no foundation
- 19 for where that information came from. We have no way of
- 20 | being able to determine whether or not the information at
- 21 | the bottom of this exhibit is accurate.
- I'm afraid that we're going to have to object
- 23 | that this truly is hearsay.
- MS. CREMER: You know, I'm assuming we're going
- 25 down an impeachment path because he said that. My

- 1 | experience is you don't need to offer an exhibit for
- 2 | impeachment purposes. You ask him questions about it.
- 3 He's either going to know about it, or he's not.
- 4 So does that answer your question?
- 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: (Nods.)
- 6 MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- 7 Q. (BY MR. GANJE) Mr. Baker, did you take this sale
- 8 into consideration when you made a determination
- 9 concerning values or the effect on values in Grant
- 10 | County, South Dakota, as a part of your report?
- 11 A. Yeah. I've answered this. I did not look at sales
- 12 | in Grant County because there's no wind farm in Grant
- 13 County. So no.
- 14 Q. Is it your opinion that an option or an easement or
- 15 | a right-of-way given with regard to a potential wind farm
- 16 | facility has no effect on the real estate?
- 17 A. Say that again.
- 18 MR. GANJE: I'll ask that the court reporter
- 19 | kindly reread my question.
- MS. CREMER: And, Mr. Ganje, you really, really
- 21 | need to talk into your mic. We're all having a struggle
- 22 | to hear you.
- 23 MR. GANJE: I apologize. There's two reasons.
- One, I'm a bit hoarse, and, one, my mom trained me over
- 25 | the years not to be too loud. So I apologize.

1 (Reporter reads back the last question.) 2 Those are three different things. Α. Yeah. 3 easement, it could, it could not affect the sale price. 4 It depends on what the easement is. The right-of-way is 5 the same thing, it could or could not affect the sale 6 price. An option, I take it you mean a sale option? 7 that what you mean? 8 I'll let you finish the answer, and then I may have other questions. 10 I thought you said an option affects the sale Oh. 11 price. I don't know what that means. 12 MR. GANJE: No further questions. 1.3 MS. CREMER: Thank you. 14 Staff. 15 MS. EDWARDS: Briefly. 16 In response to Commissioner questions about 17 Brookings County, I have an impeachment exhibit. Could I 18 approach the witness. 19 MS. CREMER: Certainly. MS. EDWARDS: I'm not going to label this 20 21 exhibit because I do not intend to offer it. I e-mailed 22 Applicants a copy. I gave Mr. Ganje a copy because I 23 know he doesn't have his computer in front of him. 24 believe somebody's bringing up more copies. I have some for the commissioners. 25

1 (The document is distributed.)

2 <u>RECROSS-EXAMINATION</u>

- 3 BY MS. EDWARDS:
- 4 Q. Mr. Baker, can you please turn to the page on -- I
- 5 | believe I have tabbed it for you so it would be the first
- 6 page. Exhibit 1 is a rural residential transaction
- 7 summary table.
- 8 A. Yep.
- 9 Q. Are you familiar at all with this document? I
- 10 | should ask.
- 11 A. Nope. This is the first time I've seen it.
- 12 Q. Okay. Do you have any reason to disagree with these
- 13 findings?
- 14 A. I haven't read it.
- 15 Q. Okay. Maybe I should ask you to look at them.
- Can you flip to the second tab? The page is titled
- 17 "Sales Analysis BK."
- 18 A. Okay. Yes.
- 19 Q. And in what county, at the top of the page, does it
- 20 | say that sale occurred?
- 21 A. Brookings.
- 22 Q. Okay. And if you flip back to the first page that I
- 23 directed your attention to, is that on that chart, BK-1?
- Take a second to look at it, if you need.
- 25 A. These pages aren't numbered, which is kind of hard.

- 1 Q. I'm sorry.
- 2 A. So I don't know what page you're -- this is the
- 3 | first page I have that has a marking on it.
- 4 Q. Oh, forgive me. If you go --
- 5 MS. CREMER: Maybe if you just stood beside him
- 6 and asked the question and point it to him.
- 7 Q. I apologize. It's been several months since I
- 8 looked at this either. Yep. That's the page I'm
- 9 speaking about.
- 10 Do you see BK-1 on there?
- 11 A. Yes. Sorry. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you recall what county that was in?
- 13 A. Brookings.
- 14 Q. And a few pages back do you see BK-2?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And what county is that in?
- 17 A. Brookings.
- MS. EDWARDS: All right. I'm not going to go
- 19 any further down that road. But thank you very much.
- I have no further questions.
- MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- Commission, did that -- anyone have any further
- 23 questions? No.
- 24 Crowned Ridge, do you have any final redirect?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: No, thank you.

1 MS. CREMER: Thank you. 2 You may step down. Thank you. 3 (The witness is excused.) 4 Please call your next witness. MS. CREMER: 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: The Applicant calls Sarah 6 Sappington. 7 (The oath is administered by the court reporter.) 8 MR. GANJE: Madam Examiner, may I lodge an 9 objection at this time? 10 MS. CREMER: To what? 11 MR. GANJE: Well, I'm going to object to the 12 testimony presented by this witness on several grounds. 13 This witness is -- by way of offer of proof, this witness 14 will be testifying to matters involving conclusions and 15 opinions that were created by another party that is an 16 employee of the Applicant and that is hearsay, if there 17 is another party that created conclusions and opinions. 18 And I will cite the pages by way of offer of proof. Ms. Wells is an employee, I believe, of the 19 20 Applicant, if I'm not mistaken. And Ms. Wells provided 21 the preliminary testimony. And this witness is the 22 substitute witness for Ms. Wells. 23 Well, the problem is, on page 6 of Ms. Wells's 24 testimony, which this witness would be testifying to, 25 there is an opinion with regard to impact or anticipated

results. On page 6, line 10, there is an opinion regarding any possible or nonadverse impact. On page 7, there is an opinion or a conclusion with regard to no impact regarding the project.

2.1

On page 9, there is a statement by Ms. Wells that there are no impacts expected. On page 9, there is another statement about the proposed activity that will be undertaken by the Applicant in order to secure the property from any damage or destruction; in other words, a representation.

On page 10, there is another opinion or conclusion with regard to impacts that will be either avoided or not -- do not exist.

I could go on, but that's the point of my offer of proof.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Mr. Ganje, excuse me, as you're going through those, if you could touch on not just the page but the line as well.

MR. GANJE: I will do that. And I will stop my examples there and I will start over for the benefit of the Commission. And again, I apologize for rushing through.

What we have here is --

MS. CREMER: And I'm going to interrupt you at this point.

Crowned Ridge, do you have a response? I think we know where he's going.

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MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I do. Thank you.

Ms. Sappington's testimony will demonstrate that she is clearly qualified and participated in the work that led to these conclusions and able to make those conclusions on her own.

MS. CREMER: And, Mr. Ganje, I can let you go further, but I will say that we frequently allow expert witnesses to adopt the testimony of others.

Now you can ask her questions throughout, you know, what she based her opinion on and flush that out, but at this point I'm going to allow her to testify.

MR. GANJE: With all due respect, Madam

Examiner, then I would ask that this matter be appealed to the decision of the Commission. And I am glad to provide further clarification of the points where we have what is called a double hearsay and a denial of due process.

Because this witness is coming in here when the Applicant could bring the other party here. The other party is an employee. The other party is the principal party that came to various conclusions about impact and other consequential things affecting the Application. I don't get an opportunity to examine that other party, the

author of significant events or significant opinions.

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expert testifying based on a study done by the University of Chicago professor or so forth. This is a witness who is going to be testifying as a substitute for somebody that did a substantial amount of alleged work in support of this Application and who we should have a right to cross-examine under the concepts of due process and under the concepts of hearsay, if not double hearsay.

That's the basis of my concern. And in that regard, I respectfully appeal the examiner's decision and ask that the Commission would rule on my objection to this witness.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Overruled.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Just one minute.

We heard testimony from Mr. Hessler, and I was trying to remember from all the things that I've read in this docket -- I know that he testified on noise, but I don't know that he testified on shadow flicker at all. I don't think he did.

MR. MIKAL HANSON: No. No.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: It was all noise.

MR. MIKAL HANSON: No, he did not.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you.

Do you plan to testify -- I didn't see it in

1 yours -- noise. I see shadow flicker and such. She's
2 not here to testify on noise?

1.3

MR. SCHUMACHER: She is not, Commissioner. She is here to testify on environmental impact.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: I was just considering that from the standpoint of Mr. Hessler having said he was traveling today and not available and I wanted to make certain that Intervenors weren't undercut from that standpoint.

I'm going to overrule only on the basis that there is the opportunity, if there is a specific item that comes up as testimony as presented as we go through the process and there's a question you wish to ask, you have that opportunity at that time.

I need to know, are you able to have Wells participate?

MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you for asking,
Mr. Chairman. This was a reason why we sought an
additional hearing day, so that we could have Ms. Wells
here to testify.

We did not receive any support from Mr. Ganje in attempting to find another time to bring Ms. Wells in to testify. The very tight schedule of the Commission precluded setting an additional day for her to be here.

We did have numerous conversations with Staff

trying to find a workaround for that and were unable to 2 do so, and her colleague, Ms. Sappington is here. 3 think you will find from her testimony fully qualified to adopt and testify on the matters that Ms. Wells would 4 have spoken to. 6 MR. GANJE: Mr. Commissioner, with one short 7 note, I want the record to reflect that my honorable 8 opponent, counsel for the Applicants, never approached me to discuss reconsideration or re-dating of Ms. Wells. 10 I've never been a part of any such conversation. And I 11 would be accommodating to such a matter. That has been 12 my practice style for too many years. 1.3 So that is an incorrect statement. I was not 14 approached. Perhaps the Staff was, but not David Ganje. 15 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Mr. Hanson? Ms. Edwards? MR. MIKAL HANSON: Yeah. I wasn't here at that 16 17 time. 18 MS. EDWARDS: I don't believe we got Notice of 19 Appearance from Mr. Ganje at that time either. It was 20 done very early in the process so I assume he hadn't been 21 engaged yet and wasn't a part of that conversation. 22 CHAIRMAN HANSON: I'm at a loss to overrule. 23 want to hear the testimony. Without the testimony, it's 24 extremely material to what we're doing here. At the same

time -- well, I'm going to allow her to have a recess

25

1 with the attorneys. If you wish to say something, go 2 ahead. 3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Well, yeah. And hopefully, this will be helpful, and maybe it won't be. 4 5 But my reasoning is this: It is not impossible for two 6 people to have the same opinions. And what I am 7 understanding is that she has come here and she is 8 saying, I have the same opinion as Ms. Wells and I am willing to defend that. And if that is what she is 10 coming here for, and she's going to swear under oath that 11 that's what she's doing, I find that to be acceptable. 12 Now you can then ask the questions as to, okay, 13 how did you get to that opinion? That's certainly open 14 on the table. But for her to come here and say, I have 15 the same opinion, I'm fine with that. And hence, that's 16 why I move to overrule. 17 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Excuse me. Before you step 18 out -- Staff, would you tell Commissioner Fiegen? 19 I just have one question I wanted you to be able 20 to hear it. 21 Did you conduct investigations on the 22 information that you're presenting here? 23 MS. SAPPINGTON: Yes. 2.4 CHAIRMAN HANSON: And you -- with that amount of 25 investigation that you personally did, you arrived at

these conclusions? 1 2 MS. SAPPINGTON: Yes. CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. 3 Thank you. MR. SCHUMACHER: If I may interject something, I 4 would be very happy to conduct an offer of proof for this 5 6 witness to testify and identify the fact that she worked 7 hand in hand with Ms. Wells every step of the way in 8 preparing Ms. Wells's testimony and, in fact, did the underlying work to which Kimberly Wells would have 10 testified. 11 CHAIRMAN HANSON: We'll have you do that after 12 they return. Thank you. 1.3 (A short recess is taken.) 14 MS. CREMER: I'm going to call this back into 15 session. I think we're all good to go. 16 Commissioner Fiegen. 17 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: I really did mean a 18 I just needed a quick question of the advisors. minute. 19 So is it my understanding Ms. Wells could not be 20 here physically or on the phone this week and that's why 2.1 you asked earlier if she could come in another week or 22 two, but because of the time limit, the Commission didn't 23 allow this, so this is your witness that's going to adopt 24 her testimony, which we have done before? I just wanted 25 to clarify that was my knowledge.

1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes. That is correct. And, in 2 fact, previously adopted her testimony on April 10. 3 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. MR. SCHUMACHER: And it's on the docket. 4 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: That's all I needed to 5 6 know. Thank you. 7 I was just asking my advisors first before I 8 asked that publicly. 9 MS. CREMER: And so then it went to the 10 Commissioners. And my understanding is you're all fine 11 with her testifying --12 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: We're fine with your 13 ruling. 14 MS. CREMER: -- and you can give it the weight 15 it deserves? 16 CHATRMAN HANSON: That's correct. 17 MS. CREMER: Thank you. 18 You may proceed, Crowned Ridge. MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. 19 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION 21 BY MR. SCHUMACHER: 22 Please state your name, business title, and company 23 for the record. 24 My name is Sarah Sappington. I work with SWCA 25 Environmental Consultants out of Bismarck, North Dakota.

- 1 I'm the director of the Bismarck, North Dakota SWCA
- 2 office.
- 3 | Q. And what is your role with respect to the Crowned
- 4 Ridge Wind Project?
- 5 A. SWCA conducted the environmental studies and
- 6 permitting for the project.
- 7 MR. GANJE: If I may excuse my honorable
- 8 | counsel, Madam Examiner, may I have a standing objection
- 9 based on the grounds that I previously indicated in my
- 10 prior comments?
- MS. CREMER: Yes, you may.
- MR. GANJE: Thank you.
- 13 Q. (BY MR. SCHUMACHER) Please provide an overview of
- 14 your education and experience.
- 15 A. Yes. I received my master's and my bachelor's
- degrees from Brigham Young University in 2003 and 2001 in
- 17 | anthropology with an emphasis in archeology. I have been
- 18 permitted as a Registered Professional Archeologist in
- 19 the United States and have worked in the Midwest and West
- 20 for 16 years for SWCA. I currently conduct environmental
- 21 | permitting, regulatory compliance, archaeological
- 22 | investigations, and also cultural and natural resources
- 23 management.
- Q. And in your professional capacity, have you had the
- 25 opportunity to work with Kimberly Wells?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Please describe your working relationship with
- 3 Kimberly Wells.
- 4 A. Yes. I report directly to Kimberly Wells as part of
- 5 | the Crowned Ridge Project. We have gone back and forth
- 6 and worked hand in hand on the environmental permitting
- 7 and studies for the Crowned Ridge Wind Project.
- 8 Q. And with regard to the -- let me ask it this way:
- 9 Are you aware that Kimberly Wells's Prefiled Direct
- 10 Testimony and exhibits on January 28, 2019, that's marked
- 11 as Exhibit A3?
- 12 A. Am I aware of them? Yes.
- 13 Q. And did you have any role in working with Kimberly
- 14 | Wells in preparation of that testimony?
- 15 A. Yes. We helped prepare her testimony.
- 16 | Q. Did you also adopt the testimony of Kim Wells on
- 17 April 10, 2019, which testimony has been prefiled and
- 18 | marked as Exhibit A25?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to this
- 21 testimony?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Did you also file Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony on
- 24 May 24, 2019, that is marked as Exhibit A42, accompanied
- 25 by an exhibit marked as A42-1?

- l A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And do you have any changes or corrections to that
- 3 Rebuttal Testimony?
- 4 A. There's one minor change, and that was in response
- 5 | to Paige Olson, the State Historic Preservation Office.
- 6 When reports would go in to her, we said end of June.
- 7 I'd like to say it would be end of June, beginning of
- 8 July.
- 9 Q. Please provide a summary of the prefiled testimony
- 10 | that you have adopted or filed.
- 11 A. Yes. Crowned Ridge Wind has conducted desktop
- 12 analyses and site specific field studies for sensitive
- 13 | cultural and natural resources for the project. During
- 14 this time we have worked with numerous state agencies,
- 15 | including the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the
- 16 | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, the State Historic
- 17 Preservation Office, and also local and county
- 18 authorities as needed.
- 19 During this process, we've also made sure to look
- 20 | through and adhere to regulations and guidelines such as
- 21 | the United States Fish & Wildlife Land-Based Wind Energy
- 22 | Guidelines and the United States Fish & Wildlife Eagle
- 23 | Conservation Plan Guidance, as well as state cultural
- 24 resources laws and other water resources laws such as the
- 25 Clean Water Act.

Field studies and desktop studies again have commenced on this project since the beginning of 2007. Numerous field studies have been completed for the project, including avian point count studies and avian use studies, raptor nest and eagle surveys, Dakota skipper and Poweshiek skipperling habitat assessment, habitat field surveys, and also adult occupancy surveys, grouse lek surveys, whooping crane habitat assessment, bat habitat assessment, as well as bat acoustic monitoring, wetland and stream surveys, and also cultural resource surveys in the form of a Level I Records Search and a Level III Intensive Survey for cultural resources, as well as coordination with local tribes for traditional cultural properties studies.

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During this time Crowned Ridge has -- okay. Sorry.

During this time Crowned Ridge has continued to work with state agencies to make sure that guidelines and recommendations they are giving to avoid and minimize and mitigate any impacts to the project as detailed in the Application.

Some of those avoidance and minimization and mitigation measures include not siting any infrastructure on United States Fish & Wildlife easements for grasslands or combination grassland/wetland easements, not siting within protected basins with the United States Fish &

- 1 | Wildlife's wetland easements, avoiding cultural
- 2 resources, making sure to avoid impacts and minimize any
- 3 | impacts to wetlands, siting all turbines away at least
- 4 | 1.5 miles from eagle nests, and also making sure that
- 5 | there are best management practices put into place to
- 6 avoid any other impacts to species or resources.
- 7 Q. Did you personally participate in or conduct the
- 8 | studies, surveys, and assessments that you described for
- 9 us?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And at this point is your work complete on this
- 12 | project?
- 13 A. We have completed the environmental surveys as
- 14 detailed in the Application. Right now we are in process
- of a few minor refinements. These are for areas such as
- 16 | collection lines where the landowner has asked for a few
- 17 minor adjustments. This is part of the normal process as
- 18 | we get closer to construction compliance era.
- 19 So we want to make sure that, again, all the
- 20 commitments in the applications such as avoiding wetlands
- 21 | and avoiding cultural resources are taken into account.
- 22 | So there are just minor refinements that are being made
- 23 right now.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- I have no further questions for this witness.

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1
     At this time I would offer Exhibit A25, which is her
2
     prefiled -- or excuse me -- her adoption of Kim Wells's
 3
     testimony. And, in addition, Exhibit A42, which is her
     Rebuttal Testimony, and Exhibit A42-1.
 4
 5
              MS. CREMER: Did you say A42 and A42-1?
              MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes. That's correct.
 6
7
              MS. CREMER: Thank you.
8
              Is there any objection by Staff?
              MR. MIKAL HANSON:
                                No.
10
              MS. CREMER: And I'm -- I'm getting there.
11
              MR. GANJE: Sorry.
12
              MS. CREMER: Intervenor.
1.3
              MR. GANJE: Thank you.
14
              I would object on the grounds of lack of
15
     foundation and on hearsay and double hearsay and on a
16
     denial of due process in this instance.
17
              Thank you.
18
              MS. CREMER: Thank you. And I would overrule
19
     that objection. And I'm sorry. And the Exhibits A25,
20
     A42, and A42-1 are admitted.
21
              Cross-examination by Intervenor.
22
              MR. GANJE: Thank you.
23
                         CROSS-EXAMINATION
    BY MR. GANJE:
24
25
         Ms. Sappington, am I pronouncing your name
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- 1 correctly?
- 2 A. Yes. It's Sappington.
- 3 Q. Thank you. I have an eternal problem with mine so I
- 4 try to respect others.
- With regard to an avian study completed on behalf of
- 6 | Crowned Ridge, was there an avian study completed on
- 7 | behalf of Crowned Ridge for the area of the project
- 8 | formerly known as the Cattle Ridge Project?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Would you be kind enough to show me in the exhibits
- or in your reports the documents that shows that that
- 12 | area was covered under the avian study?
- 13 A. In the testimony in the Application?
- 14 Q. Yes.
- 15 A. The testimony -- my main testimony, page 3,
- 16 | indicates the avian point count surveys were completed
- 17 | from April to November 2017 and raptor nest aerial
- 18 | surveys were completed from April and May 2017 and into
- 19 | the spring of 2018.
- 20 Q. I would refer you to Exhibit A1-E, if you or your
- 21 | counsel would be kind enough to put that in front of you.
- 22 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Could we repeat that?
- 23 MR. GANJE: I'm talking about Exhibit A1-E.
- MS. CREMER: D as in dog?
- MR. GANJE: E as in Edward. And then page 2.

1 May I approach the witness to conform maps? 2 MS. CREMER: Certainly. 3 (Counsel approaches the witness.) Where would you like to go? 4 5 Page 2. Q. 6 MR. GANJE: It might be easier, Madam Examiner, 7 if I asked a few questions standing up to make it go a 8 bit faster. MS. CREMER: If you could pull a mic. -- so 10 you're not trying to share a mic., either pull that mic. 11 behind Cheri or maybe there's one over by Mr. Murphy. (Discussion off the record.) 12 13 (BY MR. GANJE) Now you're on page 2? Q. 14 Correct. Α. 15 Thank you very much. And is that a map of the 16 project area that you used in the course of preparing 17 this report? 18 Yes. Α. 19 Very good. Now I notice on the legend in the bottom 20 left-hand corner of that exhibit certain identified 21 symbols. 22 MR. GANJE: Does the Commission have the subject 23 exhibit in front of them?

There is a dotted line and a rectangular box in the

24

25

Q.

Thank you.

- 1 | legend which describes itself as study area; is that
- 2 correct?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 | Q. And are those the areas in which you did the avian
- 5 | matter, the avian survey on this project?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. I ask you now to look at the northeastern
- 8 portion of the subject proposed project. And the
- 9 boundary parameters are found in an orangish-brown color.
- 10 MR. GANJE: Again, I apologize to the
- 11 Commission. One of my other failings is I'm partially
- 12 | color-blind, but I believe the color is an orangish-brown
- 13 which shows the exterior boundary of the project area.
- 14 Q. Do you see that?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Now my question then to you is, knowing that the --
- 17 | the striped line in black does not include the
- 18 | northeastern portion of the subject project area, does
- 19 it?
- 20 A. The dashed line does not include that northern
- 21 portion. Is that what you asked?
- 22 Q. That is what I asked.
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. So then no avian study report was done for that
- 25 | portion of the project, was it?

- 1 A. No Avian Use Survey. However, the raptor nest
- 2 | surveys did include this area. And the raptor nest
- 3 | surveys do include nests for raptors and eagles and
- 4 golden eagles.
- 5 Q. Thank you.
- 6 Was the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks asked to
- 7 review and provide feedback concerning ecologically
- 8 sensitive areas within the project area as a part of your
- 9 study?
- 10 A. South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks was engaged from the
- 11 beginning of this project and earlier iterations starting
- 12 in 2007 up to the present time. And I believe all of
- 13 | those correspondences are in the Application. And I
- 14 forget which appendix.
- 15 Q. Thank you.
- I will ask you again to refer to that large binder
- 17 | that you previously spoke about.
- I would ask you please to refer to A1-B page 80.
- 19 A. Page 8-0?
- 20 0. 8-0. That is correct.
- 21 A. Let me just get my bearings so I can look at this
- 22 real quick.
- 23 (Witness examines document.)
- 24 A. Okay.
- 25 Q. Is that a map that you used to do your study as a

- $oxedsymbol{\mathsf{I}}$  part of your communications with the South Dakota Game,
- 2 Fish & Parks division?
- 3 A. Yes. This letter and map is dated July 12, 2017, to
- 4 | the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks.
- 5 | Q. And is the -- referring now to page 80 of the
- 6 exhibit, please. Is page 80 the colored area, the area
- 7 of interest that was studied by your company?
- 8 A. This was studied as of July 2017.
- 9 Q. Yes. And does that study area include the
- 10 | northeastern portion of the proposed project that I
- 11 referred to you in a previous question and showed you on
- 12 a previous map?
- 13 A. Are you referring to that northeast portion?
- 14 O. That is correct.
- 15 A. No. This map does not have it. I would like to
- 16 point out this communication was in July 2017. The
- 17 | northeastern portion on this Cattle Ridge was not added
- 18 to the project until after November 2017.
- 19 Q. Did you provide a supplemental map with the
- 20 different areas of the project after this one as a part
- 21 | of your report or studies?
- 22 A. In further communications, including e-mail
- 23 | correspondence and also sending of shapefiles to the
- 24 | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, it does have the full
- 25 | project boundary. And we also requested that again, as I

- 1 | stated, for the raptor nest surveys so that we could have
- 2 | that full project area.
- 3 Q. Your answer confuses me a little bit. Is your
- 4 | answer that, no, that northeastern portion of the
- 5 | proposed project was not ever studied as a part of the
- 6 | report that your company did for the Applicant?
- 7 A. No. That is not what I'm saying.
- 8 Q. What is your -- go ahead. Go ahead.
- 9 A. We did study the full extent of the project area as
- 10 detailed in the Application. If you'll look through the
- 11 Application, the full project area is studied. And,
- 12 | again, as I said, there were communications with
- 13 | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks and also the
- 14 United States Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the full
- 15 extent of the project area.
- 16 Q. Did you ever revise a map to reflect that?
- 17 A. I would have to look through the rest of the
- 18 | communications to see if there is a map in here that
- 19 | shows that area. But, again, shapefiles were sent for
- 20 the full extent of the project area to the South Dakota
- 21 Game, Fish & Parks.
- 22 Q. Do you have a statement from them indicating that
- 23 | the additional area called the former Cattle Ridge wind
- 24 | farm project was included in the final studies that were
- 25 | done by your company for the Applicant?

- 1 A. I would have to look through all the correspondence
- 2 to see if that is referenced. But, again, I know that
- 3 | there are e-mails and there are numerous phone calls
- 4 referencing these areas for the full extent of the
- 5 | project.
- 6 Q. Would you be kind enough to point out for the record
- 7 | those e-mails and correspondence from the document you
- 8 have in front of you?
- 9 A. If you'll let me take a couple of minutes, of
- 10 course.
- 11 (Witness examines document.)
- 12 A. Okay.
- MR. GANJE: Would the court reporter kindly read
- 14 | back the last substantive question?
- 15 (Reporter reads back the last question.)
- 16 A. Yes. So if we go to Appendix E, which is Exhibit
- 17 A1-B, page 90, there's a communication e-mail from Kely
- 18 Mertz to Casey Heimerl. In it, it indicates that there
- 19 was an updated request for the current area of the
- 20 attached with shapefiles attached. That is page 90.
- 21 And also again, communications from Casey Heimerl to
- 22 Ms. Kely Mertz with the updated shapefile of those raptor
- 23 records for the entire project area. This was in April
- 24 of 2018.
- 25 Q. Thank you.

- Do those documents describe the area to include the former Cattle Ridge area in the northeast portion of the proposed project?
- A. The e-mail says the attached shapefiles depict the corridor of the project, and that is the current project

as of April 2018, which included the Cattle Ridge area.

- 7 Q. And are there maps that accompany that, that support
- 8 that position?

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- 9 A. There are not maps in here. Again, we provided a
  10 GIS shapefile to the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks that
  11 has that project area.
- 12 Q. Has a -- strike that.
- Has the wildlife conservation strategy been completed for this particular project?
- 15 A. The wildlife conservation strategy is in process.
- 16 It will be filed with the Commission 30 days prior to the start of construction.
- 18 Q. Wasn't it a process in March of this year?
- A. The wildlife conservation strategy takes into account impacts --
- Q. No. I'm not asking you for a definition. I'm asking you for a response to my question, please.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Excuse me. He should let the witness answer the question.
- MS. CREMER: She's going to end up answering it

- at some point anyway so just --1 2 You can finish your answer. 3 THE WITNESS: Thank you. The wildlife conservation strategy takes into 4 5 account those commitments and items that are actually in 6 the Application as of right now. All that information 7 for birds and bats and for other species is put into that 8 wildlife conservation strategy. As I previously stated, that has been in process, it is in process, and it will 10 be filed with the Commission 30 days prior to 11 construction. 12 You haven't completed it yet? 1.3 As I said, it is in process. It includes all the 14 information that is in the Application. 15 In March of this year, the response of the missing 16 Ms. Wells -- or Ms. Wells, my apologies, indicated that 17 the Applicant is currently completing the wildlife 18 conservation strategy. We're now in June, and you're 19 telling us it's not done. 20 Can you point to me where you're looking at, please? 21 I don't know if your counsel has this, but this 22 would be A16, page 9. Do you have that? I'm sorry. You
  - (Witness examines document.)
- 25 A. I'm on Exhibit A16, page 9.

may not have it in front of you.

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Q. Okay.

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I am referring to the response of Kim Wells who indicated that -- at question 220, the Applicant currently is completing the wildlife conservation survey.

So my question to you is it's still not done?

- A. Looking at this response, it says Applicant is currently completing the wildlife conservation strategy.
- And as I discussed, it is still in process and it will be filed with the Commission 30 days prior to construction
- 10 | as required by the Commission.
- Q. Has it been determined if any permits were -- from the Army Corps of Engineers is required to comply with
- 13 the Clean Water Act in this project?
- 14 A. The project will fall under the Nationwide Permit
- 15 12. Any impacts to wetlands or water bodies would follow
- 16 under that Nationwide Permit 12. If there needs to be
- any kind of permit, Crowned Ridge would submit for that
- 18 permit. But as of right now, as detailed in the
- 19 Application, everything would fall under that Nationwide
- 20 Permit 12.
- 21 Q. Thank you.
- 22 Has the Applicant applied for that, to your
- 23 knowledge?
- 24 A. Nationwide Permit 12, again, stipulates that this is
- 25 done for all kinds of projects. It falls under the Clean

- 1 | Water Act, and it is approved and authorized --
- 2 | Q. That wasn't my question, ma'am.
- MR. GANJE: I apologize for interrupting, but would the court reporter please read my question back.
- 5 (Reporter reads back the last question.)
- 6 Q. I didn't ask for a definition or an explanation of
- 7 | the permit, but I rather asked whether you knew if the
- 8 Applicant had applied for it.
- 9 A. And what I'd like to do is be able to explain what
- 10 | the nationwide permit is.
- 11 Q. No. You have to answer my question. I'm sorry.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. She is answering
- 13 the question.
- MS. CREMER: Why don't you just go ahead and
- 15 answer his question, and your counsel will either follow
- 16 | up or --
- 17 A. The nationwide permit does not need to be applied
- 18 | for because the nationwide permit is granted nationwide
- 19 | for specific cases, including wind farm energy
- 20 development.
- 21 Q. I still don't have an answer.
- 22 A. There is no applying for this permit because it is a
- 23 | nationwide permit.
- Q. I notice you mentioned, ma'am, in your testimony
- 25 | some correspondence from a party called Kely Mertz and

perhaps others.

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Is there correspondence in this Application or e-mails in this Application from you or to you?

A. I'm sorry. What was the question again?

MR. GANJE: I'll ask the court reporter to repeat it, please.

(Reporter reads back the last question.)

A. If we look at my testimony, Rebuttal Testimony, my name is on those correspondence. I don't believe there are any e-mails filed by me with my name on them.

Kely Mertz is a colleague that works at SWCA. I've worked directly with her on this project.

- Q. And who did she work directly with?
- 14 A. Kely Mertz works directly with me on this project.
  - Q. I'm having trouble seeing how, you know, fluent you are in this testimony because I could not see, in the
- exhibits, where you were part of an e-mail chain or that
  you issued an e-mail or that you issued correspondence or
- 19 received correspondence.
- Is there such information in this Application?
- 21 A. Again, my name is on the testimony, the Rebuttal
- 22 Testimony. I don't believe my name is on any e-mails,
- 23 | but I have worked directly with those at SWCA. We are a
- 24 team. Kely Mertz is the project manager for this
- 25 | project, and I have worked directly with her as well as

- 1 Kimberly Wells and others on this project.
- 2 Q. And you worked with them you said closely, I
- 3 believe; correct?
- 4 A. Yes.
- Q. Where are the e-mails where they copied you? Where
- 6 | are your e-mails to them? I'm at a loss here.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. That's been asked 8 and answered.
- 9 MR. GANJE: It hasn't been -- I'll respond if 10 you will entertain a response.
- 11 MS. CREMER: I will not.
- 12 Can you answer the question he was asking, maybe
- expand on that a little to answer his question?
- 14 A. Not all of the e-mail correspondence that goes on
- 15 between Crowned Ridge and SWCA is included in this
- 16 Application. My name would be on those kinds of
- 17 communications. But I do not see my name on any e-mail
- directly, for example, on the Exhibit E, which was for --
- or Exhibit A1-E, which was correspondence with
- 20 South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, which my colleague Kely
- 21 Mertz conducted.
- MR. GANJE: I have no further questions.
- MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- 24 Staff.
- MR. MIKAL HANSON: Thank you, Ms. Cremer.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

## 2 BY MR. MIKAL HANSON:

- 3 Q. Ms. Sappington, can you briefly just outline the
- 4 efforts that Crowned Ridge has made to minimize the
- 5 | impact of the construction and operation of this wind
- 6 farm on wetlands?
- 7 A. Yes. If you'll give me a minute, I'll go into the
- 8 Application so I can go directly through that for you.
- 9 Q. I was just looking for a generalization, if that's
- 10 all right. But sure.
- 11 A. No. Sure. I can do that.
- 12 Section 10 and also Section 11 and 12 all detail
- 13 avoidance and minimization efforts to avoid wetlands. As
- 14 | stated previously, any protected basins which are located
- on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wetland easements are
- 16 being avoided by the project.
- 17 Also, there have been desktop studies and field
- 18 | studies done to identify all the wetlands and streams or
- 19 water bodies within the construction easement. Those
- 20 | field studies have been also confirmed where those are
- 21 | located so the infrastructure will not be placed on
- 22 those.
- For areas where collector lines might intersect
- 24 | wetland areas, those areas would be bored under.
- 25 Q. And in construction, you're going to try to work

1 around those areas, if possible.

- A. Yes. Additional items that would be taken into consideration would be utilizing best management practices that are detailed in the storm water pollution prevention plan, and that is made sure so that if there are soils or sediments during construction, those areas are either fenced off or protected so that wetlands are not being disturbed, wetlands and water bodies are not being disturbed, except as appropriate where they would fall under the Nationwide Permit 12 for temporary impacts.
  - Q. My same question but with wildlife. How have you minimized the effects to wildlife?
    - A. Yes. So, again, we have put a buffer, a 1.5-mile buffer, around eagles, eagle nests. Eagle nests are important to avoid. Additionally, there are best management practices done. There are numerous wildlife studies. So the avian point counts, the raptor nest surveys, the Dakota skipper and Poweshiek skipperling surveys, grouse lek surveys, whooping crane habitat assessment.

So all that desktop and field studies provides an iterative review process whereas Crowned Ridge works to refine the infrastructure and make sure they're staying outside of areas of impact for wildlife.

Additionally, during construction there will not be construction in Dakota skipper habitat during the adult occupancy survey period, which is during the summer for about a month. Both Fish & Wildlife Service and South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks have noted this is very important to stay out of that Dakota skipper habitat during the adults survey.

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Additionally, Crowned Ridge has also committed to making sure that there are avoidances to grouse leks during the lekking period. And they've put a 2-mile buffer on grouse leks during the construction period during that lekking period in the springtime.

- Q. And my same question in regard to cultural or historic sites.
- A. Yeah. So Crowned Ridge has worked very closely with the State Historic Preservation Office in first doing the desktop surveys to identify those cultural resources site locations and then also intensive field surveys for cultural resources.

They've done this hand in hand with the tribes to identify traditional cultural properties. And just so you know, I have done this for 16 years, and this is the most tribal consultation I have ever seen done on a project, which is very impressive. The amount of work it has taken to coordinate with the tribes and to avoid

- 1 impacts to cultural resources is very exhaustive and
- 2 extensive.
- 3 | Q. And I want to back up. I'm new. What's a Dakota
- 4 | skipper? What kind of animal is that?
- $5 \mid A$ . Yes. The Dakota skipper and there's also the
- 6 Poweshiek skipperling, they are tiny, little butterflies,
- 7 | and they're a little brown and orange butterfly.
- 8 Q. All right. Thank you.
- 9 If during construction the person putting up one of
- 10 | these wind towers comes upon a cultural heritage site,
- 11 | what's supposed to happen at that point?
- 12 A. Yeah. So there's a couple different things that
- 13 | will happen with cultural resources site. As we get into
- 14 | the construction compliance phase of the project,
- 15 | cultural sites would be fenced off with the tribal
- 16 | monitor to ensure no impacts to cultural resources sites.
- 17 Q. I'm seeing that with one that's known. I'm saying
- 18 | if you discover one.
- 19 A. Sure. There's also an Unanticipated Discovery Plan
- 20 that has been prepared for the project. And so in the
- 21 | event that something is encountered during the project,
- 22 | that unanticipated plan would go into effect whereby the
- 23 | State Historic Preservation Office would be contacted as
- 24 | well as Crowned Ridge folks and tribal folks as needed.
- 25 Construction people are also trained up on these

- 1 | cultural resources so in the event that they know what to
- 2 look for if something does pop up during construction.
- 3 Q. Is that going to be in some contract that Crowned
- 4 Ridge has with these -- to your knowledge?
- 5 A. A contract with who?
- 6 Q. The subcontractors, whoever's building it.
- 7 A. Crowned Ridge takes its safety and training of
- 8 construction folks very seriously and, again, they will
- 9 provide that Unanticipated Discoveries Plan to the
- 10 construction folks so they have knowledge of cultural
- 11 resources.
- 12 Q. In your submitted testimony, you state there was a
- 13 | storm water pollution prevention plan. Is that something
- 14 drawn up for this project, or it's out there? Can you
- 15 explain that?
- 16 A. So the storm water pollution prevention plan is done
- 17 for just about every single project. This plan is in
- 18 | process and will be submitted to the Commission prior to
- 19 | construction. That process, that plan, will identify all
- 20 those best management practices for construction to avoid
- 21 | impacts as said to wetlands, water bodies, making sure
- 22 there are plans for reseeding and re-vegetation and other
- 23 | construction practices.
- 24 Q. Thank you.
- I want to go to leks now. The grouse. Again, I'm

- learning. What is a lek, for myself and the general
- 2 | public here? What is that?
- 3 A. Yes. So grouse are these little -- they look like
- 4 prairie chickens. They're also called prairie chickens.
- 5 | They kind of look like chickens. They have a white
- 6 breast.
- 7 And when they lek, that is their mating season. And
- 8 | so the male actually struts around and he has little air
- 9 sacs on his chest that puff out and that's how he
- 10 impresses the female in order to mate. So that mating
- 11 | season is called the lekking season. And a lek location
- 12 | would be those areas during the lekking season, during
- 13 | that mating season, that they mate.
- 14 Q. And don't they historically use those sites year
- 15 after year?
- 16 A. You know, prairie chickens and prairie grouse are
- 17 | very interesting. Historically, they can use the same
- 18 areas and, you know, that is what Crowned Ridge has done,
- 19 is to avoid those historic known locations.
- 20 As noted in the Application, there have been Avian
- 21 | Use Surveys which have identified leks. There's also the
- 22 | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks was asked for their
- 23 historic data on grouse leks and there were grouse lek
- 24 surveys conducted.
- 25 Q. On the project site?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And they were identified; is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Did Game, Fish & Parks, in their consultation with
- 5 | you, suggest that there be a buffer zone from the wind
- 6 turbines from a known identified lek?
- 7 A. Yes. And I believe that was addressed in one of the
- 8 Data Requests, and so if you'll let me turn to that.
- 9 0. Sure.
- MS. CREMER: Let's take a break now. 3:15.
- 11 (A short recess is taken.)
- MS. CREMER: I'm going to call this back into
- 13 order after this short break.
- 14 And I believe you were going to answer a
- 15 question. Was there a question in front of you, to the
- 16 witness?
- MR. MIKAL HANSON: There is. I can repeat it.
- MS. CREMER: Why don't you, yeah, start us off.
- 19 Q. (BY MR. MIKAL HANSON) My question where we were at
- 20 when we broke was, to your knowledge, did Game, Fish &
- 21 Parks provide Crowned Ridge with a recommendation of how
- 22 | far away their turbines should be from a lek?
- 23 A. And you're talking about in preconstruction or
- 24 postconstruction?
- 25 Q. I thought a known lek and it wasn't during

- 1 | construction, it was actually during operation, was my
- 2 understanding of their recommendation.
- 3 A. And are you discussing specifically Exhibit S7?
- 4 Q. Yeah.
- 5 | A. Okay.
- 6 Q. I believe they recommended that to be a mile. Is
- 7 there a recommendation such as that?
- 8 A. Yes. So the Staff exhibit that I'm looking at says
- 9 | that Crowned Ridge during project development for leks
- 10 | that are one mile from the wind turbine. Is that what
- 11 | you're referring to?
- 12 O. Yes.
- 13 A. Okay. Just want to make sure we're on the same
- 14 page.
- 15 Q. Exactly.
- Now, to your knowledge, do you interpret that to
- 17 | mean just during construction, not during operation?
- 18 A. So what this is saying is, from my understanding,
- 19 | this is postconstruction grouse lek monitoring.
- 20 O. Okav.
- 21 A. So that would be after construction, during
- 22 operation.
- 23 Q. To your knowledge, did Crowned Ridge kind of comply
- 24 | with that or follow that recommendation?
- 25 A. So Crowned Ridge doesn't believe that

- 1 | postconstruction grouse lek monitoring is required.
- 2 | Based on the empirical data collected at the site so far,
- 3 | so starting back in 2007, 2008, as well as 2016, the data
- 4 | received from South Dakota Game, Fish & Park on this
- 5 historic lek locations as well as the Avian Use Surveys
- 6 | in 2017 and 2018 did not indicate active leks in the lek
- 7 | location -- or leks are very low for the project area.
- 8 Based on that and the fact that this project is
- 9 located in an agricultural area where impacts to
- 10 | grasslands have already been minimized to the extent
- 11 practicable, that Crowned Ridge does not believe that
- 12 postconstruction monitoring is warranted for this
- 13 project.
- 14 Q. Okay. So actually, there's going to be two issues.
- 15 Let's go with -- the first one is the recommendation that
- 16 | the turbines be a mile away from known leks. That's a
- 17 | recommendation that Crowned Ridge did not accept or
- 18 | follow; is that right?
- 19 A. That's correct. So in April 2017 -- would you like
- 20 | me to go into more detail?
- $21 \mid Q$ . Is there a recommendation that you guys made of .3
- 22 | miles? Is that the recommendation that you guys kind of
- 23 follow?
- 24 A. Yes. So the buffer that Crowned Ridge put forth and
- 25 | has used is a .3 miles from known lek locations. And,

again, based on the fact that this area is agricultural,
there are roadways and other things that intersect known
lek locations, in between the lek locations and turbines,
and also that given these constraints, as other projects
have also elected to use a reduced buffer, Crowned Ridge
did go with a 0.3-mile buffer from known lek locations
from turbines.

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whether the presence of a wind turbine makes the grouse leave a known lek area? Are there such studies?

