

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY AMBER CHRISTENSON,
LINDA LINDGREN AND TIMOTHY LINDGREN AGAINST
CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC
REGARDING PROJECT SOUND LEVEL COMPLIANCE**

Docket No. CE22-001

**TESTIMONY
OF STEFAN MARTINSEN**

August 7, 2023

INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

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Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Stefan Martinsen. My business address is 700 Universe Blvd, Juno Beach, FL 33408.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A. I am employed at NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (“NEER”), as a Wind General Manager.

Q. WHAT WERE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE POST-CONSTRUCTION SOUND STUDIES?

A. I oversee the operations of Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (“Crowned Ridge”) and have knowledge of the operational and maintenance characteristics of Crowned Ridge, including when and why the wind farm would have wind turbines curtailed or shut down.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

A. I have been employed with NEER since 2004 in various positions. Currently, my responsibilities include ensuring the safe and reliable operations of NEER’s wind fleet in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, and Nebraska. Prior to my employment with NEER, I was employed by the U.S. Merchant Marine, as well with as Florida Power & Light Company as a field performance engineer. I earned a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Merchant Maine Academy in 1998 and a Master’s in Business Administration from Rutgers University in 2020. My resume is attached as Exhibit SM-1.

1 **Q. HAS THIS REBUTTAL TESTIMONY BEEN PREPARED BY YOU OR UNDER**
2 **YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISION?**

3 A. Yes.
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5 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMISSION?**

6 A. No.
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8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY.**

9 A. The purpose of my testimony is to address the testimony of Complainant Amber
10 Christenson.
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14 **Q. COMPLAINANT CHRISTENSON (PAGE 4) CLAIMS THAT THE WINTER**
15 **ICING OPERATION MODE (“WIOM”) HAS NOT BEEN “PROVEN OR**
16 **CLAIMED” TO IMPACT THE SOUND OF WIND TURBINES. PLEASE**
17 **COMMENT.**

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19 A. WIOM is a control option offered by the manufacturer of the wind turbines in operation at
20 Crowned Ridge, General Electric, to reduce the effects of icing on turbine blades which
21 include stall and blade vibration, with an added benefit of reducing noise by adjusting the
22 pitch of the blades.

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24 **Q. COMPLAINANT CHRISTENSON (PAGES 4 AND 5) QUESTIONS WHETHER**
25 **CROWNED RIDGE HAS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO RELY ON WIOM AS**
26 **A MITIGATION MEASURE TO LOWER SOUND LEVELS OF WIND**
27 **TURBINES. PLEASE COMMENT.**

1 A. The WIOM control option is not the only mitigation measure to lower sound levels at
2 Crowned Ridge. All turbines at Crowned Ridge were upgraded with low noise trailing
3 edge blade devices which is also a sound mitigation measure.
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5 **Q. COMPLAINANT CHRISTENSON (PAGE 5) CLAIMS THAT TURBINE 71 WAS**
6 **SHUT DOWN FOR 18 HOURS AND 8 MINUTES DURING THE SOUND STUDY**
7 **PERIOD, BUT CROWNED RIDGE INDICATED THAT NO MAINTENANCE**
8 **WAS PERFORMED ON TURBINE 71. SHE, THEREFORE, ASSERTS**
9 **CROWNED RIDGE IS PROVIDING CONFLICTING INFORMATION. PLEASE**
10 **COMMENT.**
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12 A. Crowned Ridge did not manually shutdown turbine 71 for maintenance. Turbine 71
13 automatically tripped offline from a fault its control system detected at 6:09 PM on Friday
14 November 12, 2021. Remote restoration efforts through the night were unsuccessful and
15 a crew was dispatched Saturday morning November 13, 2021 to address the cause of the
16 fault. Turbine 71 was restored to service at 12:23 PM on November 13.
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18 **Q. THROUGHOUT HER TESTIMONY, COMPLAINANT CHRISTENSON**
19 **ASSERTS THAT WIND TURBINE SHUTDOWNS AND CURTAILMENTS WERE**
20 **INTENTIONALLY IMPLEMENTED TO BENEFIT THE RESULTS OF THE**
21 **CROWNED RIDGE SOUND STUDY. DO YOU AGREE?**
22

23 A. No. At no time did Crowned Ridge intentionally shut down a wind turbine with the intent
24 of improving or impacting the results of the 2021 sound study. Further, all curtailments
25 are automatically implemented by MISO, the independent transmission system operator,
26 and not by Crowned Ridge. The implementation of MISO curtailments is not impacted by
27 whether Crowned Ridge is conducting a sound study, they are implemented pursuant to
28 MISO's business practices. No operational protocols or practices were implemented to
29 influence the results of the 2021 Sound Study.
30
31

1 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

2 A. Yes.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF JERAULD)

I, Stefan Martinsen, being duly sworn on oath, depose and state that I am the witness identified in the foregoing prepared testimony and I am familiar with its contents, and that the facts set forth are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

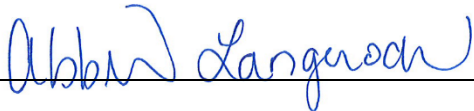


Stefan Martinsen

REMOTE NOTARIZATION

On August 2, 2023, before me, Abbie Langerock, the undersigned officer, appeared Stefan Martinson with a remote location of Jerauld County, South Dakota, whom I have a personal knowledge of because of my relationship developed while working as a paralegal in this lawsuit, and whom I positively identified as the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, appeared before me not in my physical presence but by means of video communication technology, and I observed his execution of the same instrument, which I reasonably confirmed is the same document, for the purposes contained therein and confirm that I affix my seal to the same instrument so executed.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of August, 2023.



Notary Public – State of South Dakota

My Commission Expires: 12/20/23

(SEAL)

