

THE LAW PRACTICE OF ARVID J. SWANSON, P.C.

27452 482ND AVENUE
CANTON, SOUTH DAKOTA 57013-5515

605-743-2070
FAX 605-743-2073
E-MAIL: AJ@AJSWANSON.COM

December 1, 2019

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Scan to all Persons on PUC E-Service List per Certificate of Service*

Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Pierre, South Dakota

Re: File 6184-004. • *In re Docket EL19-027, Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC
Codington, Grant & Deuel Counties*

Dear Director Van Gerpen:

This letter is an inquiry into ARSD 20:10:01:22.01, regarding the taking and use of discovery. I would be most appreciative if Staff counsel would address this inquiry; I represent several intervenors, namely, Garry Ehlebracht, *et al.*

In civil proceedings, written discovery may be initiated as to a particular party, but all parties to the proceeding are served. Although the cited rule says discovery before this Commission is to be conducted in the same manner, it strikes me that this is simply not so.

The docket contains a certificate of service for “Applicant’s First Set of Data Requests to Intervenors,” dated October 21, 2019. Although Applicant’s counsel claims to have served me that date, I did not receive either the “Certificate of Service” or the “first set” purportedly sent to me that same date. What I did receive was an email from Mr. Schumacher, stating – “AJ – Just a note to let you know your earlier response meets our data request – we just wanted to serve all intervenors the same with the request. Miles”.

I puzzled over this email the time, but finding no such data request, and always wanting to be fair and generous to opposing counsel, I thought perhaps Mr. Schumacher had gotten the cart ahead of the horse – that his email was sent in advance of his “first set.” Having other cases and things to do, I then forgot about the matter – until very recently. I again confirm, however, I’ve received no such “first set” data request. By review of the docket, I can see that other intervenors (not represented by me) responded to Crowned Ridge Wind II’s “first set.”

I can also determine – according to the filed Certificates of Service appearing on the docket – that Applicant *is also* responding to data requests of Staff – having done so on November 15, 2019, and again on November 26, 2019. But, *none* of these responses (according to the certificates) have been served on me, as counsel for intervenors (Garry Ehlebracht, *et al.*) or on those intervenors who are appearing *pro se*.

I am now advised that Staff’s First Data Request to Applicant (also not served on me at the time of initiation) involved more than 40 questions, and includes matters of direct concern or interest to my clients, as intervenors. As said, Applicant’s responses, likewise, were not served on me.

That Applicant and Staff can engage in some side bar exchange *with each other* – concerning my clients’ interests and without notice to intervenors or counsel - seems a procedure more fitting for a Star

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Chamber. Please assure me that the respective discovery requests – and responses – will be promptly served on *all* parties, and that Applicant will be directed by Staff to do likewise, which would seem to be the entire point of seeking “party status.”

If Staff is not able – or is unwilling - to do so as requested, I would then further request the concern expressed be placed on the Commission’s agenda for further resolution. Thank you.

Very truly yours,
ARVID J. SWANSON P.C.



A.J. Swanson

c: All persons listed in the current Service List,
as reflected in the Certificate of Service
submitted herewith, including counsel for
Applicant:

Miles Schumacher, Esq. (via Email Only)
LYNN JACKSON SHULTZ & LEBRUN, PC
mschumacher@lynnjackson.com

Garry Ehlebracht, *et al.*

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Application by)
CROWNED RIDGE WIND II, LLC *for a*) Docket EL19-027
Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in)
Deuel, Grant and Codington Counties)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A true copy of the correspondence from A.J. Swanson, as counsel for Intervenors Garry Ehlebracht, *et al.* addressed to Executive Director Patricia Van Gerpan, dated December 1, 2019, has been transmitted (the date below) by undersigned, as counsel for said Intervenors upon each of the following presently appearing on the Commission's Service List in this matter:

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us
(605) 773-3201 - voice

Mr. Jon Thurber
Staff Analyst
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
jon.thurber@state.sd.us
(605) 773-3201 - voice

Ms. Kristen Edwards
Staff Attorney
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
Kristen.edwards@state.sd.us
(605) 773-3201 - voice

Mr. Eric Paulson
Staff Analyst
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
eric.paulson@state.sd.us
(605) 773-3201- voice

Ms. Amanda Reiss
Staff Attorney
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
amanda.reiss@state.sd.us
(605) 773-3201 - voice

Mr. Miles Schumacher - Representing Crowned
Ridge Wind II, LLC
Lynn, Jackson, Shultz and Lebrun, PC
101 N. Minnesota Ave., Ste. 400
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
mschumacher@lynnjackson.com
(605) 332-5999 - voice
(605) 332-4249 - fax

Mr. Mikal Hanson
Staff Attorney
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
mikal.hanson@state.sd.us
605-773-3201

Mr. Tyler Wilhelm
Project Manager
Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, FL 33408
Tyler.Wilhelm@nexteraenergy.com
(561) 694-3193 – voice

Mr. Darren Kearney
Staff Analyst
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
darren.kearney@state.sd.us
(605) 773-3201 - voice

Mr. Brian J. Murphy
Senior Attorney
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, FL 33408
Brian.J.Murphy@nee.com
(561) 694-3814 – voice

Ms. Cindy Brugman
Auditor
Codington County
14 First Ave. SE
Watertown, SD 57201
cbrugman@codington.org
(605) 882-6297 - voice

Ms. Karen Layher
Auditor, Grant County
210 E. Fifth Ave.
Milbank, SD 57252
Karen.Layher@state.sd.us
(605) 432-6711 - voice

Ms. Kristi Mogen
15160 471st Ave.
Twin Brooks, SD 57269
silversagehomestead@gmail.com
(307) 359-2928

Ms. Amber Christenson
16217 466th Ave.
Strandburg, SD 57265
amber@uniformoutlet.net
(605) 756-4119

Ms. Mary Korth
Auditor
Deuel County
PO Box 616
408 4th St. West
Clear Lake, SD 57226
dcaudit1@itctel.com
(605) 874-2312 - voice
(605) 874-1306 - fax

Mr. Allen Robish
47278 161st St.
Strandburg, SD 57265
allen.robish@gmail.com
(605) 949-2648

Dated at Canton, South Dakota, this 1st day of December 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

A.J. Swanson
ARVID J. SWANSON, P.C.
27452 482nd Ave.
Canton, SD 57013
605-743-2070
E-mail: aj@ajswanson.com

/s/ A.J. Swanson

A.J. Swanson
State Bar of South Dakota # 1680

Attorney for,
GARRY EHLEBRACHT, STEVEN GREBER,
MARY GREBER, RICHARD RALL, AMY
RALL, and LARETTA KRANZ, *Intervenors*