A. So to my knowledge, there are not known studies just on grouse leks. There are studies on indirect effects for birds. You know, there are the study for Schaffer and Buhl that shows indirect effects for birds that, in some cases, birds may be displaced by wind turbines or by

Are you aware -- let me ask this. Are there studies

The same would be for indirect effects to grouse leks. It's unknown whether these are temporary impacts, whether there are permanent impacts. There's just not enough well-known data for us to determine what those impacts to grouse leks and other birds for indirect effects are.

projects. They may also be attracted to those areas.

And they may also be indifferent to those areas.

Where Crowned Ridge is committed to those direct

- 1 effects, making sure that those turbines are located a
- 2 | third of a mile away from those known lek locations and
- 3 | that, during the lekking period, which is the most
- 4 | important part of that grouse lek's life, during that
- 5 | breeding season, that Crowned Ridge has committed for
- 6 | this project to be two miles away from those known lek
- 7 | locations during the lekking period that no construction
- 8 | will take place during that time.
- 9 Q. Okay. And that's just construction, not operation?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. So would it be fair to say, because there's no
- 12 | studies, the operation of a wind turbine could cause the
- 13 grouse to leave, it could cause them no disruption, or it
- 14 | could even cause them to try to congregate around a wind
- 15 turbine; we just don't know at this time?
- 16 A. I would agree with that assessment.
- 17 Q. Okay. Now have you seen what's been marked and
- 18 identified as Staff Exhibit 7?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. And correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm going to
- 21 | summarize it. This is a recommendation by Staff that has
- 22 | consulted with Game, Fish & Parks, that would be a
- 23 | condition that Crowned Ridge do some studies after
- 24 | completion of the project, is it not?
- 25 A. Correct.

- 1 Q. And the condition would request that Crowned Ridge
- 2 do, for two years, a study to find out whether the wind
- 3 | turbines have some type of effect on the grouse leks;
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. This is a postconstruction grouse lek monitoring.
- 6 | So it is to see, as I would understand it, you know, are
- 7 | those leks in those same locations during
- 8 postconstruction.
- 9 Q. It wouldn't prevent Crowned Ridge from building the
- 10 project. It's not a preventative condition. It would
- 11 just ask them to monitor them after the construction.
- 12 A. Correct. And, as stated, you know, based on the
- empirical evidence that we've collected on this project,
- 14 lek activity at the site, specifically in the 2017 and
- 15 | 2018 surveys that were conducted, there were no active
- 16 leks during that period. So Crowned Ridge believes that
- 17 this postconstruction monitoring is not warranted at this
- 18 time.
- 19 Q. But they do note some known leks on their map, do
- 20 they not?
- 21 A. Yep. Those are lek locations provided by
- 22 | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks as known historic
- 23 locations of leks.
- Q. And this doesn't require you to go find anymore,
- 25 research to see if there are more; right?

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. Wouldn't such a survey answer the question that
- 3 | we've just been talking about: Do wind turbines affect
- 4 grouse and their mating?
- 5 A. Not necessarily. I mean, I think it would depend on
- 6 what the study was set up to do. You know,
- 7 | postconstruction monitoring in this case is not quite
- 8 defined. It just says postconstruction grouse lek
- 9 monitoring. So that would be seeing, are they in their
- 10 lek locations, from what I understand it.
- 11 Q. There's a limited number of leks that have been
- 12 | identified on the map, are there not?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. And mating seasons of grouse is well-known, and it's
- 15 | not very long?
- 16 A. It is during the springtime for several months, I
- 17 believe.
- 18 | O. Months or weeks?
- 19 A. Months. I believe the lekking period is from March
- 20 until June. So that would be three months. Into June.
- 21 | Possibly four, depending on exactly how long.
- 22 Q. If it was refined to say to a more limited time
- 23 | frame, this wouldn't be that expensive to do, would it?
- 24 A. You know, I work for SWCA Environmental Consultants
- 25 | so I can't make that kind of commitment for Crowned

- Ridge.
- 2 Q. I understand. But doesn't your company do this type
- 3 of thing, these type of wildlife studies?
- 4 A. Yes, we do wildlife studies. We've done
- 5 | postconstruction monitoring, especially for fatalities
- 6 and mortality rates with birds.
- 7 Q. In fact, there's going to be some on this project
- 8 | with the bats and birds?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. My question is, based on your training and
- 11 experience, this wouldn't be that expensive to do, would
- 12 it?
- 13 A. You know, I can't comment on exactly how expensive
- 14 | it would be on this specific case.
- 15 Q. All right. That's fair.
- There's probably going to be one season during
- 17 | construction and, as I understand, Crowned Ridge has
- 18 agreed that, during that season, that they will not be
- 19 | constructing within two miles of a known lek?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 | Q. And I don't -- I don't want to go too far, but
- 22 | there's still a wildlife conservation strategy? Is that
- 23 | what I understood was still going to be completed?
- 24 A. Yes. The wildlife conservation strategy is still in
- 25 process. Again, it will be submitted to the Commission

- l prior to construction.
- 2 Q. And that is a condition or is that -- that just
- 3 | standard practice, or can you explain that?
- 4 A. That's standard practice.
- 5 MR. MIKAL HANSON: Can I take just a second?
- MS. CREMER: Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. This area is an area called -- often called the
- 8 Coteau area, kind of up on a ridge; is that correct?
- 9 A. Yeah. That's just one of the areas that's
- 10 | identified, the Prairie Coteau is one of the areas the
- 11 | project is in.
- 12 Q. For eastern South Dakota prairie chickens and
- 13 grouse, is that Coteau area really the only left
- 14 remaining habitat for grouse and prairie chickens as far
- as you're aware of as a wildlife expert?
- 16 A. No. Prairie chickens are across the entire state.
- 17 | O. If I limit eastern South Dakota.
- 18 A. I believe, no. I believe that they're all over
- 19 | South Dakota. And all over eastern South Dakota.
- 20 MR. MIKAL HANSON: We have no further questions.
- MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- 22 Commissioner Nelson.
- COMMISSIONER NELSON: Is it your opinion that
- 24 locating a wind turbine less than one and a half miles
- 25 | from an eagle nest stands the chance of harming the

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eagles?
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              THE WITNESS: Crowned Ridge believes that a
 3
     one-and-a-half-mile buffer around those known eagle nests
 4
     is sufficient.
 5
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay.
                                           I quess I'll ask it
 6
     again. What is your opinion as an expert?
7
              THE WITNESS: I believe that that is a
8
     sufficient distance.
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: And anything less than
10
     that would be harmful?
11
              THE WITNESS: Not necessarily. I think it
12
     depends on what the regulations are. But, again, Crowned
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     Ridge uses those Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines to
14
     site things and also looks at the Eagle Conservation Plan
15
     Guidance, and I believe that 1.5 miles is a sufficient
16
     distance.
17
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
                                    Thank you.
18
              MS. CREMER: Commissioner Fiegen.
19
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    Thank you.
20
              You actually started to visit about it, and that
2.1
     was my question, was the tribal meetings that you had.
22
              Were you at those meetings?
23
              THE WITNESS: I was not personally at those
24
    meetings.
25
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    Who was at those meetings?
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1
              THE WITNESS: So we have folks from SWCA that
2
     were at those meetings.
 3
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So that's your
 4
     organization --
 5
              THE WITNESS:
                            That is my company.
 6
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: -- organization out of
7
    Bismarck?
8
              THE WITNESS:
                           Yep.
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    Anyone else?
10
              THE WITNESS: Yes. And representatives from
11
     Crowned Ridge.
12
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    Okay. And so in the
13
     testimony that you adopted, it appears that there were
14
     three tribes that you worked with; is that correct?
15
              THE WITNESS: So let me just double-check.
16
     Yeah.
17
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So it's on -- let me see.
18
     I don't have page numbers so I'm really struggling with
19
     your testimony because it's hard for me to figure out. I
20
     might not have printed properly or something.
21
              So it's January 28. Oh, it's Kimberly's Direct
22
     Testimony I'm looking at. And, yeah, you adopted it, I
23
     quess.
2.4
              THE WITNESS:
                            Yes.
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Do you know where that's
25
```

at? 1 2 THE WITNESS: Yes. COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay, perfect. Were there 3 4 three tribes? 5 THE WITNESS: Tribal members for the 6 Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Yankton Sioux, Spirit Lake 7 Nation were selected to represent the tribes. So there were also Rosebud Sioux and several other tribal 8 preservation officers that were involved as well. But 10 those were the three tribes that were selected to 11 represent the group of tribes for this project. 12 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: And I certainly appreciate 13 it, just like you stated, that you saw more intensive 14 work group that worked on this. And they found -- does 15 it say that they found 960 Native American sites? 16 this in this area or in a -- go ahead. 17 THE WITNESS: This is for the Crowned Ridge 18 Project. 19 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: It is. Wow. 20 THE WITNESS: And those were traditional 21 cultural property sites identified by the tribal members. 22 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: All right. Thank you. I'm going to ask someone else, and I just can't 23 24 find it right now, because they indicated that there was 25 only one tribe that they worked with. But I'll ask that

another day, whenever I find that testimony back. So I certainly appreciate that.

I'm going to go back to the lek just a few minutes and I'll probably go back and listen to the testimony so I can hear Mr. Hanson's questions and your responses.

He said something about you did not accept the mile buffer zone from a known lek. Was that proposed by -- which group? The mile buffer.

THE WITNESS: So in April 2017, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks made a recommendation in one of their letters for the mile buffer around leks when siting and placing infrastructure.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. That's what I thought I heard, but I just wanted to make sure so I didn't have to go read all the testimony.

(Discussion off the record.)

THE WITNESS: And that was also in Data Request 238 that Crowned Ridge responded to that question as well.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Then Mr. Hanson and you were certainly having discussion about the leks. Can you rephrase -- or at least -- I didn't hear it all, and I didn't want to interrupt Mr. Hanson.

Did you say there is no known leks in the area

according to your research but the Game, Fish & Parks has 1 2 some historical lek areas? 3 THE WITNESS: There were no active leks located 4 during the Avian Use Surveys in 2017 and 2018. Previous versions in 2007, 2008, and 2016 indicated there were 5 historic lek locations. But during SWCA's surveys, we 6 7 did not actually see that there was active lekking going 8 on in the project area. COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: And I saw the 2016 April 10 survey was done in April and May. When were your surveys 11 done? Because I didn't see the 2017 and 2018. Right now 12 anyway I can't find them. 1.3 THE WITNESS: The Avian Use Surveys were 14 completed in 2017 and 2018. 15 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So that includes -- that's inclusive of the leks? 16 17 THE WITNESS: Yes. 18 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. I think I'm just 19 about done, Commissioner Chairman Hanson. 20 I believe that's it. So thank you, first of 2.1 all, again for working with the tribes and your group. 22 know you probably didn't personally do that but I 23 certainly appreciate you guys taking the extra effort to 2.4 do that. Thanks. 25 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN HANSON: It's not evening yet. 2 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: But it may be after you're 3 done. 4 CHAIRMAN HANSON: We'll see how close we can 5 get. Good afternoon, Ms. Sappington. 6 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon. 7 CHAIRMAN HANSON: You have a really interesting 8 I guess that's all relative. I think my vocation is real interesting. Most people would think 10 it's pretty boring. 11 I have a granddaughter who raises butterflies 12 every year and hatches them out and has a big celebration 13 on letting them fly away and all of those things. It's a 14 lot of fun. She would love having a conversation with 15 you. 16 You are not a wildlife biologist, are you? 17 THE WITNESS: That's correct. I'm an 18 archeologist. 19 Right. And yet with CHAIRMAN HANSON: 20 Commissioner Nelson's question, it was one that I had as 2.1 well pertaining to eagles. You said within your 22 bailiwick at least, you feel that one and a half mile distance is okay? 23 2.4 THE WITNESS: And I would speak on behalf of the 25 SWCA team. Yes.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. And you've studied 1 2 this? You have examined significance of one and a half 3 miles versus two miles or three miles or whatever? 4 THE WITNESS: I have not personally done that. 5 I know our biologists have studied eagles, and the folks 6 that we have that have looked specifically at the eagle 7 issues, the bird issues, they would be able to speak to 8 the actual distance. But from what I understand, this one and a half mile for this project is a sufficient 10 buffer for eagle nests. 11 CHAIRMAN HANSON: And granted, one and a half 12 miles is somewhat of a precedent to an extent for us. 1.3 I'm a little troubled by it. Would you be surprised to 14 know that eagles have -- can fly 100 miles looking for 15 food? 16 THE WITNESS: I'm not surprised by that, no. 17 CHAIRMAN HANSON: So one and a half miles seems 18 kind of short. At the same time, if we had 100 miles, we 19 wouldn't have any wind farms, would we? 20 THE WITNESS: Correct. 21 CHAIRMAN HANSON: That's the only reason I'm a 22 little troubled by it. One and a half miles just doesn't 23 seem far enough for me. 2.4 In Ms. Wells's testimony, she states that, based 25 on current species information, no federally or state

1 listed aquatic species would be impacted by the project. I note the word "current species." 2 Is that still the case, current species' 3 4 information? 5 THE WITNESS: Yes. 6 CHAIRMAN HANSON: And you adopt that testimony 7 as well? 8 THE WITNESS: Yes. 9 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. And my pages -- I have 10 her testimony and your adopted testimony and so that's 11 why I don't give you page numbers. I'll just try and 12 read to you as best I can. I don't think it will be 13 foreign to you. 14 In one arena of the information that you 15 provided and that Ms. Wells provides to us, it speaks of 16 what measures will CRW implement to avoid, minimize, or 17 mitigate impacts to wildlife species. And then there's a 18 considerable grocery list. 19 The last one states that to complete one year of 20 postconstruction mortality monitoring and adhere to the 21 wildlife response and reporting system. Although on your 22 Rebuttal Testimony, it states that Crocker Wind will 23 adopt -- it says, "Applicant generally is agreeable to

the condition that states." And again, when I see

adjectives or verbs defining information -- it states --

24

the paragraph states, "Applicant agrees to undertake two years of independently-conducted postconstruction avian and bat mortality monitoring for the project."

1.3

So in one case saying complete one year and on the other it's saying two years. However, on the two-year, it's a qualification saying that Applicant's generally agreeable to this lengthy paragraph. So do you know what -- and this is on page 22 of your Rebuttal Testimony, on line 17 through 27. And I'm wondering if you could enlighten us on to what the Applicant is not agreeable to, if the Applicant is only generally agreeable to these.

THE WITNESS: Again, as looking at the Rebuttal Testimony, page 22, lines 17 through 27, Applicant is generally agreeable to the condition, it says two years of postconstruction monitoring. As you have stated earlier in the previous testimony that was filed, it was one year.

Based on the empirical evidence of this -- all the surveys have been conducted over 10 years. There's been a lot of avian surveys over this project starting in 2007. And, you know, we can go back and enumerate how many avian studies have been done. Eagle use of the area has been low. Bird use of the area has been low.

And so I think that what you're seeing is, you

```
1
     know, generally the Applicant thought one year was
2
     sufficient, but in looking at past cases, Crocker Wind,
 3
     Prevailing Winds, Dakota Range I and II, the Applicant is
     seeing that that is almost a precedent set for these
 4
 5
     projects and so the Applicant is generally agreeable to
 6
     conduct those two years of postconstruction monitoring.
7
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                I'll accept that as the
8
     Applicant agrees to undertake two years.
              Have any whooping cranes, to your knowledge,
10
     ever passed through this area?
11
              THE WITNESS: No. The closest whooping crane to
     the project area was 15 miles to the northwest of the
12
     project area, and that was sighted in 2015.
13
14
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Great answer. Thank you.
15
     2015.
           Northwest how far?
16
              THE WITNESS: Sixteen miles away from the
17
    project area.
18
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: If I ask you again, will you
19
     say 17 miles?
20
              THE WITNESS: No.
21
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                The Applicant is currently
22
     preparing a WCS that will discuss indirect effects.
     However, what about the direct effects?
23
              THE WITNESS: Yeah. The wildlife conservation
2.4
25
     strategy will discuss both direct and indirect.
```

believe the question had been about indirect effects,
which is why the answer was specific to indirect effects.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you.

And that will be filed with the Commission prior to start of construction.

THE WITNESS: Correct.

1.3

CHAIRMAN HANSON: That would be really valuable to have more than 10 minutes prior to construction certainly.

THE WITNESS: Can I make a comment on that?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: You can always comment on anything I say. That's why you're here.

THE WITNESS: Yeah. So the wildlife conservation strategy really takes into effect all the commitments that are already made in the Application. It brings together all the information on the Avian Use Surveys. It goes through the land based wind energy guideline tiered decision-making that happens, you know, starting with those desktop surveys, going to the site specific field surveys. And it brings all of that information together in that decision.

So nothing that you're seeing in the Application will be any different from what you see in the wildlife conservation strategy. There may be some minor granular details on indirect effects, just a bit more that's

stated in the Application. But, again, it will lay out what's already there, as well as provide information for the postconstruction monitoring, mortality monitoring for the project.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you.

1.3

The last page of Ms. Wells's first presentation, and this is my last question, I get nervous when I see someone talking about sensitivity training. On page --well, I don't have a page number. The last page. And there's a series of numbers. It looks like it would be probably No. 11. "Education and interpretation opportunities regarding tribal resource preservation and/or Native American perspectives which may include sensitivity training when needed."

Who would be receiving sensitivity training?

Commissioners or --

THE WITNESS: No. This would be specifically for construction personnel. So the construction personnel know the seriousness of our tribal resources and of the tribal members.

You know, Crowned Ridge has committed and is very serious about engaging the tribal members on this project, as discussed with Commissioner Fiegen. And so really, it's to make sure that as folks come in and participate on this project, that they are aware of the

```
1
     importance that tribes place on these resources and that
 2
     they're not doing anything that would disrespect those
 3
     resources or tribal members that will also be on the
     ground with them potentially, you know, fencing the areas
 4
     and those kinds of things.
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Excellent. Would landowners
 6
7
     be invited to participate so that they could gain
8
     knowledge on things of this nature?
              THE WITNESS: I could not make that commitment
10
     but you could ask Crowned Ridge that for sure.
11
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: All right. Thank you very
12
     much for your testimony.
1.3
              THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
14
              MS. CREMER: Redirect?
15
              MR. SCHUMACHER: Very briefly, thank you.
16
     may approach the witness?
17
              MS. CREMER: Certainly.
18
                 (Counsel approaches the witness.)
19
                       REDIRECT EXAMINATION
20
     BY MR. SCHUMACHER:
21
         Commissioner Hanson asked some questions about
22
     postconstruction avian monitoring. I have provided you
23
     with a copy of the joint proposed permit condition
24
     stipulation between the Applicant and Staff.
25
         Would you review condition No. 32 on Exhibit A61
```

```
that's been prefiled? And I believe counsel for the
     Intervenors has been provided a copy.
2
 3
         Okay. I've reviewed it.
 4
         And having reviewed that, do you have a better
 5
     understanding of the Applicant's commitment to
 6
     postconstruction avian and bat mortality monitoring?
7
         Yes. It states the Applicant agrees to undertake a
8
     minimum of two years of postconstruction avian and bat
     mortality monitoring for the project.
10
              MR. SCHUMACHER:
                               Thank you very much.
11
              No further redirect. Thank you.
12
              MS. CREMER: Thank you.
13
              Recross but only as to Commission questions or
14
     redirect. And it would be the Intervenors.
15
              MR. GANJE: Just taking a second to look at the
16
     conditions which were not previously submitted to me,
17
     except perhaps later this morning.
18
                              (Pause.)
19
              MR. GANJE:
                          I see there is two years in there.
20
     No recross.
2.1
              MS. CREMER:
                          Thank you.
22
              Staff.
23
              MR. MIKAL HANSON: Yes. Thank you, Ms. Cremer.
24
     I do have just one area I want to cover.
```

## RECROSS-EXAMINATION

## 2 BY MR. MIKAL HANSON:

- Q. Ms. Sappington, if you would look at your prefiled testimony that's Rebuttal Testimony from May 24, 2019,
- and if you would go to page 12. It's kind of a question
- 6 on the lek survey.
- Isn't your response to a question that the lek
  surveys were conducted for the project in 2007, 2008, and
  2016?
- 10 A. Yes. That is what the Rebuttal Testimony says.
- 11 Q. And so this study that you were talking about 2018,
- 12 | that wasn't a lek study; that was some other type of
- 13 study?

- 14 A. That was the Avian Use Surveys which identified that
- 15 | there were no active leks during that Avian Use Survey.
- 16 Q. And an Avian Use Survey is somebody watching for
- 17 | flying birds?
- 18 A. Watching for flying birds, or there's incidental
- 19 observations of any kind of birds in those areas during
- 20 the point counts.
- 21 Q. Do you know if it was during mating season for the
- 22 grouse?
- 23 A. The point count surveys were conducted for a year.
- 24 So, yes, point counts would have been conducted during
- 25 | that lekking period March through June.

```
Q.
       Grouse are on the ground, though, are they not, most
2
     of the time?
 3
         Yes.
     Α.
 4
         All right. So specifically looking for leks was
     only done in 2007 through 2008, and 2016?
5
    A. Correct.
 6
7
              MR. MIKAL HANSON: All right. I don't have any
8
    other questions.
              MS. CREMER: Thank you.
10
              Any -- I always have to get the word right --
11
     final redirect?
12
              MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Applicant will pass
13
     this witness. Thank you.
14
              MS. CREMER: Thank you.
15
              You may step down.
                                  Thank you.
16
              THE WITNESS: Thank you.
17
                     (The witness is excused.)
18
              MS. CREMER: You may call your next witness.
19
              MR. MURPHY: Thank you. Crowned Ridge calls
20
     Sam Massey and Tyler Wilhelm.
2.1
            (The oath is administered to Sam Massey and
22
               Tyler Wilhelm by the court reporter.)
23
              MS. CREMER: Before we go any further, is this
24
     your witnesses, Mr. Murphy?
25
              MR. MURPHY: Yes.
```

MS. CREMER: Do you want to just give an explanation? It is unusual for us but -- to have two of them up there at one time. Can you explain?

MR. MURPHY: They work in the same department hand in hand on this project as developers of the project. We thought it would be more effective for them to file joint testimony rather than separate testimony.

MS. CREMER: And, Mr. Ganje, did you have any comment? Your mic.'s on.

MR. GANJE: It's highly unusual, and it's difficult to stay focused as counsel representing Intervenors when they're tag teaming, effectively witnesses bouncing, perhaps, back and forth, which I think is unfair. I've actually never had this happen in my career. I think it's much fairer for the Applicant to take them sequentially, and I don't see any reason why they can't, other than the fact that I and perhaps others may be confused. I know I may be.

And I just -- that isn't the normal way we do it, because a head is much clearer when you have one witness at a time and that witness's statements are cross-examined and directly examined, particularly when we have multiple questioners here. We're going to have multiple questioners questioning two witnesses maybe. I don't think it's the right way to do things.

