

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) BY CROWNED RIDGE WIND II, LLC FOR) A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY) IN DEUEL, GRANT AND CODINGTON) COUNTIES)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO APPEAR TELEPHONICALLY EL19-027
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On July 9, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC (Crowned Ridge or Applicant), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. Crowned Ridge proposes to construct a wind energy conversion facility to be located in Deuel, Grant, and Codington Counties, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated within approximately 60,996-acres in the townships of Waverly, Kranzburg North, Kranzburg South, Troy, Rome, Goodwin, and Havana, South Dakota (Project Area). The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 301 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 132 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 230-kV collection substation, two permanent meteorological towers, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project will utilize the Crowned Ridge Wind II 5-mile 230-kV generation tie line and the Crowned Ridge Wind II collector substation to transmit the generation to the dead-end transmission structure adjacent to the Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC project's collector substation and conjoined to the Big Stone South 230-kV Substation, which is owned by Otter Tail Power Company. Applicant has executed a purchase and sale agreement with Northern States Power Company (NSP) to sell NSP the Project and the Facility Permits once constructed. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$425 million.

On July 11, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 9, 2019, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On July 31, 2019, Amber Christenson, Allen Robish, and Kristi Mogen were granted Party Status. On August 6, 2019, Garry Ehlebracht, Steven Greber, Mary Greber, Richard Rall, Amy Rall, and Laretta Kranz submitted a corrected Application for Party Status. On August 6, 2019, Applicant submitted a letter stating it had no objection to granting the above-referenced landowners party status. Applicant also requested that pages 3-6 of the Application for Party Status be redacted pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:39 (4) and SDCL 15-6-26 (c) (7). On August 7, 2019, the proposed intervenors filed a letter in response to Applicant's redaction request. On August 21, 2019, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission granted party status to the above-referenced persons. The Commission requested the parties brief 1) who can make a confidentiality claim on material filed by another party, and 2) whether pages 3-6 of the August 6, 2019, Application for Party Status should remain confidential. The parties filed briefs addressing these issues. On September 9, 2019, Applicant filed a letter revising its initial request for confidential treatment to Section 11.10 only as found in the August 6, 2019, Application for Party Status (Section 11.10 language). On September 10, 2019, Commission staff filed a Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule. On September 20, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Granting Motion Establishing Procedural Schedule and an Order Denying Request for Confidentiality. On October 1, 2019, the Commission issued an Order for and Notice of Evidentiary Hearing. On November 18, 2019, Intervenors filed a Notice of Filing of Affidavit of Steven Greber and Motion for Examination or Admission Upon Stipulation of Counsel. On November 18, 2019, CRW II filed a Response to Intervenors Motion and Affidavit.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 15-6, 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22. The Commission may rely upon any or all of these laws or other laws of this state in making its determination.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 26, 2019, the Commission considered Intervenor's Motion for Examination or Admission Upon Stipulation of Counsel. After discussion on the matter, Intervenor requested the Commission consider an alternative Motion to Allow Steven Greber to appear telephonically. No party objected to permitting Steven Greber to appear telephonically. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Intervenor's alternative motion. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion to Allow Steven Greber to Appear Telephonically is hereby granted with the condition that the telephone signal is of sufficient quality for the in-person participants to follow.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of December 2019.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.
By: <u>Adam de Hueck</u>
Date: <u>12/2/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner