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From the office of Miles F. Schumacher

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January 8, 2018

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Docket #E17-050
Application of Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Facility Permit to
Construct a 230-kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities
from Codington County to the Big Stone South Substation

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On December 5, 2017, Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (Crowned Ridge) filed an Application for a Facility Permit to construct a new reactive power compensation substation and an approximately 34-mile 230-kilovolt generation tie line that will connect two 300 megawatt wind projects (Crowned Ridge Wind and Crowned Ridge Wind II) to the Big Stone South Substation owned by Otter Tail Power Company (together the new reactive power compensation substation and 34-mile generation tie line is the Project). The generation tie line will be located in Codington and Grant Counties, South Dakota, while the new reactive compensation substation will be located in Grant County. On page 1 of the Application, Crowned Ridge indicated that:

The Application sets forth single circuit and double circuit transmission design options for the Project. At this time, both the single and double circuit design options are under consideration. The studies that will determine whether the Applicant selects the single circuit or double circuit option will be completed within approximately 120 days of the submission of this Application. Once the studies are complete, the Applicant will file a statement in the docket explaining which option - single circuit or double circuit - has been selected for the Project.

The studies referred in the Application involve whether the Project can be reliably operated with a single circuit transmission tower design. These studies involve the local utilities,

generators and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator. It has become apparent that the studies will not be completed within 120 days of the filing of the Application and before the public input hearing. Thus, Crowned Ridge is providing notice that it will construct the double circuit design as set forth in its Application for which it already has the requisite studies showing it can be reliably operated. Accordingly, at the public input hearing and going forward, Crowned Ridge will present the double circuit transmission tower design as the design it is permitting in this docket.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours very truly,

LYNN, JACKSON, SHULTZ & LEBRUN, P.C.



Miles F. Schumacher

MFS:kab