```
1
              MS. CREMER: So you object.
2
              MR. GANJE:
                          I do.
 3
              MS. CREMER: Okay. Staff.
                            Thank you. Typically, if you have
 4
              MS. EDWARDS:
 5
    witnesses that are cumulative or redundant to one
 6
    another, only one gets to testify. You don't cure that
     tank by just sharing the mic. I do fear it would be a
7
8
    nightmare for the court reporter and I don't want to
    place any difficulty on her.
10
              MS. CREMER:
                          So you object.
11
              MS. EDWARDS: I'm relatively neutral on it, but
     if there's difficulty for Cheri, I would certainly
12
13
     object.
14
              MS. CREMER: So, Cheri, I would just ask you as
15
     the court reporter, is this going to be difficult to
16
     distinguish the answers?
17
          (Comments off the record by the court reporter.)
              MS. CREMER: Did you guys want to weigh in?
18
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Sustained.
19
20
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Yeah. I would sustain the
21
    objection. If they are truly sharing testimony, it would
22
     seem that by the time one is done, they might both be
23
     done. But definitely need to go one at a time.
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Yes.
                                          And we've went one
2.4
25
     at a time before. And if somebody didn't know, they just
```

- 1 | said there's another witness that will answer that
- 2 question.
- 3 CHAIRMAN HANSON: I should have used the mic.
- 4 previously when I said sustained.
- 5 MS. CREMER: All right. There's your answer.
- 6 And so you can proceed however with whichever one first.
- 7 Thank you.
- MR. MURPHY: Thank you. We'll call Tyler
- 9 Wilhelm first.

## 10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

- 11 BY MR. MURPHY:
- 12 Q. Please state your name, business title, and company
- 13 for the record.
- 14 A. My name is Tyler Wilhelm, and I'm a project manager
- 15 at NextEra Energy Resources, LLC.
- 16 Q. What is your role with Crowned Ridge Wind?
- 17 A. As the project developer of Crowned Ridge Wind, I'm
- 18 responsible for the community outreach, land leasing,
- 19 managing all aspects of the development efforts.
- 20 Q. Please provide a short overview of your education
- 21 and experience.
- 22 A. I've been employed with NextEra Energy Resources
- 23 | since 2015 in the capacity of land services
- 24 representative, associate project manager, and project
- 25 | manager. I've actively developed projects in four

- 1 | midwestern states. And I currently oversee all of the
- 2 development efforts in the State of South Dakota for
- 3 | NextEra Energy Resources.
- 4 Prior to joining NextEra, I obtained my bachelor's
- 5 degree from the University of South Dakota.
- 6 Q. Did you file Prefiled Direct Testimony and exhibits
- 7 on January 29, 1919 -- I'm sorry -- 2019, that is marked
- 8 as A5?
- 9 A. Yes, I did.
- 10 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to the
- 11 Prefiled Direct Testimony and exhibits?
- 12 A. No, I do not.
- 13 Q. Did you file prefiled supplemental testimony on
- 14 April 9, 2019, that is marked as A23?
- 15 A. Yes, I did.
- 16 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to this
- 17 testimony?
- 18 A. No, I do not.
- 19 Q. Did you file Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony on May 23,
- 20 2019, that is marked as A44 and accompanying exhibits
- 21 | marked as A44-1 and A44-2?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to this
- 24 testimony or exhibits?
- 25 A. No, I do not, but I would like the opportunity to

- address the Commission on the changes to one of the exhibits.
  - Q. And that is my next question.
- 4 A. Oh, I apologize.

1.3

- Q. Are you familiar with Exhibit A54, which is the final land status map, and Exhibit A59 that sets forth the wind turbine changes as a result of the final land status map and the proposed Condition 28 which is based in part on the Hessler proposal related to the use of alternative turbine locations?
  - MR. GANJE: I will object to this line of questioning, Madam. I can't be sure because -
    COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: We can't hear you.

MR. GANJE: And I can't be quite sure what map this is because all of their maps pretty much have the same original designation. But I think I have in front of me the map he's referring to, and this map is -- was not created by this witness. He was not the author of the map, did not create the map. And no foundation has been laid for the map and for the technical terms and representations found in that map.

So we're a little ahead of ourselves by using this witness as a person who is going to give some type of a credibility, I suspect, to something that is not in the record and I don't think he's capable of putting it

in the record. 1 2 May I respond? I think I can. MR. MURPHY: 3 Why don't you respond first? MS. CREMER: Yeah. 4 My understanding is it was one of MR. MURPHY: 5 the not objected to stipulations that we did this 6 morning. It is in the record. It was filed. It has 7 been marked as an exhibit. 8 And I will let Mr. Wilhelm explain better if you like, but he is in charge of this project for Crowned 10 Ridge Wind and this map was made at his direction. And 11 as I asked him, was he familiar with it, he is familiar 12 with it. He can go into even further detail of why he's 1.3 familiar with it. 14 If you just want to cover a little MS. CREMER: 15 bit more foundation then, I think that would help. 16 you. 17 MR. MURPHY: Be happy to. 18 (BY MR. MURPHY) Mr. Wilhelm, can you explain why Ο. 19 you are familiar with Exhibit A54? 20 Some of the changes that have been captured on Yes. 2.1 this map are from a land leasing perspective. All of the 22 land leasing representatives on the project who 23 ultimately report to me and I oversee that. That was a 24 large majority of the changes that were depicted on this 25 map.

```
Were you involved in the internal discussions, what
1
    Q.
2
    we call the Hessler proposal, to use seven alternative
 3
     turbines? And can you explain?
 4
                          I object. And for the record, Madam
              MR. GANJE:
 5
    Examiner, if I could have standing objections based on
 6
     lack of foundation, lack of authenticity, and the fact
7
     that this witness is now going into a technical map that
8
    appears to have been prepared by an EAPC company, a
     company called EAPC, and involves quite a bit of apparent
10
     detail just by looking at it, which would require
11
    naturally the foundation and introduction of the map
12
     itself by the preparer of the map, by the author of the
13
    map. And we'd ask for a standing objection to the line
14
     of questions that are directed to this map.
15
              MS. EDWARDS: Can I sort of weigh in?
16
              MS. CREMER: Sure.
17
              MS. EDWARDS: That's not the map we have for
18
    A54.
           Is there something -- I mean, is that a different
19
    map and mismarked or -- that's not what I have prefiled.
20
              MR. GANJE: May I also walk up to the map and
21
    have a look at it again?
22
              MS. CREMER: Certainly.
23
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: What exhibit is this
24
     supposed to be?
25
              MS. CREMER:
                           It says A54.
```

