

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

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION BY CROWNED RIDGE  
WIND, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A  
WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN GRANT  
AND CODINGTON COUNTIES**

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**Certificate of Service  
EL19-003**

November 12, 2020

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 56501

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen and Interested Parties,

I would like to follow up to the Commission, my public comments from the Commission meeting of November 12, 2020.

I submitted yet another complaint regarding the ADLS system not functioning properly to docket EL 19-003 on November 2, 2020. This is my fourth complaint, I believe, for those who are keeping score.

At that same time, I also emailed our public liaison officer with the same information. Mr. Riniker replied to me that Staff had been contacted by CR, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October about the ADLS not functioning properly beginning the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. It is concerning to me as to why was that information on posted to the docket, nor supplied in any fashion to the intervenors, who are declared and accepted as interested parties in this docket. As an intervenor, I am formally requesting all correspondence that has taken place between Crowned Ridge, Staff and also any correspondence which includes the public liaison officer regarding the ADLS issue since 9/1/2020, which is the last report submitted by Crowned Ridge that I have been privy to.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, I called the office of the PUC to reserve a line for public comment. The following day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, apparently being notified I was going to address the Commission, CR sent a letter and print out of some of their ADLS records showing the ADLS system not functioning properly. As of the time of the Commission meeting the document had not yet posted to the docket for the Commission's review.

As stated in my oral comments to you, in this project, CR1, the red blinking lights come on around 5 pm and they are still flashing when I go to bed, no matter what time I go to

bed... 10, 11, or later. I believe Crowned Ridge Wind is in violation of the PUC's Order, the County CUPs, the Stipulation agreed to in docket EL 20-002 and the intent of SDCL 49-41B-25.2. Undoubtedly, the legislature's intent when requiring ADLS to be in use in wind facilities, was to have a functioning ADLS system to alleviate the intrusiveness of these turbines to the impacted community.

My comments during my public comment time, included a review of the pattern of behavior by Crowned Ridge Wind:

- LNTE blades... not installed as required.
- Roads in terrible and unsafe condition.
- ADLS not installed and now that it is installed, not functioning properly after months of operation.

There seems to be no sense of urgency to comply with the permit Conditions attached to this docket by the developer/project owner.

The Stipulation listed on docket EL 20-002 (I still argue should have all been on the original docket 19-003, and intervenors of 19-003 should have been allowed to intervene on this very important issue. I also ask why this issue was put into an electric docket, and not kept within the wind energy dockets, so that members of the public can easily follow the details. The Public finds the entire docket system difficult to follow on a good day, without trying to sort thru the maze of moving the complaints to a hard to find additional docket in an entirely different section of the PUC site), but I digress... Docket 20-002 says the company is supposed to be fined \$2,000 per day if ADLS is not operational by May 20<sup>th</sup>, yet here we are, mid-November, and the ADLS is still not operational as intended.

Crowned Ridge Wind turbines have been operational for nearly a year. The pattern of non-compliance is frustrating and beyond the pale for those of us who live here. The red flashing lights are incredibly annoying and stand in violation as I have mentioned above.

My suggestion, to make the ADLS system come into compliance quickly, is to turn the blades off, shut them down, until they bring their system into compliance and this on-going issue. In the alternative, continue the \$2,000 per day fines, agreed to by CRW in the Stipulation of May 2020.

I have attached the correspondence that was sent to me in regard to my complaint of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, so that the Commission is aware of my communication with Mr. Riniker and Staff's email to me. I have also attached the very concerning issue of my public comments being disrupted by someone who obviously was trying to interrupt my train of thought during the comment period. I mentioned during my comments that someone was trying to call me. This 'Unknown Caller' started to call right after I started to speak. I declined the calls repeatedly, but the calls kept coming back immediately and continued while I spoke...not before I spoke, not after I spoke. Did that intrude on my train of thought? Yes. Was it supposed to? I will leave that for you to decide, but I would hope

the Commission would find that behavior very troubling, to say the least. I recommend to whomever tried to sabotage my comments to the Commission, work toward a resolution of bringing the project into compliance; once the project is in compliance, I won't have to call, and you can spend your time on more productive matters rather than hitting 'redial' 14 times.

I am expecting the Commission to bring this ADLS lighting failure to a swift resolution. The residents in the project area had to suffer through red lights all last winter against the Commissions Order/Conditions, we should not have to continue with the same issue this winter. I request a firm hand by the Commission in this matter.

Attached with this letter, I am including my email correspondence between myself, Mr. Riniker and Staff. I am also including screenshots of the log showing the disruptive calls during my public comment period.

Sincerely,

/s/Amber Christenson  
Intervenor  
Strandburg, SD