



Gary Hanson, Chairman
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South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 5, 2020

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: EL19-003 - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant and Codington Counties

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

At the September 29, 2020, Commission meeting, Amber Christenson provided public comment regarding road and weed issues in the Crowned Ridge Wind project area (Project area) she believes have not been addressed by commission staff (Staff) or the public liaison assigned to this docket. Staff is providing this letter as a follow-up to some of the items mentioned at the meeting.

Most importantly, Public Liaison Officer Brian Riniker has been an invaluable asset to Staff and the landowners in the Project area, dealing with far more contacts than his counterparts on other wind facility projects. Staff receives regular reports from Mr. Riniker detailing contacts and the steps he takes to resolve any issues that arise. Because of the efficiencies it creates and the fact that Mr. Riniker is best positioned to go to the Project area and investigate concerns, Staff reminds interested persons to contact the public liaison officer with concerns as a starting point.

Regarding the road conditions, on April 20, 2020, Ms. Christenson did express concerns about road conditions to the Commission with a filing in the docket. Upon receiving Ms. Christenson's concern, Mr. Riniker conferred with the county highway superintendent, and reported to Staff that the superintendent indicated the company would be patching the road and would work with the county on a more permanent solution. On April 22, 2020, the PUC sent an email to Ms. Christenson with this information. Ms. Christenson did not contact Mr. Riniker or Staff regarding road conditions after her April 20, 2020 filing. On September 15, 2020, Staff became aware that the county highway superintendent spoke with Mr. Riniker regarding concerns about certain county roads. Staff informed Mr. Riniker that we would be willing to participate in a call with the highway superintendent and indicated we could get involved further if the Company did not address the road concerns to the county's satisfaction. Mr. Riniker remained in communication with the highway superintendent and reported to Staff on September 17, 2020, that highway superintendent, Rick Hartley, was working with the company on the roads and did not request assistance from PUC Staff at this time. A letter from Mr. Riniker explaining the contacts he received regarding road issues will also be filed with the Commission.

After learning that the superintendent has a plan to address the road conditions, Staff determined it was appropriate to let the county take the lead on arranging the road repairs since the roads are county roads. Mr. Riniker and Staff continue to monitor the situation and will assist the county in resolving the issue if the county requests assistance from the PUC. At this time, the county has not asked for the PUC to assist with addressing road issues.

Ms. Christenson also mentioned a weed issue in her public comments to the Commission. Mr. Riniker reported that he has not received concerns from Ms. Christenson regarding this issue. Staff requested Mr. Riniker to investigate the matter and provide a report to Staff.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda M. Reiss". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Amanda M. Reiss