```
1
              MR. MIKAL HANSON: Mr. Ganje, you've got A55 in
2
     your hand. I don't know.
 3
              MR. GANJE: Yeah. I do. Yeah, I have been
 4
     given --
 5
              MR. MIKAL HANSON: And that's 54, I think.
 6
              MR. GANJE: I have been given perhaps now in the
7
     course of this proceeding since I started here about 12
8
     different maps all labeled as 3A which makes it very
     confusing and difficult.
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: While we're in this
10
11
     discussion, let's be off the record.
12
                    (Discussion off the record.)
13
              MS. CREMER: Ms. Edwards, you had a question, I
14
     think, in front of us. I'll let you finish.
15
              MS. EDWARDS: I guess I was just confused
16
     because my map didn't look like the blown-up exhibit that
17
     they have, but they just put identification stickers on
18
     there, little Post-It stickers, and that was the
     difference.
19
20
              So I believe, with that, it is the same map I
    have as Exhibit A54.
2.1
22
              MS. CREMER:
                          Thank you.
23
              And, Mr. Ganje.
24
              MR. GANJE: My last statement was a request for
25
     a standing objection.
```

MS. CREMER: And that is granted. And you may continue, Crowned Ridge.

1.3

2.1

- Q. (BY MR. MURPHY) If I remember correctly where I was, I was going to ask you to take the Exhibit 59 and provide context to this map of what turbine changes were made based on that exhibit.
- A. Sure. So the -- now that we've gotten past the colored stickies and what they're going to help identify,

  I can walk us through that.
- MR. GANJE: Excuse me. Did my honorable counsel now refer to this as Exhibit 59? I believe he did.
  - MR. MURPHY: No, I did not. I referred to Exhibit 59 as the exhibit that expresses the turbine changes and I asked the witness to use that exhibit and explain it in the context of the map, which is Exhibit A54.
  - MR. GANJE: I object to the question. I'm utterly confused now. We're bouncing back from maps that aren't in front of me. And I'm not trying to make my honorable opposition to work hard, but what are our reference points? I'm not following it. And I object as an ambiguous question.
  - MS. CREMER: Well, my understanding is he's going to look at A59 and compare it to A54 and tell us the difference; is that correct?

1 MR. MURPHY: He's going to tell you how they relate to each other. 2 3 MS. CREMER: Right. Okay. Does that help, Mr. Ganje? 4 5 MR. GANJE: Well, and on the big placard in 6 front of the Commission, is that intended to be A54? 7 MR. MURPHY: It's not intended to. It is. 8 MR. GANJE: But it has stickies and markers on it; correct? You know, that does make it confusing. 10 I'm not trying to be a smart aleck about it, but, you 11 know, where are we going to stop? Do we pull off each 12 sticky and then go somewhere? It's just confusing for 13 me, and in that regard I object. 14 MS. CREMER: At this point I'm going to overrule 15 and allow Crowned Ridge to continue. And if it doesn't 16 become clear, we can revisit the issue. 17 Sure. So this updated exhibit demonstrates our 18 final land status for the project as proposed. There was 19 changes to three primary pieces of land that allowed for 20 collection access to turbines that were previously 21 stranded. That was the Papio Valley easement --22 collection easement area, the John Fox collection easement area, and the -- Mr. Granquist collection 23 24 easement area that have all been resolved. The yellow 25 stickies on the board represent turbines that will be

dropped due to expired leases that were on the project.

And as a result of the final land status map, if I need to go through each one of those to walk you through it, I'm more than happy to do so. I thought the stickies would help just showing over all, but if I need to go turbine by turbine, that would be helpful. Sure.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Well, because this was filed so late, I would certainly appreciate the continuous explanation.

A. So on turbine 56 and 57, and I'll point to those right now, those are located on the Lindgren property, which is an expired lease, and they have voiced to us that they no longer want to renew an agreement or participate moving forward. So those turbines will be removed.

As a result of that property becoming a nonparticipating property, we have this blue tab here which reflects a shift that will be conducted to a turbine within the 250 feet of flexibility to ensure noise and shadow flicker compliance on that nonparticipating property which I just identified as the Lindgrens.

The next turbine I'll go to is CR 79. This is another turbine that will be dropped because of the lack of collection from the William Comes property which is

sited nearby. That turbine is stranded and we have elected to drop that turbine. We also have turbine CR Alt 20, the CR Alt 19. Those are located on expired wind easement agreements and we do not have the ability to proceed with those properties at this time so those turbines are being marked as dropped turbines.

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With those being marked as nonparticipating, we will then result with shifting turbine CR Alt 22, and that is to ensure noise and shadow flicker compliance on those two now considered nonparticipating properties.

So to summarize thus far, we have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven turbine drops and two turbine shifts as a result of our final land status fabric.

Remaining turbines that I'd like to go through are those that are identified with a green tab. Those are what we refer to as the Hessler seven. Those are turbines that we will elect to drop and replace with alternate turbine locations within the project area for sound optimization efforts, which was part of the Hessler proposal.

MS. CREMER: And this is Karen Cremer.

Just to clarify, could you just give us the number of the so-called Hessler seven? The numbers?

THE WITNESS: Sure. Those are turbines CR 16, CR 19, CR 23, CR 49, CR 60, CR 67, and CR 68.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Before you sit down, would you show us on the left side, the west side of the project you pointed to a couple of turbines that are not -- and I didn't quite catch those.

THE WITNESS: These over here?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Correct.

THE WITNESS: That's CR 17 and CR 40. Those have been identified as turbine drop locations and those were elected to be dropped because of noise and shadow flicker exceedances.

These were labeled in -- I can't remember what data response it was, but we did address those two data turbines in a data responses, and as a result, we will drop those two turbine locations to ensure compliance.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you.

Would you touch your pen on those two spots again for me, please.

(Witness complies.)

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. Thank you.

- Q. (BY MR. MURPHY) Just for clarity, Mr. Wilhelm, everything that you just narrated is in Exhibit 59,
- 22 including the turbine numbers and the reasons they were
- 23 dropped; correct?

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- 24 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 25 Q. Do you have a short summary of your testimony?

Α. 1 Sure. Developing activities for the project 2 commenced over 10 plus years ago. Primarily within the 3 two last years, development activities have advanced. 4 We've gone through the permitting process at the local 5 levels. Over my involvement with the project, I've had 6 the opportunity to meet quite a few residents within the 7 Grant County and Codington Counties, all that are --8 which are excited for the development advancements that have been made and the associated benefits that come with 10 these projects. 11 I'm excited to say that we were able to come up with seven locations that were proposed by Hessler to make 12 1.3 advances in sound optimization efforts. And I appreciate 14 everybody's time. 15 Thank you. With that, I'd tender the witness 16 MR. MURPHY: 17 for cross-examination. 18 MS. CREMER: Thank you. 19 Mr. Ganje. 20 MR. GANJE: Thank you. 2.1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 22 BY MR. GANJE: 23 Mr. Wilhelm, so please correct me so that I 24 understand your management position. What is your 25 specified management position here?

- 1 A. I'm a project manager at NextEra Energy Resources.
- 2 | I'm the project developer of the Crowned Ridge Wind
- 3 Project.
- 4 Q. Are you an employee of Crowned Ridge?
- $5 \mid A$ . I'm a representative of Crowned Ridge Wind, yes.
- 6 | Q. But that wasn't my question. Are you an employee of
- 7 Crowned Ridge?
- 8 A. I'm employed by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, and
- 9 | Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC is an affiliate of NextEra Energy
- 10 Resources.
- 11 Q. So your employer is NextEra; correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. As the project manager, do you write checks in the
- 14 | name of Crowned Ridge for the purpose of developing the
- 15 project?
- 16 A. I do not personally write checks. No, sir.
- 17 Q. In fact, Crowned Ridge as an LLC, it has no checking
- 18 | account, does it?
- 19 A. I would have to defer that question to one of our
- 20 other witnesses.
- 21 | Q. Well, I'll ask you from your knowledge, does it have
- 22 | a banking account that it uses to pay bills related to
- 23 | the development of this project?
- 24 A. I will defer that question to one of our other
- 25 witnesses.

- 1 | Q. Based on your knowledge, please answer.
- 2 A. I would like to defer that question to one of our
- 3 other witnesses.
- 4 MR. GANJE: Madam Examiner, I'll ask you to
- 5 instruct the witness to please answer the question to the
- 6 best of his knowledge.
- 7 MS. CREMER: And I believe he has answered it to
- 8 the best of my knowledge.
- 9 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I don't think so.
- MS. CREMER: Okay. To the best of your
- 11 knowledge.
- 12 A. As far as can you help me understand what type of
- checks we're talking about being cut? Is this landowner
- 14 payments or --
- 15 Q. Any kind of business checks used in the course of
- 16 developing a project. You have to pay different people,
- 17 | vendors, maybe landowners. It runs the gamut. It's a
- 18 | general question. It's not too difficult, I think.
- 19 A. I would say yes.
- 20 Q. You'd say yes to what?
- 21 A. Yes, that payments are made from Crowned Ridge Wind,
- 22 LLC.
- 23 Q. Isn't it true that Crowned Ridge, according to the
- 24 Data Request that you guys responded to in regard to one
- of my questions, indicated that Crowned Ridge had no

- balance sheet or financial statement for the last three
  years?
- 3 A. Can you point me to where that was listed, please.
- Q. It will take a minute. You don't remember answering that? That was quite recent.
- 6 MR. MURPHY: Objection. The witness has asked 7 him to refer to the document that he's speaking from.
- 8 Q. Sir, I do have the Data Request. I'm sorry to make 9 you have to search for it. It's Intervenors' Data 10 Request 4-2.
- MR. MURPHY: Do you have an exhibit number that
  we can point the witness to?
- MR. GANJE: I don't believe that I do. But I am
  prepared to hand him a copy of the Data Request, as this
  is cross-examination. Unless he has it available. I'll
  be glad to provide this.
  - MR. MURPHY: Please do.
- MR. GANJE: May I approach?
- 19 MS. CREMER: Yes.
- 20 (Counsel approaches the witness.)
- Q. (BY MR. GANJE) Have you had a chance, sir, to look
- 22 at the response to my Data Request to the Applicant?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Okay. Will you now answer the question, please?
- MR. MURPHY: Objection. I'd like him to

- 1 rephrase the question.
- 2 MR. GANJE: Well --
- MR. MURPHY: The reason is the Data Request does not say what the question was posed, so I would ask you
- 5 | to look at the Data Request and state the question again.
- 6 MR. GANJE: I'll be glad to do that.
- Q. (BY MR. GANJE) Now, sir, you've now had a chance to look at the Data Request 4.2?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Okay. And the question in 4.2 was: Please provide
- 11 | the annual balance sheet and annual profit and loss
- 12 statement for the Applicant for the last three years.
- 13 And then I said, if necessary, I would sign an
- 14 appropriate protective agreement on this matter.
- And do you recall what the response was?
- 16 A. Yes, I do have the response in front of me.
- Q. Okay. Very good. Now it's on your screen. You're
- 18 | better than I. Thank you.
- 19 And what was that response?
- 20 A. There is no balance sheet or annual profit and loss
- 21 | statement for Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC.
- 22 Q. Thank you.
- 23 Has any NextEra facility in the State of South
- 24 Dakota ever been involved in an aeronautical accident
- 25 | where an airplane flew into one of the towers owned or

- 1 | operated by NextEra?
- 2 A. I cannot speak on behalf of any incident that you
- 3 may be referring to.
- 4 Q. Are you aware of such an incident?
- 5 A. I cannot speak on behalf of any incident you're
- 6 referring do.
- 7 Q. I'm not asking whether you can speak. I'm asking if
- 8 you're aware of it.
- 9 A. I am aware of such an incident. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Are you aware that it took place in 2014 in
- 11 Hyde County, South Dakota?
- 12 A. I do know that it took place in South Dakota. I
- cannot confirm what year or what county.
- 14 Q. Has NextEra or any of the affiliates of NextEra
- 15 | identified in your several data responses over the last
- 16 | couple of months ever had a lien placed on land owned by
- 17 | landowners because of nonpayment or dispute over payment
- 18 | concerning construction contracts?
- 19 A. Not to my knowledge, no.
- 20 Q. You do know about that. Okay.
- 21 MR. GANJE: I'll present a couple of documents
- 22 to the witness, if you'll bear with me for a moment,
- 23 please.
- 24 (Counsel gives document to the witness.)
- 25 Q. Sir, I've set upon you by paperclip one, two, three,

- four documents. Do you have those in front of you?
- 2 A. I do.
- 3 | Q. And are you aware of a NextEra company called
- 4 Pegasus?
- 5 | A. I am not familiar with any development efforts
- 6 outside the State of South Dakota. I'm not personally
- 7 involved with those.
- 8 Q. And what is the business address of NextEra in
- 9 Florida?
- 10 A. It is -- give me one second, please.
- 11 Q. Certainly.
- 12 A. It's 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida
- 13 33408.
- 14 Q. Thank you.
- And I'd ask you to look at the second document that
- 16 I put in front of you, which is called Claim of Lien.
- Does it identify the construction project as owned
- 18 by Pegasus Wind, LLC of 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno
- 19 | Beach, Florida?
- 20 A. Yes. That's how it's stated in this document. Yes,
- 21 sir.
- 22 Q. And isn't it true that NextEra as a company has a
- 23 tendency to create multiple different subsidiaries or
- 24 companies to do different projects in the wind energy
- 25 | siting business?

- A. Yes, sir. I think that's pretty common amongst business types, yes.
  - Q. That's true. Thank you.

You are pretty much the general project manager or have been throughout the process; is that right?

- A. Primarily over the last two years of the project's development, yes, sir.
- Q. Thank you.

I've been having a little trouble today, and it may be me, but I want to ask you about the Crowned Ridge avian study. If you could put that map in front of you.

- 12 A. I would not like to sponsor any responses in regards
  13 to avian surveys.
  - Q. Well, I understand that you might not like to and I apologize for the inconvenience, but I'm asking you if you would look at --

MR. MURPHY: Objection. What the witness is inarticulately saying, this is not his area of expertise. The area of expertise of that witness was the previous witness's. And if this was a question posed to avian studies, it should have been posed to that witness.

MS. CREMER: Let's do this. Let's let him ask his question first. Sometimes they're so generic the person can answer. So let him ask first.

MR. GANJE: Would you be kind enough to repeat

the question. 1 2 (Reporter reads back the last question.) 3 (Discussion off the record.) 4 (BY MR. GANJE) The question is, I'm going to refer to the avian study that was done for this project of 6 which you're the general manager. And I'm going to ask 7 you if you would point out to me, please, on one of your 8 application maps where it is identified that there is a full and complete avian study of the project. 10 Is this in our general application, sir? 11 Yes. Q. 12 MR. MURPHY: Tyler, do you need help locating? 13 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I would appreciate some 14 help. Thank you. 15 Were you able to pull the map up with the help of 16 your colleagues? 17 Yes, sir. I have Exhibit A1-E. 18 I think that would be it. Thank you. 19 And so I would be referring a question or two now to 20 you with regard to A1-E, which is a map. 21 That map shows a study area for avian issues by a 22 dotted line, does it not, in the legend? 23 Yes, it does. Α. 24 And does that dotted line include the 25 northeastern-most portion of the proposed project?

- A. The dotted line does not cover the most northern

  portion of the -- the northeastern portion of the project

  in Grant County. I believe this was the same question

  that was directed to witness --
- Q. No. I didn't ask you if it was directed to somebodyelse but I wanted your response.

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Are you aware that there is a completed avian project for that northeastern quadrant of the proposed project?

MR. MURPHY: Objection. The previous witness has already answered this question. That's what she was sponsoring, this map and these studies. I'm not seeing where this witness needs to be also examined on the environmental issues.

MR. GANJE: This is a part of the application that this witness signed. This application is the general manager -- I mean, this gentleman is the general manager. These are common things that a manager would know who's going to be developing a very significant, large wind energy project. Certainly one would assume a reasonable manager in his position would be knowledgeable of that. And it's fair for me to ask it of this witness who's different than the other witnesses.

MS. CREMER: And when you respond, that's fine, but a lot of your response is really closing argument.

- So if you could confine it to just a response and not an argument.
- 3 MR. GANJE: Yes.
- 4 MS. CREMER: I believe you could probably answer
- 5 | if you know the answer. If you don't know the answer,
- 6 that's the answer.
- 7 A. I do not have the answer to that.
- 8 Q. Has the Applicant informed the Commission of all
- 9 permits with respect to approval or mitigation processes
- 10 in this siting?
- 11 A. Is this still concerning the avian surveys or is
- 12 | this in general?
- 13 Q. No, it isn't. I apologize, I'm not trying to
- 14 | confuse you. I'm asking a general question.
- 15 A. Yes. I believe that the Commission has been advised
- 16 of all applicable permits.
- 17 Q. Okay. Has the Applicant submitted an application or
- 18 paperwork to the FAA for a determination of a no hazard
- 19 permit?
- 20 A. Yes, we have. We have filed for an aeronautical
- 21 study with the FAA.
- 22 Q. And when did you do that?
- 23 A. That, I believe, was in December of 20 -- I would
- 24 | need to -- if you don't mind, let me refer to the
- 25 application.

- 1 Q. Certainly.
- 2 (Witness examines document.)
- 3 A. December of 2018.
- 4 | Q. And have you gotten a response or a permit back yet?
- 5 A. We have received determinations for some of the
- 6 turbine locations but not all of them at this time.
- 7 Q. So you don't have a complete, what's called no
- 8 hazard permit?
- 9 A. For all of our proposed turbine locations, we do
- 10 not.
- 11 Q. When was the last time you advised the Commission of
- 12 | the status of that permit application?
- 13 A. In one of our data responses, we were asked about an
- 14 update as to when we would be receiving those
- determinations, and we responded with July of this year,
- 16 which is still consistent.
- 17 Q. Consistent with what?
- 18 A. With when we expect to receive the determinations of
- 19 | no hazard for all proposed turbine locations.
- 20 Q. And if you didn't receive a full permit, you would
- 21 | not proceed with the planned siting?
- 22 A. We cannot plan to construct any turbine that does
- 23 | not have a determination of no hazard associated with
- 24 that general location.
- 25 Q. Thank you.

- I direct your attention to Appendix M of the
  executive summary of the Application. Do you have this
  in front of you?
- 4 A. Yes, sir. I do.
- 5 Q. Okay. Does Appendix M in the Application state,
- 6 The Department of Energy has considerable issues with
- 7 | turbine placement in the area and the developer is
- 8 | currently working with the agency to mitigate their
- 9 | concerns at the site"?
- 10 Is that a statement in the Application?
- 11 A. Yes, it is.
- 12 Q. Okay. So what are the concerns of the Department of
- 13 Energy?
- 14 A. The concerns were expressed based off of a general
- 15 project area. They were not defined to specified turbine
- 16 locations. And it is our intent to proceed with them
- 17 once we have determinations of no hazard in hand from the
- 18 | FAA, which would allow us to provide more information on
- 19 | specified turbine locations, which would allow us to
- 20 | continue conversations with the Department of Energy on
- 21 | more specific elements to the site.
- 22 Q. So the Department of Energy raised a criticism of
- 23 | the proposed site; is that correct?
- 24 A. Of the general project area.
- 25 Q. Yeah. Okay. And have you resolved those concerns

- yet?
- 2 A. No, sir. As I stated, we're going to proceed with
- 3 the FAA in receiving our determinations of no hazard
- 4 before we would further move forward with the Department
- 5 of Energy and discuss any concerns with specified turbine
- 6 locations.
- 7 Q. Did you provide in your Application or supplemental
- 8 | material in support of the Application copies of the
- 9 correspondence with the Department of Energy concerning
- 10 this matter?
- 11 A. I do not believe that we provided correspondence.
- 12 No, sir.
- 13 Q. So the Commission as it sits now doesn't exactly
- 14 know what the specific concerns are that had been raised
- 15 by the Department; is that correct?
- 16 A. They would have the level of understanding of
- 17 | general concerns based off of, again, the project area,
- 18 which is the project boundary, not specified turbine
- 19 | locations, which would be resolved with the Department of
- 20 Energy.
- 21 | Q. I am so sorry. I think you are confused about my
- 22 question. I'll ask the court reporter to read my
- 23 | question back. And I'll just alert you, my question
- 24 refers to information you all are providing to the
- 25 Commission here for this Application.

- 1 MR. GANJE: If you would be kind enough to read 2 the question back.
- 3 (Reporter reads back the last question.)
- 4 A. Correct. As in there's no more additional --
- 5 there's no additional level of information other than
- 6 general concerns. Correct.
- 7 Q. You've had no correspondence since the date of the
- 8 Application with the Department of Energy on this matter?
- 9 A. It was discussed that we would proceed with
- 10 correspondence with the Department of Energy upon
- 11 receiving our determinations of no hazard, which, again,
- 12 provides the additional level of information needed to
- 13 mitigate any type of concerns that there may be, general
- 14 concerns.
- 15 Q. But has there been correspondence or communication
- 16 | since the date of the Application between you and the
- 17 Department of Energy?
- 18 A. Not between myself and the Department of Energy, no,
- 19 sir.
- 20 Q. Any of your colleagues?
- 21 A. I would say yes. Yes, sir. Yes.
- 22 Q. Now you've presented quite a reconfigured project
- 23 | map on the easel here today with some stickies and
- 24 | colored things on it to show changes; correct?
- 25 A. That's correct.

- Q. And this is based on a -- the changes you had to make because of the deadline, I think, of last Friday to give a final proposed map for the plan; is that correct?
  - A. Some of those changes, yes, sir.

- Q. Well, I asked your attorneys for you guys to bring
- 6 | today copies of the agreements that showed that you've
- 7 | cleaned up the problems that existed last week and made
- 8 | the project quite incomplete. Did you bring those --
- 9 copies of those agreements with landowners that resulted
- 10 | in the changes now shown on the map on the easel today?
- 11 A. All of the land easement agreements that we enter
- 12 | into with the project's landowners are confidential
- 13 information. So, no, those are not available today.
- 14 Q. Well, they would be available for the Commission to
- 15 look at it to confirm that what you said on Friday with
- 16 | your map is really the truth, wouldn't they?
- MR. MURPHY: Objection. This has already been
- 18 | ruled on by the Commission earlier today. This exact
- 19 issue offered to show the Commission the easement option
- 20 and the purchase option, and they said they did not need
- 21 | to see it. So I object to this line of questioning.
- MS. CREMER: And I would sustain that objection.
- 23 Q. (BY MR. GANJE) I believe in last week's
- 24 | testimony -- let me strike that.
- 25 Sir, you listened to Mr. Hessler or were present

- 1 during his testimony last week concerning this
- 2 | Application, weren't you?
- 3 A. I did step out after the motion to dismiss period
- 4 | ended, as I was tasked with providing the final land
- 5 | status within 24 hours so I got out of here pretty quick.
- 6 I believe Mr. Hessler's testimony took place after that.
- 7 Q. Did you listen to it since then?
- 8 A. I have, yes, sir.
- 9 Q. Okay. So you're familiar with the testimony?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. If I recall his testimony, he recommended
- 12 | that there be changes, that is a movement of 16 turbines
- 13 | that were presently indicated on your map and that they
- 14 | should be placed elsewhere; is that correct?
- 15 A. Correct, that Mr. Hessler's proposal did recommend
- 16 | 16 turbine location changes.
- 17 Q. Okay. I understand from your testimony today that
- 18 | you are suggesting by this most recent iteration of the
- 19 project that there will be seven turbine relocations
- 20 | based on Hessler's recommendation; is that correct?
- 21 A. Seven of the turbines -- seven of the 16 turbine
- 22 locations recommended by Mr. Hessler were taken into
- 23 | consideration. Yes, sir.
- 24 Q. That's an interesting way to say it.
- 25 My question is, did you testify earlier -- perhaps I

- 1 | missed it, and I do miss things. Did you testify earlier
- 2 and provide this Commission with information as to where
- 3 on this project map you're going to relocate those seven
- 4 turbines?
- 5 A. We have not specified exactly what alternate
- 6 turbines will be utilized in place of those seven. But
- 7 | those seven -- our alternate turbine locations are
- 8 available as well as all noise and shadow flicker, you
- 9 know, impacts on nonparticipating and participating. So,
- 10 you know, regardless of the seven that would be utilized,
- 11 that information is readily available to the Commission.
- 12 Q. Well, no, it isn't. Isn't it true that you have not
- 13 reported to this Commission today, on the first day of
- 14 | the hearing on the merits of this proceeding, that you
- 15 | haven't picked or selected where you're going to put
- 16 those turbines?
- 17 A. We have not identified the exact seven alternate
- 18 locations that will be utilized.
- 19 Q. You're not going to move 16 of them?
- 20 A. We have agreed to moving seven turbine locations.
- 21 Q. You haven't agreed to move 16?
- 22 A. That's correct. We agreed to move seven.
- 23 Q. No, no, that isn't correct. Either you agreed to or
- 24 | you didn't agree to move 16 of them according to
- 25 | Hessler's testimony?

1 MR. MURPHY: Objection on two grounds. One, 2 asked and answered. Two, it's argumentative. 3 In my mind, it has been answered. MS. CREMER: 4 You can't answer it with a simple yes or no. The math 5 has to be done. 6 So I would sustain. 7 MR. GANJE: No further questions. MS. CREMER: Thank you. Staff. 10 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. Hopefully, I'll be 11 fairly brief. I think most of mine were covered. 12 CROSS-EXAMINATION 13 BY MS. EDWARDS: 14 When you say "dropped" in reference to turbines on

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- this map, do you mean moved to alternate locations or removed from the project?
- Removed from consideration or made as an alternate. So basically as being dropped, we refer to that as a primary turbine location that is now a secondary consideration or removed.
- 21 So for the purposes of the exercise we went through 22 up here, it applies to either-or.
- Sure. Then would the end result be a lower output, 23 24 power output of the project? Or is it a zero sum?
- 25 One of the reasons -- one of the considerations that

- 1 | went into selecting the seven was because it was,
- 2 | roughly, a wash between the NCF of the project.
- 3 | Q. Okay. And when you talk about those seven, the
- 4 so-called Hessler turbines -- and I appreciate that name,
- 5 | I think he will too -- will any of the impacts on
- 6 | landowners increase beyond what was represented in the
- 7 | Application?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. And why is that?
- 10 A. When we did a close analysis of those seven turbine
- 11 | shifts, we realized that impacts as far as sound
- 12 optimization would go down, which is why those turbines
- 13 were considered.
- 14 Q. But if you move them to alternate locations, will
- 15 those alternate locations increase impacts beyond
- 16 anything that was represented in the Application?
- 17 A. Not to my knowledge, no.
- 18 Q. Okay. And in your Rebuttal Testimony on page 2 --
- 19 do you have that in front of you? Rebuttal.
- 20 A. I'll get there. One second.
- 21 Okay.
- 22 Q. On that page, there's a discussion about shadow
- 23 | flicker at a nonparticipating residence. Are you
- 24 familiar with that? Do you recall that discussion in
- 25 your testimony?

- 1 A. That's correct. Yes. I do recall that.
- 2 Q. First of all, do any of the changes reflected on
- 3 | Exhibit A54, that map next to you, do any of the changes
- 4 reflected on that address this situation?
- 5 A. Sorry. One moment. I'm pulling up another exhibit
- 6 here.
- 7 So if I remember the question correctly, this was
- 8 taken into consideration. Turbine 16 was removed from
- 9 consideration, which was one of the seven of
- 10 Mr. Hessler's proposals.
- 11 Q. Thank you.
- 12 So is it fair to say that that situation is
- 13 resolved?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. All right. That takes care of a bunch of questions.
- 16 Thank you.
- In your original testimony, Direct Testimony, and I
- 18 | think you can answer this without turning to it, you
- 19 | mentioned a 500-foot shift for turbines. Is it accurate
- 20 to say that Applicant is accepting of a 250-foot setback
- 21 as ordered in recent dockets?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. Okay. And moving on to -- there was a line of
- 24 questioning about the FAA determination of no hazard. Is
- 25 | it possible that a number -- a material number of

- turbines would have to be eliminated when this review by
  the FAA is completed?
- A. There's currently five turbines that are pending

  determinations from the FAA. So to answer your question,

not receive the necessary approvals, that would need to

- 5 it would be five turbines essentially that, if they did
- 7 be eliminated.

- Q. Are there enough alternate sites available that those five would be able to be made up elsewhere?
- 10 A. Yes. We could accommodate those five, if needed.
- 11 | will also say that the locations of those five turbines
- 12 are within very, very close proximity to previous
- 13 locations that were already approved. So it's just a
- 14 matter of going back through the process. There's no
- 15 material change to those locations that's being reviewed.
- Q. Why are they still being reviewed? What's taking so
- 17 long?
- 18 A. When we filed our locations with the FAA for all of
- our proposed turbines, we received positive
- 20 determinations back for all 130 proposed locations -- or
- 21 all of the proposed locations that we have as you see on
- 22 | the project map. There was a discrepancy for five
- 23 turbines on the exact GPS location that was tied to it.
- 24 So whether that be five feet off or 10 feet off, there
- 25 was a discrepancy. So we had to refile and restart the

- 1 process for those five specific locations.
- 2 Q. Sure. Okay.
- 3 In your Supplemental Testimony, you discussed claims
- 4 | for crop damage. To your knowledge, in any phases of
- 5 | this project to include preparation or even the
- 6 transmission line, have there been any crop damage claims
- 7 or complaints?
- 8 A. There was complaints made at our informational
- 9 hearing. Since then, all outstanding crop compensation
- 10 that was owed to landowners has been paid and caught up
- 11 | for the Crowned Ridge Wind wind farm, minus two specific
- 12 | landowners who we're working with, and they've actually
- 13 elected to not sign the crop compensation form.
- 14 Q. Meaning they won't be compensated for the crop
- 15 damage or -- I don't really follow that.
- 16 A. Meaning that maybe their view of the project has
- 17 | changed and they don't want to be associated with the
- 18 | project in that regard from a crop compensation
- 19 | standpoint. We've produced every piece of paperwork and
- 20 had executed as necessary to provide the compensation
- 21 | that's due from damages, except for the two where --
- 22 Q. So do they host turbines? Or will they host
- 23 turbines?
- 24 A. There has been two turbines removed from one of the
- 25 | landowner's properties. And the other one is a --

- 1 | there's no turbines on that gentleman's property, and
- 2 | that one is, I believe, underground collection, but I can
- 3 look and confirm that.
- 4 Q. For the one with the turbines removed, the two
- 5 | turbines, was that one of the easements that expired, or
- 6 | was that not included in that map?
- 7 A. No. That is not an expired easement.
- 8 Q. So you just released him from his easement?
- 9 A. From the participating easement?
- 10 Q. Correct.
- 11 A. No, ma'am.
- MR. GANJE: I didn't hear the answer. I
- 13 apologize.
- 14 THE WITNESS: I said "no, ma'am."
- 15 Q. But you removed the turbines? Is that what you
- 16 said?
- 17 A. Yeah. We're keeping the easement on the property.
- 18 Yes, ma'am. But we are not -- we have removed the
- 19 turbines from the property but we are keeping the active
- 20 easement agreement on the property continuing.
- 21 Q. Okay. I follow you now. Thank you.
- 22 What is the -- or do you have an update on the
- 23 | completion date of this project?
- 24 A. The commercial operations date for this project is
- 25 December 31, 2019.

- 1  $\mid$  Q. And you still believe you can meet that date?
- 2 A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. Can you elaborate on the DOE concerns with this
- 4 project?
- 5 A. Sure. So as I was discussing earlier or explaining
- 6 | earlier, that the DOE expressed general concerns with the
- 7 | project, which is based off of a project area. To
- 8 understand what concerns fully, you know, may be or if
- 9 | any still exist would be based off of more detailed
- 10 | material such as defined turbine locations. So other
- 11 than looking at a 53,000 acre, roughly, project area,
- 12 they would be looking at specified turbine locations.
- Before we continue those conversations with them
- 14 and -- we would like to be able to solidify our turbine
- 15 | locations with the FAA to know that we have a clean, you
- 16 | know, solidified project.
- 17 Q. Do you know if the concerns that -- are radar based
- 18 | concerns or aviation specific concerns or communication
- 19 | concerns? Do you have any detail on that?
- 20 A. I do not. I'm not the best person to answer that
- 21 | question. That would be tailored towards one of our
- 22 other witnesses.
- Q. Do you have the specific witness that you would
- 24 suggest I ask?
- 25 A. That would be Sam Massey.

Q. Perfect. Thank you. 2 MS. EDWARDS: I think that's all I have for you. 3 Thank you. 4 MS. CREMER: Commissioner Fiegen. 5 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Wilhelm for 6 being here. Is this the first time you've had the 7 opportunity to be the project manager of a single project 8 like this? Or --THE WITNESS: This is my first project where I 10 am, you know, the lead project manager. Yes, ma'am. 11 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: This is a tough project 12 because of the movement of ownership, the length of land 13 agents out in the field. Also when leases expire. And 14 so you have certainly -- when I have looked at all the 15 wind projects that we have had in front of us, this is 16 probably one of the most complicated way to the end 17 because it's so many changes, and so wow. 18 Okay. I'm going to go to my first question. 19 And it was already asked by Staff, but I want to talk a 20 little bit more about it. 21 It talked about December 2019 as being your 22 project completion date. Is that because of the PPA with 23 your purchaser of your energy and capacity and all that? 2.4 THE WITNESS: It's for a couple reasons. 25 that is part of the commercial agreement that we have in

place. But, two, that's something that we've coordinated
with our engineering and construction teams on and
something that's agreeable to them as well.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So what would happen if it
doesn't get done before December '19? Can it go into

2020?

THE WITNESS: You know, as stated in our Application, we talked about the first quarter of 2020. You know, it's our goal to reach December 31, 2019. It's where our customer is at as far as when they would like to receive the power buy.

You know, it does become commercially challenging after a certain point, but it's something that we feel confident in hitting.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So what happens to your PPA if you don't reach December '19?

THE WITNESS: That's something that would need to be discussed with -- between senior management and our commercial folks as far as what would happen.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Next question, how many alternate sites do you have now? There's just been so many moving parts that I haven't even had time to count them. So you've used some of the alternate sites already. How many do you have left?

THE WITNESS: And if you would just give me one

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second, I too have looked at several iterations of the
1
    project over the last few days.
2
 3
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Sure. I can do that.
              And if you wanted to file that, you certainly
 4
 5
    could, if you don't want to -- if you want to count
 6
    tonight, you can file that.
7
              THE WITNESS: Sure. For right now, I would say
8
    that there's six. There's six alternates right now.
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    That you can use.
10
              THE WITNESS: That we could potentially
11
    consider. Yes, ma'am.
12
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So now I'm going to go to
    your, let's see, January 29 Direct Testimony. And on
13
14
    page 5 of 15, at the bottom, it talks about you having 99
15
    percent of the necessary property rights.
16
              Does that mean easements? I mean, you have
17
     99 percent of the easements?
18
              THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. So that when that
     statement was made, it would apply to 99 percent of the
19
20
    necessary easements in place to host the project that was
21
    proposed.
22
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So that was mathematically
23
    calculated? Like how many easements do you have in this
24
    project?
25
              THE WITNESS: Total easements?
                                              One second.
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map -- oh, now I've got to figure out which map that was, if it was in your application or if it was additional filings. The one that I looked at last Thursday, there were several areas that were not signed and they were pending.

1.3

THE WITNESS: Sure. So in my initial Direct
Testimony, the reference was 99 percent of property
easements necessary. We've since corrected and refiled
maps that showed pending agreements due to expired wind
farm easement agreements, which led up to today where we
have solidified our land fabric.

No further land acquisition is needed or easements needed to host the project. So today we would be at 100 percent complete for the project.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So when you did your

Direct Testimony -- I'm trying to get to the question on

your Direct Testimony and how you figured out that 99.

So there were 100 easements and there was only one that was missing January 29? Is that what you're telling me?

THE WITNESS: It was -- upon filing Direct

Testimony, it was all easements in hand except for one,

was the 99 percent.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you.

On 7-15, let's see, of that same testimony, it 1 2 just talks about -- it talks again about the tribal 3 consultations, but it only has one tribe. And that's --I couldn't remember exactly where that testimony was, but 4 it actually is in yours. 6 So there was somebody that testified prior to 7 you that stated that you worked with several tribes, but 8 this one says one. Can you help me understand if it was you that only met one or the whole project? 10 THE WITNESS: Before I answer the question, can 11 you point me to where you're --12 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Sure. It's still in that 13 January, I think it was 29th or whatever. It's page 7 of 14 15, and it's line 7. 15 THE WITNESS: So in response to that statement, 16 I personally have only met with the Sisseton-Wahpeton 17 Oyate tribe. But I do know that because of the size of 18 the project, additional resources were sought from 19 neighboring tribes to help cover the project area, as it 20 is fairly large. 2.1 So my involvement has only been with the one 22 tribe. 23 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. That makes sense. 24 So I know I can go do my own study of the final 25 map, but right now I haven't had time to do that. So on

shadow flicker and sound, is there somebody else I can ask that will come up and talk about the final map, the final shadow flicker, the final sound, or is that you?

THE WITNESS: That would be somebody else.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay.

1.3

I'm going to go back to the crop. And you had a formula -- now I can't remember if it was your testimony. There was a formula that Crowned Ridge uses for crop damages. Does that also include compaction? Is compaction part of that?

THE WITNESS: Yes. It's all affected areas, whether that be from our pre-development or during the construction process where we may compact the ground and ultimately hurt the yield on that piece of property.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So it actually may be not only one year but two years or three years until that compaction is aerated and --

THE WITNESS: Depending on the level of compaction from, say, a crane, yeah, there's a possibility that there could be multiple years.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: I also saw in this
Application or testimony somewhere about 240 days. Can
you enlighten me on how you settle and what the 240 days
were when you make a settlement on crop damage, if you
have up to 240 days and is that because of the growing

season? Because a lot of times people wouldn't know that until -- enlighten me on what the 240 days reference was.

2.1

amount of time to where the impacted area would be calculated and a mutual agreement brought forth that shows this is the impacted area. That's a general time allotted to us as the operator to fix that issue or to cover that issue. But there's nothing stopping, you know, the landowner from having an assessment done on their own to expedite that process for us, you know, to meet ultimately the executed crop compensation form.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you.

I think I'll ask about setbacks with your sound and shadow flicker expert.

I believe -- I don't think this is confidential, but if it is, you can just tell me. On page 12 of 15 on that same testimony from January 29, it has the benefits of the wind facility. That wasn't confidential, was it? I don't think it is. I don't have it marked as confidential. January 29, 2019, on the back page, page 12 of 15, it has the benefits of the wind facility listed.

THE WITNESS: Sure.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So No. 7 on line 16, it has land lease payments to landowners of approximately 40

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1
     million. Is that for like a 25-year life of the project?
2
     Is that what it looks like?
 3
              THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: And 130 wind turbines?
 4
5
              THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
 6
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you.
                                                        That's
    my last question.
7
8
              Thanks.
 9
                    (Discussion off the record.)
10
              MS. CREMER: Let's reconvene at 5:25.
11
                     (A short recess is taken.)
12
              MS. CREMER: Let's go back on the record and we
1.3
     would be at Chairman Hanson.
14
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Are you ready?
15
              THE WITNESS:
                            Yes, sir.
16
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: I don't have any questions for
17
     you.
18
              MS. CREMER: You get the gold star today.
19
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Let's give Chairman Hanson
     a break more often.
20
2.1
              I do have a couple.
22
              THE WITNESS:
                            Sure.
23
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Would it be correct that,
24
     in choosing to drop turbine No. 79, that you have
25
     eliminated the turbine closest to Intervenor Lynch's
```

1 property? 2 THE WITNESS: That's correct. 3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And would it be true that by dropping turbine 67 and 68, you dropped the two 4 5 turbines closest to Intervenor Christenson's property? 6 THE WITNESS: That's correct. 7 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. 8 I want to go back to the conversation you had with Commissioner Fiegen regarding the alternate sites. 10 And I just want to make sure that my math is correct, my 11 mental math. 12 As I counted, you have dropped 10 turbines. 1.3 had 16 alternate turbines. And so by replacing those 10, 14 you end up with the six alternate sites left that you 15 referred to; is that correct? 16 THE WITNESS: So my math that I used was that we 17 are electing to drop 17 primaries and we're electing to 18 take into consideration -- and those seven that I just 19 first note is that for the noise and shadow flicker 20 exceedances or expired leases. Then we had these seven 2.1 turbines which I refer to as the Hessler seven, which put 22 us at 14. We started at 20. And that's where I got the 23 6. 24 Now I would like to kind of clarify that

statement that when we are electing to use all 10

turbines as primaries, we are in turn calling the former primary location as an alternate. So we would ultimately have more to consider, but from the way that the question was asked, I answered it as in like there's six that really weren't accounted for based off of our conversations.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. So that leads me to maybe a bit of a concern. So I'm understanding that even though you've said you've dropped these turbines, you've really now converted them to alternate sites and they could, in fact, come back to life; is that correct?

THE WITNESS: For the turbines that we are doing for the Hessler seven, those are the ones that we are flip-flopping. For the ones that we have agreed to for other reasons, for the expired leases, one of those being turbine 79, Alt 19, Alt 20, those are what we're considering as dropped. I'm sorry it's murky but --

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Yeah. And I'm glad I asked that question. Because I thought all of the dropped ones were in the same dead, done category but I'm understanding now that's not the case. So I need to get different colored markings on my map also then.

And you understand, obviously, that makes our job a little bit more difficult when we thought those seven might be done and now we're hearing they might be

coming back. 1 2 THE WITNESS: Do you mind if I clarify? 3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Please do. 4 THE WITNESS: When you say they may be coming 5 back, we're marking them as an alt, as in, worst-case 6 scenario, that we cannot consider another turbine 7 location. We're committing to those seven turbines 8 being -- the Hessler seven, we're committing to not using those seven. We'd like to reserve the right of having 10 just an alternate to consider in the event that something 11 else was to occur that's unknown to us at this time 12 during the construction process. 1.3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And so it would be my 14 understanding before you would reinvigorate any of the 15 Hessler seven, you would go through all the rest of your 16 designated alternate sites. 17 THE WITNESS: That's correct. Yes, sir. 18 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. That helps. 19 appreciate that. 20 So I'm going to go back to this Exhibit A1-M 2.1 that has the statement, "The Department of Energy had 22 considerable issues with turbine placement in the area 23 and the developer's currently working with the agency to mitigate their concerns at the site." 24

You've been asked this question several times.

```
I have not heard an answer yet but I just want to make
2
            I want to know what those "considerable issues"
    are. My understanding was that you said that Mr. Massey
 3
 4
     can answer that question.
                                Is that correct?
 5
              THE WITNESS: He's better suited to answer that
 6
    question. Yes, sir. He can answer the question. Yes,
7
     sir.
8
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
                                    Thank you. Because it
 9
     says, "We're working with the -- the developer's working
10
    with the agency." So obviously somebody in your outfit
11
     knows the answer to that question.
12
              THE WITNESS:
                            That's correct.
13
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: So I will just say, if
14
    Mr. Massey doesn't know the answer, you're coming back.
15
                            Okay. Fair enough.
              THE WITNESS:
16
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
                                    Thank you. No further
17
    questions.
18
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: May I just clarify the
19
     answer that he gave on the Hessler?
20
              MS. CREMER: Yeah.
21
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So I think I heard you
22
     right but I don't think I was listening fast enough. So
23
     the Hessler seven, I need to look at all of those now
24
    when I analyze the project as alternates. So I still
25
    need to look at those? Or does this mean you're coming
```

back to the Commission -- you've dropped them. Does it mean you've dropped them and you'll come back to the Commission if you need one of those? Or help me understand.

1.3

THE WITNESS: Those -- if I had to explain, those seven turbine locations are the last seven turbines that we would possibly consider utilizing out of the entire project. The only reason why we would like to reserve the right to use them as an alternate is if for some reason we were constrained and needed to activate one of those to meet the proposed capacity of the project. But again, last seven to be considered.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. So as a Commissioner, I need to look at those when I look at this Application, and I just wanted to make sure. So this is my bite at the apple this time, not like a couple months from now if you come back. You're asking me to look at these alternate sites now as alternates.

period, right, we would be able to determine exactly what we would be proceeding with and what we would not. Does that help answer the question? Where we are actually determining all of the primary turbine locations versus alternate. And if -- to answer your question, you can consider those as alternate turbine locations at the

1 time, yes.

3

4

5

2 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Thank you.

MS. CREMER: Redirect, Crowned Ridge.

MR. MURPHY: Thank you.

#### REDIRECT EXAMINATION

## 6 BY MR. MURPHY:

- 7 Q. I just have one question, and it's along the lines
- 8 of the questioning of the Commission. It's to clarify
- 9 the record.
- 10 If you would turn to the proposed conditions and
- 11 Condition 28. And if you need a copy, just let me know.
- 12 A. Yeah. I think -- oh, no. I've got it right here.
- 13 Q. And this is Exhibit A61. You're there?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Okay. And you've read it? 28?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. With your recollection of Condition 28, can you
- 18 | better explain the conditions under which a primary
- 19 | that's listed there that we would not use and would turn
- 20 into an alt would come back and be a primary?
- 21 A. I'll go ahead and read the entirety of 28. I think
- 22 that would be best. "The Applicant agrees to use
- 23 | alternative turbine locations instead of the following
- 24 | primary turbine locations: CR 16, CR 19, CR 23, CR 60,
- 25 | CR 49, CR 67, and CR 68. If during construction at an

alternative turbine Applicant determines that the 1 2 location is not suitable for a turbine due to 3 geotechnical, cultural, environmental issues, or other 4 constructability issues, the Applicant shall file an affidavit with the Commission setting forth why the 5 6 alternative turbine cannot be used and identifying which 7 primary turbine will be used. If there is a dispute over 8 the use of a primary turbine, the Applicant and PUC Staff 9 shall meet and attempt to resolve the dispute within 10 10 business days of the filing of the affidavit. If the 11 dispute cannot be resolved within 10 business days, the 12 Applicant shall file a request for a material deviation 1.3 with the Commission." 14 Do you have anything to add to that condition? 15 No, I do not. MR. MURPHY: That's all for redirect I have. 16 17 MS. CREMER: Thank you. 18 Recross only as to Commission questions and redirect. And it would be Intervenor. 19 20 MR. GANJE: Thank you. 2.1 RECROSS-EXAMINATION 22 BY MR. GANJE: 23 Are you prepared to commit to what alternative sites

Q. Are you prepared to commit to what alternative sites will be used to move the so-called Hessler turbines you've agreed to move before the end of this hearing?

24

No, sir. 1 Α. 2 Would you please identify for the record the five 3 turbines that are at risk because of the FAA's concerns 4 by a number? 5 A. I actually do not have those turbine locations in 6 front of me, but it's something that I could work to 7 provide. I could provide additional information on that 8 moving forward. I just don't have it in front of me right now. MR. GANJE: I would move that the Commission 10 11 order the Applicant to provide those by tomorrow so that 12 we know -- or start to get a better picture of what the 13 map is because it's still very much of a moving map. 14 MS. CREMER: So I'd ask Crowned Ridge, can you get that information tomorrow? 15 16 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. 17 MS. CREMER: Thank you. 18 MR. GANJE: Excuse me. I'm looking at my notes, 19 which aren't very legible. It will be a minute. 20 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Just a procedural 21 question. 22 Will Sam, is it Massey -- will he be coming up 23 also? 2.4 MR. MURPHY: Yeah. 25 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Because I forgot to

- 1 ask one question. So I can ask him.
- MS. CREMER: Yes. I'm sorry. Go ahead.
- MR. GANJE: I didn't want to interrupt the
- 4 Commission.
- 5 Q. (BY MR. GANJE) I understand from testimony, I think
- 6 | in response to Commissioner Nelson, that you said that
- 7 | you were going to eliminate turbines 68 and 69; is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. That would be 67 and 68.
- 10 Q. 67 and 68. But your testimony is unclear about
- 11 this, although you did respond to his question.
- Do I understand that you're still going to keep them
- 13 as alternatives? Because this new definition of dropping
- 14 does not really mean dropping.
- 15 A. We are not considering those turbine locations as
- 16 | primary turbine locations. As I voiced and tried to
- 17 | explain, as it was a little bit confusing, that we would
- 18 like -- because we were taking the steps to optimize the
- 19 project and consider alternative locations to optimize
- 20 the sound impacts on nonparticipants, we would like to
- 21 | hold the right to have these locations that we're moving
- 22 from as alternates moving forward in the event that we
- 23 | are constrained and need to utilize one of those
- 24 locations.
- 25 Q. So then they're still viable. You're preserving

- 1 your right to perhaps, under whatever circumstances you
- 2 deem reasonable, declare those sites for turbines;
- 3 correct?
- 4 A. I would like to point to Staff condition -- permit
- 5 | Condition No. 28 where I think I read through that
- 6 extensively and answered your question.
- 7 Q. Well, you're still reserving the right to use those
- 8 turbines; correct?
- 9 A. We would like the right to use those turbines, if
- 10 needed.
- 11 Q. Well, it's not a like. You've negotiated directly
- 12 | with the Staff and made that a possible actual condition
- 13 of the permit, haven't you?
- 14 A. We have agreed to use seven alternative turbine
- 15 locations in place of those that I noted, and we have
- 16 also said that if there is a dispute over the use of a
- 17 | primary turbine, the Applicant and PUC Staff shall meet
- and attempt to resolve the dispute within 10 business
- 19 days of filing the affidavit. We'd like the right to be
- 20 able to use one of those in the event it's needed.
- 21 Q. Well, you're reserving the right. It's not a like,
- 22 | it's a reserve. This condition would give you that
- 23 | right, don't you agree?
- 24 A. Can you repeat the question, please?
- 25 Q. Certainly. This condition would give you that

- 1 | right. Don't you agree?
- 2 A. I believe it does.
- 3 | O. I believe one of the honorable Commissioners
- 4 | mentioned -- or mentioned on the record that he would now
- 5 | need a different colored map. Will a new updated map be
- 6 | provided that has all this stuff in it that you've
- 7 testified to today?
- 8 A. I would be happy to file an additional map that
- 9 better clarifies what some of those sticky notes were we
- 10 were pointing to earlier.
- MR. GANJE: No further questions.
- MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- 13 Staff.
- MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.
- 15 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MS. EDWARDS:
- 17 Q. I'm going to go back, hopefully briefly, to a topic
- 18 | that Commissioner Fiegen touched on with commercial
- 19 operation date.
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- 21 Q. In your experience, how long does it take to build a
- 22 | wind farm of this relative size?
- 23 A. I've seen wind farms go up between four and eight
- 24 months.
- 25 Q. Four and eight months. And a transmission line?

- 1 A. It depends if we're talking about all the
- 2 | construction happening at once or staggered start. But,
- 3 | you know, we have seen transmission lines and wind farms
- 4 go up in four to eight months.
- 5 | Q. Okay. And if you turn to Exhibit A61, that's the
- 6 proposed conditions. If you would --
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. Can you bring up Condition 27?
- 9 A. Sure.
- 10 Q. Do you have that in front of you?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 Q. Would you agree that condition 27 necessarily
- implicates at least a 30-day cushion? So between when
- 14 | you are expecting to get a final layout -- or final word
- 15 | from the FAA, there's going to be at least 30 days after
- 16 | that; correct? Pursuant to this condition?
- 17 A. That was a proposed date when we received
- 18 determinations back. But ultimately, that would be
- 19 | needed before we could file our preconstruction
- 20 | compliance filings.
- 21 Q. So wouldn't that be putting you end of August for a
- 22 start date?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. So then if it's four to eight months, there's really
- 25 | no way you can meet the end of December; right?

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1
    A. Well, it's a goal of ours per our commercial
2
    agreement. We did talk about, in our Application, about
 3
    within the first quarter of 2020 if necessary. But
 4
     that's -- I believe the question was our proposed
 5
    commercial operations date and that's where we are,
    December 31.
 6
7
         And are you comfortable that you still have an
    offtaker for the power if you don't meet that date?
         It's something that would have to be handled by our
10
    commercial team, it would be part of several
11
    conversations, but again, that's our goal.
12
              MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. No further questions.
1.3
              MS. CREMER: Does that prompt anything from
14
    Commissioners?
15
              If not, final redirect?
16
              MR. MURPHY: No. No further questions from
17
    Crowned Ridge.
18
              MS. CREMER: Thank you. You may step down.
19
                     (The witness is excused.)
20
              MS. CREMER: Call your next witness.
2.1
              MR. MURPHY:
                          Call Sam Massey.
22
              MS. CREMER: And I would just remind you that
23
    you're under oath. You were sworn in earlier.
2.4
              THE WITNESS: Yes, I do recall.
25
              MS. CREMER: So you may begin.
```

#### DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MURPHY:

- 3 Q. Please state your name, business title, and company
- 4 for the record.
- $5 \mid A$ . Yes. My name is Sam Massey. My title is director
- 6 of renewable development for NextEra Energy Resources.
- 7 Q. What is your role with Crowned Ridge Wind?
- 8 A. My role with Crowned Ridge Wind is as a developer
- 9 with a specific focus on our commercial opportunities and
- 10 | commercial agreements as well as liaison to senior
- 11 | management for major decisions.
- 12 Q. Please provide a short overview of your education
- 13 and experience.
- 14 A. So I started working with NextEra in 2015 on our
- 15 | small scale solar team. I moved to our utility scale
- 16 renewable development team in 2016. Prior to joining
- 17 NextEra, I was in the U.S. Navy for 10 years, and I
- 18 | received a bachelor's from the U.S. Naval Academy and a
- 19 B.A. from MIT.
- 20 Q. Did you file Prefiled Direct Testimony and exhibits
- 21 on January 29, 2019, that is marked as A5?
- 22 A. I did.
- 23 Q. Do you have any corrections or changes to the
- 24 Prefiled Direct Testimony and exhibits?
- 25 A. I do not.

- 1 | Q. Did you file prefiled Supplemental Testimony on
- 2 April 9, 2019, that is marked as A23?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Do you have any correction or changes to this
- 5 testimony?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Did you file Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony on May 23,
- 8 2019, that is marked as A44 and accompanying exhibits
- 9 marked as A44-1 and A44-2?
- 10 A. Yes.
- MR. MURPHY: Given that the other witness which
- 12 | was a panel witness already provided a short summary, I'm
- 13 | not going to ask this witness for a summary of his
- 14 | testimony, but I would like at this time, given that both
- 15 | witnesses sponsored A5 and that was an outstanding
- 16 exhibit to be moved into evidence, I would like to move
- 17 that into evidence at this time.
- 18 MS. CREMER: And you trailed off there at the
- 19 | end. You'd like to or you want to?
- MR. MURPHY: I would most definitely want to.
- 21 MS. CREMER: To move at this time. Okay.
- 22 Intervenors.
- MR. GANJE: To the extent that A5 includes or
- 24 refers to or uses any of the reports or testimony of the
- 25 | party identified as Jay Haley, who is representing or

works with a company that did the flicker report and sound modeling report, I would object on the grounds of lack of foundation. I would object on the grounds of hearsay.

I would object on the grounds of the fact that we do not have the testimony of that witness who is one of the principal witnesses, I believe, of the Applicant in the records yet. And I plan on challenging that testimony and, in that regard, do not agree that any of the testimony and exhibits of A5 would be appropriate to be admitted or received at this time.

There are several reasons beyond that, but I believe the basis for the objection is hearsay, lack of foundation. I have questions about their credentials and the reliability of Mr. Jay Haley, which will be raised later. But if that evidence gets in through this means, the backdoor, it would be highly prejudicial to my client, and in that regard I object.

MS. CREMER: Staff.

MS. EDWARDS: Staff has no objection.

MS. CREMER: I'm going to admit it at this time. We can always strike parts of it later if you would like. You know, we would consider it at that time. So at this time I'm going to admit it.

MR. MURPHY: Thank you. The witness is

- 1 available for cross-examination.
- MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- 3 Intervenor.

# CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. GANJE:

- 6 Q. Can you identify for the record the five turbines
- 7 | that the Federal Aviation Administration has indicated
- 8 | are at risk or problematic and subject to their concern
- 9 or challenge?
- 10 A. I cannot.
- MR. GANJE: Excuse me. I'm going to grab a
- 12 | couple notes.
- 13 Q. Could you please indicate for the record who your
- 14 | employer is?
- 15 A. My employer is NextEra Energy Resources.
- 16 Q. Are you an employee of -- okay. You're not an
- 17 | employee of the Applicant in this proceeding, are you?
- 18 A. I'm a representative of the Applicant.
- 19 Q. Right. I understand that. Could you kind of
- 20 describe the -- you gave a pretty nice description of
- 21 | your job, but I don't know what it means -- you do
- 22 | commercial opportunities for NextEra?
- 23 A. Sure. I can provide a little bit more clarification
- 24 on that. So I'm a developer similar to Mr. Wilhelm. We
- 25 | have some overlapping responsibilities. I would say my

focus is more on a broader area and commercial engagement 2 with the customers and working internally on approvals 3 but not necessarily on the day-to-day development of the 4 project. Q. Okay. Well, then -- well, my clients, the 5 6 Intervenors, do not agree with or do not support the 7 approval of the permit. If there are conditions granted 8 and if a permit is granted, as a condition of any permit that may be granted by the Commission under the 10 Application or as it may be amended including any permit 11 conditions that may be required, will NextEra and its 12 successor and interest, if any, unconditionally and 13 irrevocably guarantee all and any of the terms, 14 covenants, conditions, agreements, undertakings, and 15 obligations that may be required to be performed and 16 observed by the Applicant under any approved siting 17 permit if granted to construct, operate, and maintain a 18 facility under this Application? 19 MR. MURPHY: Objection. Objection as to form. 20 It's compound to me. It's also testimony more than a 2.1 question and argument more than a question. I would have 22 no objection if you could break it down into pieces, but it's a paragraph. 23 2.4 MS. CREMER: I would sustain that objection. Ιt 25 is a compound question.

- Q. (BY MR. GANJE) Is NextEra willing to guarantee the performance of any Permit Application given by this Commission in this proceeding?
- MR. MURPHY: Objection. Vague as to guarantee.

  I have no idea what that means in that context.
  - MR. GANJE: By way of offer of proof, Madam Examiner, guarantee and performance is a common term in the commercial world. This gentleman, part of his duties are commercial.

When one says guaranteed performance, that means somebody's standing behind the completion and the operation and the construction of the facility. We have had testimony here that admitted Crowned Ridge is a shell. I think it's a very fair question.

MR. MURPHY: I don't have any objection with that explanation. That was very helpful.

MS. CREMER: I would agree. I think you defined what you meant by guarantee.

MR. GANJE: Thank you.

1.3

- A. So I think I understand the question. We are committed to having filed an Application that is consistent with all the rules and requirements of all the jurisdictions for the project area, if that was your question. If not, could you please restate it?
- 25 Q. Yes. It was -- you're getting close. But see,

- 1 | there's two entities here. There's the entity that's the
- 2 Applicant. That's Crowned Ridge. You don't even work
- 3 for them. You work for NextEra.
- I'm asking if NextEra as an entity, separate
- 5 | business, if they or it will guarantee the performance of
- 6 | the obligations that may be determined by this honorable
- 7 | Commission should it grant a permit?
- 8 A. So the project will be committed to agreeing to the
- 9 conditions imposed by the Commission.
- 10 And to be clear, Crowned Ridge Wind is a wholly
- 11 owned and direct affiliate of NextEra Energy Resources.
- 12 So there is a relationship there.
- 13 I'm not sure if I answered your question. I'm not
- 14 | trying to be --
- 15 Q. I'm sorry. You didn't. And I'm not trying to make
- 16 it a tricky question.
- 17 A. Sure.
- 18 Q. Because I'm just saying we've got an entity that has
- 19 money, NextEra, and we've got one that don't, Crowned
- 20 Ridge. And I don't want to see a project half done, you
- 21 know, for a lot of reasons that aren't important here,
- 22 perhaps. But I don't want to see a project incomplete or
- 23 | a project that isn't maintained or a project that isn't
- 24 capitalized.
- 25 So I'm simply asking, will NextEra, the corporation

or LLC -- I'm not sure which it is, but that isn't the 2 point. The point is, will it guarantee the performance 3 of all aspects of the permit conditions and the permit if it's granted by this honorable Commission? 4 5 So, yes, the Applicant is quaranteeing compliance --6 Not the Applicant. I don't mean to be rude. But 7 the Applicant is Crowned Ridge. NextEra is the big 8 That's a big company. I'm asking if it will quarantee the performance of whatever terms and 10 conditions the honorable Commission may consider should 11 it grant a permit? 12 NextEra Energy Resources isn't a party to this. 1.3 Okay. So what's your answer? 14 Α. No. 15 (Pause.) 16 MR. MURPHY: Is this a staring contest, or do we 17 have another question? 18 MR. GANJE: I don't have good enough sight to 19 stare. 20 I have no further questions for this witness. MS. CREMER: Thank you. 21 22 Staff. 23 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. 24 While I ask my first question, I'd ask 25 Mr. Paulson to hand the witness Exhibit S2 off the stand.

- 1 If you would, please. I knew I'd get him up here
- 2 somehow.
- 3 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: He's in the record.
- 4 MS. EDWARDS: Close to the witness stand.
- 5 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: That's Mr. Eric Paulson.
- 6 Working for Staff.
- 7 MS. EDWARDS: Not the confidential, but the
- 8 public. The big one.

### CROSS-EXAMINATION

- 10 BY MS. EDWARDS:
- 11 Q. Can you turn to page 439 of that document? It's 439
- 12 of 626.
- 13 A. Yes. One second.
- MR. MIKAL HANSON: What's the exhibit number?
- MS. EDWARDS: I'm sorry. Exhibit S2, public
- 16 version.
- 17 A. Okay. I'm on page 439 of 626.
- 18 Q. Do you see Staff Data Request 2-35?
- 19 A. I do.
- 20 Q. And in that Data Request, were you responsible at
- 21 | all for that? Or can you speak to it?
- 22 A. I can speak to it, yes.
- 23 Q. Now in that Data Request, in your response, isn't it
- 24 | true that you stated that the Department of Energy had,
- 25 "considerable issues" with turbine placement?

- 1 A. I believe so. Can I just take a second to reread
- 2 this quickly?
- 3 0. Sure.
- 4 A. Thanks.
- 5 (Witness examines document.)
- 6 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 7 Q. So how do we reconcile that with the testimony we
- 8 just heard that there were five issues?
- 9 A. So at the time that this correspondence was
- 10 performed between -- between the project and the
- 11 Department of Energy -- maybe it will be helpful -- can I
- 12 give you a little bit more clarification on the entire
- 13 process here?
- 14 O. Please do.
- 15 A. So what we do when we site a wind project is we
- 16 perform electromagnetic interference studies basically to
- 17 | make sure that the project won't interfere with any
- 18 existing uses of the electromagnetic spectrum of energy.
- 19 So that could be cell towers, anyone licensed or
- 20 registered with the FCC. Those are sort of the
- 21 nonfederal bucket.
- What we're referring to here is what we would call a
- 23 | federal beam path study. So what we do -- this is
- 24 customary on all of our projects, and probably every
- 25 other wind developer as well -- is we reach out to the

federal agencies, typically the National Transportation
Information Administration. They're sort of the
clearinghouse for that, as I understand it, and they work
with the other federal agencies like Department of
Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and, for example, in
this case the Department of Energy.

1.3

2.4

So we provided them with an array at this time. I believe this was in August 2018. And at the time, the Department of Energy expressed that they had some issues.

I would like to say for the record that the National Transportation Information Administration did say that they were -- I believe they said no harmful interference anticipated. But, regardless of that, we did work with the DOE. We reestablished our turbine array with the expectation that there shouldn't be anymore interference with the DOE beam paths that they stated.

What we're doing now, I think as Mr. Wilhelm expressed, is we're waiting to get our finalized determinations of no hazard from the Federal Aviation Administration to make sure that we can actually build on those locations, and then we're going to return to the DOE and confirm with them that we've mitigated those considerable issues that they identified originally.

Q. When we talk about Department of Energy, is this a

WAPA concern, Western Area Power Administration?

- 1 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 2 Q. To your knowledge, have any of your consultants
- 3 reviewed the beam paths that DOE's concerned about?
- 4 A. So we perform those engagements, I believe,
- 5 | internally through our own analytics team engaging
- 6 directly with the Federal Government.
- 7 | Q. Do you expect there to be any issues as a result of
- 8 that review?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Did you listen to any of the hearing last week, last
- 11 Thursday?
- 12 A. A brief portion of it.
- 13 Q. Okay. There was a mention of railroads. Can you
- 14 update us on the process or where you're at on getting
- 15 | permit crossings for the railroad?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. From the railroad.
- 18 A. Right. So our consultant is currently working with
- 19 BNSF, the railroad operator owner in question for this
- 20 project. And I'll give a little bit of color on how that
- 21 process generally works and then where we are in that
- 22 | process for this specific project.
- Generally, we work with an outside consultant who
- 24 dialogues with the railroad operator. In BNSF's case,
- 25 | we've worked with them many, many times at different

project locations across the country. I would say that it is a very clearcut established process that we generally view as important and critical to the project but, based on our experience, low risk because it's done so often, keeping in mind that the railroad companies are pretty much used to being approached by utilities, gas operators, anyone looking to cross their infrastructure.

And so typically, BNSF will engage with our consultant. They'll talk about the different technical and legal requirements they expect from that crossing engagement. And they have an application. They provide it to us. It's very cut and dry. We respond. Generally agree or have some discussions about sort of a compromise. And then we finalize the crossing agreement. And that's how we get, you know, the right to cross their infrastructure.

In the case of Crowned Ridge, I understand that we've reached out to them. We haven't actually finalized and submitted our Application to them, but we will be doing that shortly. I believe it's in the next couple of weeks sometime. Sometime in June. And we expect to have that complete sometime this summer.

Q. Thank you.

2.4

You mentioned BNSF. Is that the only rail line that you will potentially cross?

- A. To my knowledge, yes.
- 2 Q. Okay. Thank you.

And the previous witness testified a little bit about construction timelines. How confident are you that this project will be fully operational by the end of this year?

A. Very confident. I would reiterate what Mr. Wilhelm said. This is a very typical project schedule for us, both for the transmission line as well as the project size.

Many times there could be a wide variance in the amount of time it takes. Typically, that's not necessarily, you know, because of the project itself. It's how much resource we dedicate to that project.

And, you know, we looked at this project and

balanced it with the other projects in our portfolio for 2019 commercial operation. And the company is fully aligned on dedicating the resources necessary to get Crowned Ridge done in time for our scheduled December 31, 2019 commercial operation date.

- Q. Do you know if that date's flexible at all, to your knowledge? And if that's confidential --
- 23 A. Do you mean flexible from a commercial perspective?
- 24 Q. Right. Yes.
- 25 A. It is confidential. I will say that both parties

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1
     are very committed towards getting that complete by the
     end of 2019. I don't speak directly for our customer
2
 3
     but, you know, I think they would work with us were it to
 4
     potentially move, but I think we're both very focused on
 5
     getting that done by the COD target date.
 6
              MS. EDWARDS: No further questions. Thank you.
7
              MS. CREMER:
                           Thank you.
              Chairman Hanson.
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                Thank you.
10
              Good afternoon, Mr. -- good evening, Mr. Massey.
11
              THE WITNESS: Good evening.
12
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: What type and amounts of
13
     insurance do you plan to carry?
14
              THE WITNESS: So we are contractually required
15
     to carry a minimum amount of insurance. I do not know
16
     the dollar value off the top of my head. Typically, it's
17
     definitely in the seven figure range. I couldn't tell
18
     you the precise number right now.
19
              In excess of that, we also have access to
20
     multiple levels of umbrella insurance, either through the
21
     project or through our parent.
22
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Would you get those numbers
23
     for us and information for us, please?
2.4
              THE WITNESS:
                            Yes.
25
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: And the types of insurance
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1 coverage? 2 THE WITNESS: Yes. 3 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Do you carry these types of 4 insurance on your existing wind farms? 5 THE WITNESS: Yes. 6 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. 7 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 8 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I apologize to all for belaboring this, but I'm still not understanding your 10 answers regarding the considerable issues the Department 11 of Energy raised. 12 Can you very specifically tell me what the 13 issues were the Department of Energy has with the 14 project? 15 THE WITNESS: So there were specific beam paths 16 that they identified. 17 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. Let me stop you 18 there. Beam paths would be something that you would deal 19 with NTIA on; correct? 20 THE WITNESS: My understanding is NTIA is sort 2.1 of the clearinghouse here with the different federal 22 agencies. 23 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Correct. So if you're 24 dealing with NTIA on that issue, how does DOE enter into 25 that?

1 THE WITNESS: Being one of the federal agencies 2 that has a nonregistered beam emitting facility, that's 3 how our interaction starts with the NTIA. COMMISSIONER NELSON: And so what particular 4 5 beam paths does DOE have that they have concerns with? THE WITNESS: I don't know specifically which 6 7 What I understand is that there were some beam paths. 8 that were -- the turbine configuration we had at the time did present some interference that the DOE had concerns 10 about. We've since moved those turbine locations to make 11 sure that they are not interfering. 12 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And you just haven't heard 13 back from DOE on a final approval? 14 THE WITNESS: We're waiting --15 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Is that correct? 16 THE WITNESS: We're waiting to get the finalized determinations of no hazard from the FAA so that -- you 17 18 know, rather than having to go through this twice, we can 19 get those in hand and then go back to the DOE and say, 20 Okay, this is what we've got. We want to confirm with 21 you that this satisfies your concerns. 22 COMMISSIONER NELSON: But your testimony is that 23 you've moved the ones that they indicated were 24 problematic? 25 THE WITNESS: To my understanding, that's

correct. 1 2 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. That's all the questions I've got. 3 4 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Thank you. I don't really 5 have a question for you, but I'm going to ask you anyway. 6 THE WITNESS: Okay. 7 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Because your counsel 8 talked a little bit when Mr. Wilhelm was up. And it was about the easements that the Commission asked you guys to 10 secure last Thursday night, Friday. And your counsel 11 said back to someone that we did not request those or 12 whatever. 1.3 What I thought what was said during that 14 discussion earlier -- man, was that earlier today, I 15 quess, it wasn't even yesterday -- earlier today, that 16 that is confidential. Intervenors have not signed a 17 confidential agreement, but the Commission could view 18 those? 19 THE WITNESS: That is my understanding. 20 Correct. 2.1 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: So we could ask for those. 22 And so I'm actually suggesting that we have the 23 opportunity to make sure that we get to look at those 2.4 before we make a determination. 25 THE WITNESS: Okay.

1 MS. CREMER: Was that it? 2 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Yes. 3 MS. CREMER: Redirect, Crowned Ridge? MR. MURPHY: No redirect. 4 5 MS. CREMER: Okay. That would take us to 6 recross but that would only be as to Commission 7 questions. 8 Intervenors? 9 MR. GANJE: No questions. 10 MS. CREMER: Thank you. 11 Staff. MS. EDWARDS: I just have one question, and I 12 13 didn't print off Confidential S2 because there was a lot 14 of information I didn't want to leave hanging out of 15 So Mr. Kearney is going to give you his computer 16 so you can look at S2. 17 RECROSS-EXAMINATION 18 BY MS. EDWARDS: This is Confidential S2. And when you have that in 19 20 front of you, can you turn to page --21 MR. MURPHY: Just a question of clarification. 22 Is this going to go to confidential information? 23 question? If it is, I have no issue with it. I just 24 want to make sure that those who have not signed an NDA 25 are not in the room and that we go into confidential

1 session.

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MS. EDWARDS: I am going to ask him, and you can make the decision whether or not it calls for confidential. It might. On page 391 it discusses what types of insurance the project will carry, and that is listed in the PPA. The PPA is confidential. So that's up to you.

MR. MURPHY: So, Sam, that's your call, whether you believe it's highly confidential and we should go into a closed session.

(The witness is excused.)

THE WITNESS: I mean, I'm happy to answer questions up to the point where it would be confidential.

- Q. (BY MS. EDWARDS) Right. I don't intend to go into
- 15 | figures. I'm just -- in response to a question
- 16 | Commissioner Hanson had as to what type of insurance you
- 17 | carry, I believe it's laid out in that portion of the
- 18 PPA; correct?
- 19 A. It would appear so, yeah. It's been a while since
- 20 I've looked through this portion.
- 21 Q. Can you turn to article, I believe, 16 of the PPA?
- 22 A. Okay.
- 23 Q. And would you agree that that lays out the insurance
- 24 | coverage that the project will have?
- 25 A. Yes. That's correct.

```
1
     Q.
         Okay. I don't think I'll go into it any further.
2
     Thank you.
 3
         You're welcome.
     Α.
 4
              MS. CREMER: Did you have a question, Gary?
5
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                No. I was thanking her.
 6
              MS. EDWARDS: I have no further questions.
7
              MS. CREMER:
                           Thank you.
8
              Final redirect, Crowned Ridge.
              MR. MURPHY: No redirect.
10
              MS. CREMER: Thank you. You may step down.
11
              We'll quick talk about it here. I think we can
12
     call one more witness for at least direct. Get them
1.3
     started.
14
              MR. MURPHY: I'm happy -- we're happy to stay as
15
     long as or as short as you and the Commission want us to
     be here.
16
17
              MS. CREMER:
                          Well, you say that now.
18
              MR. MURPHY: We have been prewarned.
19
              MS. CREMER:
                          Yes, you were. So please call your
    next witness.
20
2.1
              MR. MURPHY: I call Mark Thompson.
22
         (The oath is administered by the court reporter.)
23
              MS. CREMER: I'm sorry. Please proceed.
2.4
              MR. MURPHY: Thank you.
25
```

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 <u>BY MR. MURPHY</u>:

1

- 3 Q. Please state your name, business title, and company
- 4 for the record.
- 5 A. My name is Mark Thompson. I'm a manager of wind
- 6 | engineering for NextEra Energy Resource.
- 7 Q. What is your role with Crowned Ridge Wind?
- 8 A. I manage all the engineering resources required to
- 9 develop projects such as Crowned Wind wind.
- 10 Q. Please provide a short overview of your education
- 11 | and experience.
- 12 A. I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in electrical
- engineering that was issued by the University of
- 14 Technology, Kingston, Jamaica. I have a master's in
- 15 business administration that was issued by Nova
- 16 | Southeastern University in Florida. I'm also a certified
- 17 | Six Sigma Black Belt. I have 17 years experience in
- 18 | engineering, engineering design of transmission lines,
- 19 | substations, wind farms, with both Florida Power & Light
- 20 and NextEra Energy Resource.
- 21 Q. Did you file Prefiled Direct Testimony and exhibits
- 22 on January 29, 2019, that is marked as A4?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to the
- 25 | prefiled testimony and exhibits?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Did you file prefiled Supplemental Testimony on
- 3 April 9, 2019, that is marked as A21?
- 4 A. Yes.
- $5 \mid Q$ . Do you have any changes or corrections to this
- 6 testimony?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Did you file Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony on May 23,
- 9 2019, that is marked as A37 and accompanying exhibits
- 10 marked as A37-1 Confidential, A37-2, and A37-3?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to this
- 13 testimony or the exhibits?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Please provide a short summary of your prefiled
- 16 testimony.
- 17 A. So my prefiled testimony, I wanted to highlight that
- 18 | affiliates -- NextEra affiliates such as Crowned Ridge
- 19 | Wind has extensive experience in the construction,
- 20 operation, and maintenance of wind facilities all over
- 21 the United States.
- 22 The design for Crowned Wind Ridge [sic] -- I'm
- 23 | sorry. The design for Crowned Ridge Wind does take into
- 24 | consideration the permit requirements and also the
- 25 | geotechnical requirements needed to build the project.

We ensure that we are conforming to the NESC standard for safety. We are also making sure that erosion and contamination will be eliminated by having site specific SPCC plan and SWIF plan.

During the construction process, we will ensure that NextEra affiliates will be managing the site. And by managing the site, we mean that all of the contractors hired to build the site will have to conform to the requirements needed to meet the PUC permit.

That individual would also ensure that any complaints from landowners or persons affected by the project will be effectively dealt with.

During the operation of the site, the site will be monitored on a 24-hour basis. We will use a SCADA system to make sure that the wind farm is operated safely and effectively at all times.

Q. Thank you.

1.3

2.1

MR. MURPHY: With that, I offer the witness for cross-examination.

MS. CREMER: Thank you.

Intervenors.

MR. GANJE: Thank you.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. GANJE:

Q. Mr. Thompson, in a response to Staff's second Data

- 1 | Request, Question 2-7, the Applicant indicated that
- 2 | additional geotechnical testing was completed. Are those
- 3 | results of the testing now available and in this
- 4 | Application record?
- 5 A. The testing -- they are completed. However, I'm
- 6 unable to say whether or not the completed file was
- 7 updated with the Commission.
- 8 Q. Does the Applicant currently have a national
- 9 pollutant discharge elimination system permit?
- 10 A. I'm sorry. Could you repeat the question?
- 11 Q. Certainly. Does the Applicant in this proceeding
- 12 | have its national pollutant discharge elimination system
- 13 | general permit in place?
- 14 A. I would have to refer to one of my colleagues on the
- 15 environmental side to say whether or not the discharge
- 16 permit is -- have been applied for and they have that in
- 17 hand.
- 18 | O. You don't know?
- 19 A. No. I don't know.
- 20 Q. At this date, has the Applicant received all
- 21 | required permits from the Department of Transportation
- 22 | that it would need for this project?
- 23 A. As it pertains to transportation of equipment, that
- 24 is something that the engineering, procurement, and
- 25 | construction group applies for, and to my knowledge,

- 1 | that's something that they will have to apply for and
- 2 | they will have in hand before they start transporting
- 3 | major equipment and material for construction.
- 4 Q. So you don't know?
- 5 A. No. I don't know.
- 6 | Q. Will the Applicant agree in this Application to
- 7 | comply with the standard of best available technology for
- 8 | all acts in the construction and operation of this
- 9 facility?
- 10 A. Are you referring to reporting of such accident that
- 11 might occur during the construction phase of the project?
- 12 Q. No. What I'm referring to is a broader question
- 13 than that.
- What I'm asking is -- well, first of all, I'll
- define best available technology. That will help you, I
- 16 think. Okay.
- Best available technology means the most stringent
- 18 | pollution controls and all acts regarding construction of
- 19 | the facility and operations of the facility technologies
- 20 that are available.
- 21 So I'm asking if the Applicant will agree to
- 22 | maintain that standard for this project?
- 23 A. During the construction process and operation
- 24 | process, the project usually -- not usually -- they do
- 25 | put together their SPCC plan that is specific to the

site. That plan usually govern pollutants and how they 2 can mitigate them. So I said yes, if that's something 3 that's in those plan, yes, they will abide by it. Well, what I'm asking for is a commitment that's 4 5 broader than that. I'm asking whether this Applicant will agree to use the standard of best available 6 7 technology regarding all aspects of construction of the 8 facility and operations of the facility. MR. MURPHY: Objection. Even though I agree you 10 tried to define it, I'm fairly certain that the witness 11 does not understand the definition of best available 12 technology in the context of this question. 1.3 MS. CREMER: I was just going to ask you, that's 14 not a term of art that I'm familiar with either, best 15 available technology. And I just -- do you have 16 someplace that's defined or that you could point him to 17 as to what is -- or is that just something generic, best 18 available technology? 19 MR. GANJE: It is indeed generic. And the 20 question is fair in the regard that this honorable 21 witness is coming here as a technical person. 22 their wind expert. He is an engineer. He is

knowledgeable about these matters. He's already referred

to one particular form of technology compliance in his

statement and partial answer to my question.

23

24

25

```
So I believe it's relevant to the Commission
1
2
     understanding what type of a commitment this Applicant
 3
     will put on the table, and I'm asking him if he'll commit
 4
     to that.
 5
              MR. MURPHY: So my objection goes deeper then.
 6
              I think the opposing counsel has clearly stated
     this is a vague and unclear standard. And this is an
7
8
     engineering expert. He deals with concrete understanding
     of what he's committing to, and the opposing counsel is
10
     asking him to commit to a vague standard, and I would
11
     object to that.
12
              MS. CREMER: And I'm going to sustain.
1.3
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: One moment, please.
14
              MR. GANJE: My apologies, sir.
15
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                Cheri, would you repeat that
16
     question?
17
             (Reporter reads back the last question.)
18
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                Thank you. Best available
     technology is a phrase that I'm very familiar with and
19
20
     have worked with for years.
2.1
              Do you understand what --
22
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
23
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. Thank you.
2.4
              I would allow him to answer.
25
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: And I support Ms. Cremer's
```

```
ruling.
1
2
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Well, yeah, I'm going to
 3
     support Ms. Cremer's ruling also. I think it's a very
 4
     fair question, but for Mr. Wilhelm, not for this witness.
5
     I mean, that's a question for the top guy, not the
 6
    engineer guy.
7
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Well, excuse me. If we can
8
    dialogue a little bit. He's represented as an expert
    witness. He's an engineer. He's a sixth degree black
10
    belt.
11
              THE WITNESS: Yeah. Six Sigma Black Belt.
12
    Statistical analysis.
1.3
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. And certainly, if he
14
    does not have that knowledge, he just says I don't have
15
    that knowledge. But he knows what best available
16
    technology is. He knows what he knows. And all he's got
17
    to do is say, Hey, I don't know.
18
              I see no one's changing their position. I guess
19
    you don't have to answer.
20
              In shotokan or taekwondo?
              THE WITNESS: I don't know which one it is.
21
22
     It's just statistical analysis.
23
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Off the record.
2.4
                    (Discussion off the record.)
25
              MS. CREMER: You can continue, Mr. Ganje.
```

1 MR. GANJE: Thank you.

- Q. (BY MR. GANJE) Sir, will this Applicant agree to commit to best management practices for all aspects of the construction and operation of this facility if this honorable Commission grants a permit with conditions?
- A. NextEra Energy's philosophy is we will always do the right thing. We are the leader in the industry for the mere fact that we are always seeking better ways and the best ways to do things.

10 As I know today, we will conform to that need to use
11 the best practices that we know of and the best
12 technology that we know of to build and design this
13 project.

- Q. My question is based on a commonly known phrase called best management practices. You're familiar with that?
- 17 A. Yes.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

14

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16

18

19

20

2.1

22

23

24

commit to use best management practices for all aspects regarding the construction and operation of this facility

So my next question is, is the Applicant prepared to

- A. If we analyze the best management practices that is available to us and we deem it truly best practice, yes, we will.
- MR. GANJE: No further questions.

if a permit is granted?

- 1 MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- 2 Staff.

## 3 <u>CROSS-EXAMINATION</u>

- 4 BY MS. EDWARDS:
- 5 Q. Following up on some of Mr. Ganje's questions, you
- 6 stated that the geotech. work has been completed for the
- 7 project; correct?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Has the project identified any locations that may
- 10 | not be suitable for wind turbines as a result of that
- 11 data?
- 12 A. Currently, we have not identified any locations that
- 13 | were originally marked as suitable for turbines, the
- 14 | geotechnical information did not eliminate those
- 15 locations.
- 16 Q. Is the remaining geotech. work needed for any of the
- 17 | alternative sites that we discussed today?
- 18 A. No. We usually include our alternate sites in the
- 19 overall geotechnical work that we do.
- 20 Q. Thank you.
- 21 In your Supplemental Testimony, at the very last
- 22 page, page 4 of 4, you discussed MISO emergency events.
- 23 Do you recall that?
- 24 A. Yes, I do.
- 25 | Q. And you stated that the turbines are being equipped

- 1 with extreme cold weather packages. Can you explain what
- 2 that does?
- 3 A. So extreme cold weather packages are available both
- 4 from a software program -- software and programming
- 5 standpoint, meaning you will program your turbines to run
- 6 at a certain temperature.
- 7 That includes different heaters that have to be
- 8 activated, different controls that would have to be
- 9 activated in order to enable the turbine to run under
- 10 certain cold weather conditions.
- 11 Q. So is there then not a temperature at which the
- 12 turbines have to be shut down for their own protection?
- 13 A. Turbines will shut down at a certain temperature if
- 14 | icing starts to develop on the blades.
- 15 Q. Is there a low temperature at which it becomes
- 16 dangerous for the turbine to run? Does it have to shut
- 17 down not just for icing but because it becomes brittle
- 18 or -- in the cold?
- 19 A. I'm not aware of that condition.
- 20 Q. Okay. You also mentioned unseasonable hot weather.
- 21 Is there a temperature at which the turbines have to be
- 22 | shut down for heat reasons?
- 23 A. Not shut down but they would have to be curtailed.
- 24 There are certain devices within the turbine that would
- 25 | not allow them to produce at their optimum at a certain

- l temperature.
- 2 Q. Do you know what temperature that is?
- 3 A. That is 34 degrees Fahrenheit for the ones that
- 4 | we're using. I'm sorry. Celsius. I'm so sorry.
- 5 | Q. I was going to say if you can't operate above 34
- 6 degrees Fahrenheit, there's about two months a year
- 7 you're out.
- 8 34 degrees Celsius, so that's -- help me out here --
- 9 about 100 degrees Fahrenheit?
- 10 | A. It's about 101, 102.
- 11 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- MS. EDWARDS: I don't have any further
- 13 questions. Thank you.
- MS. CREMER: Thank you.
- 15 Commissioner Nelson.
- 16 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd like to go back to the
- 17 questions that were asked about your Supplemental
- 18 Testimony by Ms. Edwards in regard to cold weather
- 19 operation.
- 20 It's commonly known that this past January all
- 21 of the wind turbines in North Dakota, South Dakota,
- 22 Minnesota had to shut down at minus 22. You've talked
- 23 about here in your testimony that these turbines will be
- 24 equipped with an extreme cold weather package.
- So my question is, with that package, how cold

can it be and they still operate and at what point do they have to stop operating?

1.3

2.4

THE WITNESS: Efficiency -- the output of the turbine is what determines how efficient those units are operating. The cold weather package would allow the turbine to continue to put out the output expected at this minus 22 degrees. Without the cold weather package, you'll find that the output becomes -- is diminished and, as such, it makes sense to shut the turbines down if it's not producing the output that's needed. Because it's not only the real output but it's also the pseudo or var. output that's required for the efficient operation of the wind farm. If you don't have both, you're not having an operation that's efficient enough for you to continue to operate.

Not only that too, at these cold temperatures, what you'll find is that it affects the conduit or transmission line that's used to move this power, and if you can't move the power, it doesn't make sense for you to generate.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. I'm going to ask the question again. With the cold weather package, is there a point at which the turbines would still need to be shut down because of cold temperatures?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: And what is that point?

1.3

2.1

THE WITNESS: I don't have that temperature with me right now, but I could certainly figure that out.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: I would ask that that be submitted to us. And I'll just tell you the reason. I mean, it was a big deal for MISO when, all of a sudden, they lost all the wind generation in these three states on a very cold night.

And I think we, all of us, the folks in your business and the folks in our business, need to be more proactive in making sure that any of the new wind farms that are put together are able to endure through those kind of events. And so it's a big deal from that perspective. So I would appreciate any kind of additional information you could give us.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Thank you.

Just following up with Commissioner Nelson. Did I hear you say that the transmission lines can't move power when it's cold? Or I don't know exactly what I just heard you say.

THE WITNESS: No. Let me clarify that.

You could have a scenario where the transmission line itself is the limiting factor. Meaning if something happens for the line to go down that moves the power from the wind farm, then your wind farm is now rendered

inoperable, meaning it cannot move the power that it's generating.

1.3

And when you have ice storms such as the one that we had last winter, you'll find that the transmission lines, whether the infrastructure or other connecting devices with it, if those go out, then it hinders the wind farm from generating and moving that power that's available.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: We're going to go back to this really cold weather because, you know, it does happen here, and it happens in January and February normally -- I'm not going to say always because I know my transmission people are maybe listening. Usually when it's really, really, really, really cold, I guess I -- does ice build up when it's that 30 below? So is that really a limiting factor when it's cold or is that more icy conditions are you talking about?

Because I was very confused -- I'm still confused of what you said to Commissioner Nelson.

Because having electricity for our people when it's cold is very important. And we understand storms, but when it's really cold and when we look at generation in the Midwest, a lot of times the wind isn't part of that generation mix, a lot of times.

THE WITNESS: So let me go back a little bit.

So the wind farms are typically in areas that are very windy. And with wind and ice, your weak link becomes that transmission line. Now with the cold weather package affixed to your turbines, the turbines will run. But if you have a failure in the conduit, meaning the transmission line to move that power, that's where you have the deficiency, because of wind and ice affecting your structures and your transmission line. But your wind farm with the ice -- with the cold weather package will continually be available.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. You're talking about ice then. You're not talking about necessarily

THE WITNESS: Right.

that cold, cold, cold weather that -- I mean --

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: I mean, it could be both but -- okay.

I'm going to go to your Direct Testimony, page 8 of 12. And I certainly appreciate that your Direct Testimony has numbers. Actually, your rebuttal doesn't so we're going to struggle through that. But your Direct Testimony has numbers so we're going to go to page 8 of 12.

And it talks about the wind technicians on line

2. Do you see that? The wind technicians are located -and I'm just going to let you be able to go there.

```
I'm sorry. I'm pulling up my --
1
              THE WITNESS:
2
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Your Direct Testimony.
 3
                            My Direct Testimony.
              THE WITNESS:
 4
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    Yeah.
                                           Your Direct
     Testimony, January 29, 2019, Mark Thompson, black belt of
5
 6
     statistics.
7
              THE WITNESS: What line?
8
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: It starts on line 2, the
    sentence starts on line 2.
10
              THE WITNESS: What page? Sorry.
11
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Page 8. I'm sorry. Page
12
     8. And it's even numbered. Not all testimony is
1.3
    numbered. I think that has to be a new requirement at
14
    the Commission. But this is numbered.
15
              So line 2 starts at the wind technicians.
16
    you see that?
17
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
18
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. And, you know, it
19
    talks about -- in that sentence it talks about that
20
     they're located at the building and they constantly
2.1
    monitor. So does that mean those wind technicians are
22
    there 24 hours a day seven days a week if they constantly
23
    monitor and inspect?
2.4
              THE WITNESS: No. The wind techs are not there
25
    on site 24/7, but they do have direct contact with the
```

```
central control center so that they're available for
1
 2
    operations or actions in the field as needed.
 3
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Because for me that
 4
    sentence reads differently, but okay.
 5
              So on line 10, those 10 wind technicians, are
 6
    they all full time located where they work out of this
7
     Crowned Ridge area? They're 10 full time?
8
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
9
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Let's see.
                                                In vour
10
    Rebuttal Testimony that you submitted on May 24, I
11
    believe, if I count the pages possibly how you would
    count them, maybe page 7 out of 10, your ice shedding
12
13
     report. And you might not even have to go there. But it
14
     looks like you're willing to submit that to the
15
    Commission, is that correct, in your rebuttal on May 24?
    Your ice shedding report?
16
17
              THE WITNESS: I don't recall committing to an
18
    ice shedding report.
19
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Let me go look at
20
     it. I had it up but -- this is the one that's not
2.1
    numbered, but a lot of them are. But we're going to
22
    change that; right, Chairman Hanson?
23
              Okav.
                     I'm going to just guess that it's page 7
24
    of 10. Well, maybe it's 7 -- yeah. 7 of 10. Because
25
     your first page was 1 of 10 so --
```

```
THE WITNESS: Oh. It's line 17?
1
2
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    Yeah.
                                           Yes.
 3
              THE WITNESS: It's --
 4
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Do not put "yeah" on
5
    there. I said "yes."
              Go ahead.
 6
7
              THE WITNESS: This refers to incidents of blade
8
    throw, blade defragmentation, or blade shed. So it's a
     failure of a blade, a wind turbine blade.
10
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    So blade shed is not ice
11
     shed.
12
              THE WITNESS:
                            Right.
1.3
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Oh, okay. I'm just going
14
    to relook at this. So I might ask a question at the end
15
    but I'm done now.
16
              Thank you.
17
              MS. CREMER: Chairman Hanson.
18
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                Thank you.
19
              Mr. Thompson.
20
              THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
21
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                Your job description and your
22
     responsibilities are pretty heavy. It looks like you
23
    have primary responsibilities in some areas and general
24
    responsibilities in other areas. I'm really tempted to
25
     ask you a question about best available technology.
```

going to skip that, though.

1.3

2.4

You're not planning to have any weak links, are you?

THE WITNESS: We never do. Because when we build, we expect that whatever we build, we're going to make sure that it will generate the revenue that we need, and only if it's built to the best available technology that we know of, we can meet that requirement to both us and our customers.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you for your assistance with that question. Because if you have a severe cold package on these facilities, you're spending some extra serious dollars to do that. So I appreciate your answering that the way you did.

I really enjoyed reading your testimony because there's so much meat and potatoes about the project in it. I'm curious. On page 2 of your, I believe it's direct, you state that the project -- it's the bottom line on page 23. You state that -- you don't need to turn to it. It says, "The project will primarily utilize two different turbines."

So if you are primarily using those, it kind of implies to me that you might be using some other ones.

THE WITNESS: I can clarify that. We won't be using any other turbine other than the two listed in the

1 Application, the Permit Application.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you.

Regarding the meat and potatoes and the --

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Could we strike any food

5 type of analogies?

2.4

CHAIRMAN HANSON: I'd love to go off the record right now but I'm not going to.

Regarding the information that you provided to us which provides a tremendous six-course meal of information that I very much appreciate, was there assistance that was given to you in preparation of this? Because I noticed some of it is similar, if not exact, to testimony that's written by others who have testified.

THE WITNESS: Yes. We -- as a team, the team developing crowned wind -- Crowned Ridge Wind -- get that right -- we coordinate. From the engineering standpoint, my role is to make sure that what's in the design meets the requirement, the permit requirement as stipulated by the PUC.

So you will find some overlap as far as information in various testimony, and it's because of the coordination and the collaboration that we do as a team to develop this Permit Application and the various testimonies.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: In that regard, did you review

blueprints and specifications pertaining to what you've testified here? Do you have a foundation other than someone telling you this is what we're going to do?

2.4

THE WITNESS: So typically for the design, as a manager, I manage the resource, meaning I have engineers that work for me. But, yes, my role is to make sure what's been put out, what's been designed, conforms with the bigger picture.

And, yes, so I reviewed the design for the wind farm as far as the foundations, collection system, the substation is concerned, and also the documentation that comes from General Electric as far as what they can provide. How did that fit with the design? What is it that we should do to make sure that we're conforming to the various entities' regulation? So, yes, in that sense I do review to that level.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you.

Commissioner Fiegen asked you some questions on page 8 regarding employees, and that was one of my curiosities as well.

Are any of these employees being shared with any of the other Crowned Ridge projects? Are we double counting any of them?

THE WITNESS: Based on my discussion with the site manager, the regional manager, we're not double

```
1
     counting. The number of personnel that they designate
2
     for this site is based on turbine count. That's how they
 3
    determine how many technicians they need. And from what
 4
     I have heard and what he has told me, they're not double
    counting.
 6
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: So we're not misleading folks
7
    in that area about the number of employees who are likely
8
    to settle thereby with their families?
              THE WITNESS: To my knowledge, no. We're not
10
    misleading them.
11
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Thompson, for
12
    your testimony.
1.3
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: I just had one follow up.
14
     I forgot to ask you on the turbines and Commissioner
15
    Hanson reminded me of that.
              Did you select the turbines as NextEra and
16
17
    decide the two, or did the purchaser of your power weigh
18
     in on your turbine that you decided on?
19
              THE WITNESS:
                            No. The selection of the turbines
20
     is purely done by personnel inside NextEra.
21
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you.
22
              MS. CREMER: Redirect?
23
              MR. MURPHY: No redirect.
2.4
              MS. CREMER: Intervenors, did you have any
25
     further questions?
```

```
1
              MR. GANJE: No.
2
              MS. CREMER: Staff.
              MS. EDWARDS: No.
 3
 4
              MS. CREMER: Well, thank you. You may step
5
     down.
 6
              THE WITNESS: Thank you.
7
                     (The witness is excused.)
8
              MS. CREMER: Everyone looked. It was 7:00.
9
              One thing: You need to sign in today and every
10
     day, if you haven't already. Just I was told to remind
11
     everyone of that.
12
              Commissioners, what time would you like to begin
1.3
    tomorrow?
14
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: What I'd like to?
15
              MS. CREMER: What time should we?
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Let's do 9:00 or 8:30 so
16
17
     people have an opportunity to make phone calls and things
18
     of that nature. That always seems to come up in the
19
     morning.
20
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: 8:30 sounds good.
2.1
              MS. CREMER:
                          That work for you, Cheri?
22
              So is there any other business?
23
              MR. GANJE: Yes. I have a couple of
24
     housekeeping things, so to speak. It shouldn't take very
25
     long.
```

I move that the Applicant provide the geotechnical work that they say is now done to the Commission and to the Intervenors. I assume that's not confidential. But, in any event, I move that the Commission instruct, order, the Applicant to provide that tomorrow.

And my second motion is I move that the Applicant provide the Commission the land agreements that were the basis for the Friday map disclosure requirement that the Applicant gave on late Friday afternoon so that the Commission -- and if they are confidential, the Commission itself can review those land agreements and see if indeed -- if they're in place.

I would move on both instances that the Commission require the Applicant to provide them by tomorrow.

MS. CREMER: So I would ask the Commissioners, do you have a need for the geotech. information?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Is that something that you are capable of providing?

MR. MURPHY: I worked on a project in Ontario where we had to review the geotech., and I have not reviewed it here. One, it's confidential, it's highly confidential information. Two, it's probably 3 or 400 pages long.

```
If the Commission desired to know the results or
1
2
     some conclusions that came out of that, I could go back
 3
    to the team and see if that's easily attainable. But I
 4
    would highly doubt the Commission wants the whole
 5
    geotech. report, and it would be confidential.
 6
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: You said it's how many pages?
7
              MR. MURPHY: The one I reviewed, and this was a
8
    transmission line, I think it was 3, 400 pages --
9
              CHAIRMAN HANSON:
                                Three or 400?
10
              MR. MURPHY: Yes.
11
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: You're tapering off.
12
              MR. MURPHY: I'm sorry.
1.3
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thanks. But there is a
14
     summary that you have available?
15
              MR. MURPHY: I would have to check. I think we
16
    would have to develop that summary. I am not familiar in
17
    this project with the geotech. that was done. I'm doing
18
     it by analogy about another project that I've worked on.
19
              CHAIRMAN HANSON: Excuse me. I'm just trying to
20
    ascertain whether or not that's something that would
21
    provide the Intervenors with information that they need
22
    at this juncture. I'm not seeing that.
23
              Darren, do you -- okay.
24
              So on the geotech. one, it appears we're not --
25
     yes, no? Okay.
                      That would be three nos.
```

```
1
              MS. CREMER: Okay. So on the geotech., there's
2
    no need to provide them.
 3
              And then on the land agreements that were
 4
    entered into last week -- and everybody wanted --
 5
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:
                                    And Tasked.
 6
              MS. CREMER: Oh, you asked them.
7
              COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: And they said yes.
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: I did need them, but since
8
9
    Kristie got a commitment already --
10
              MR. MURPHY: I have hard copies that I can
11
    provide to the Commission right now. I don't know if you
12
    want us to file it confidential. It's, I mean, your
1.3
    discretion. Either -- I'm happy to do it either way, but
14
     I did bring hard copies today because I thought it might
15
    be a question.
16
              MR. DE HUECK: File it confidential.
17
              MS. CREMER: Yes. File it confidentially for
18
     sure.
19
              MR. MURPHY:
                          Okay. Happy to.
20
                          Staff, you seem to be all excited.
              MS. CREMER:
21
              MR. MIKAL HANSON: I did get excited.
22
    David Hessler is prepared to come on the telephone at
23
     11 o'clock tomorrow. Can we reserve that time?
2.4
              The other thing is, if their noise expert could
25
     testify tomorrow morning, maybe there isn't a need to
```

```
call him and ask him any more questions. And at that
1
2
    point after their noise expert testifies, let's -- can we
3
     ask to see whether anybody has any further questions of
    Mr. Hessler?
4
5
              MS. CREMER:
                                   That works for me.
                           Sure.
6
              How about you?
7
              MR. MURPHY: Yes. He's next on the list.
8
              MS. CREMER:
                           Okay. So, as I understand it, what
9
     did we decide? 8:30 tomorrow. We are in recess until
10
     then, and I will see everyone on Wednesday at 8:30.
11
              (The hearing is in recess at 7:05 p.m.)
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
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1	STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
2	:SS CERTIFICATE
3	COUNTY OF SULLY )
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5	I, CHERI MCCOMSEY WITTLER, a Registered
6	Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter and
7	Notary Public in and for the State of South Dakota:
8	DO HEREBY CERTIFY that as the duly-appointed
9	shorthand reporter, I took in shorthand the proceedings
LO	had in the above-entitled matter on the 11th day of
L1	June, 2019, and that the attached is a true and correct
L2	transcription of the proceedings so taken.
L3	Dated at Onida, South Dakota this 29th day of
L 4	June, 2019.
L5	
L6	
L7	/a/ Chari MaCamaan Wittler
L8	/s/ Cheri McComsey Wittler Cheri McComsey Wittler,
L 9	Notary Public and Registered Professional Reporter Certified Realtime Reporter
20	Certified Reditime Reporter
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