

**From:** [Kearney, Darren](mailto:Kearney, Darren)  
**To:** [amber@uniformoutlet.net](mailto:amber@uniformoutlet.net)  
**Cc:** [Reiss, Amanda](#); [Crowned RidgePlo](#); [Thurber, Jon](#); [Edwards, Kristen](#); [Paulson, Eric](#); [Gregg, Deb](#)  
**Subject:** Follow-up on Weeds, Road Issues, and Crowned Ridge II Wind Turbines Operating  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2020 1:57:00 PM

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Ms. Christenson,

The purpose of this email is to follow-up with you regarding your concern about weeds, road conditions in the Crowned Ridge I and Crowned Ridge II project area, and Crowned Ridge II wind turbines operating.

Regarding the road concern, it is Staff's understanding that all asphalt repairs have been made in the project areas and, therefore, no action is required by Crowned Ridge I or II on asphalt roads. If you disagree with this statement and know of additional locations that need additional repair/maintenance please provide the following:

1. The specific location of the road damage that needs to be repaired; and
2. A current photograph of the road damage, if possible.

Without the specific information requested above, Staff will not be able to help address your concerns. If you or anyone else have specific concerns and can provide that information, we can get Brian Riniker out there to check on it.

Regarding your concern about weeds in the batch plant area, Mr. Riniker communicated with the county weed supervisor and determined that the weeds in your picture are not noxious weeds.

Condition 16 of the permit only requires Crowned Ridge to control noxious weeds. A noxious weed, by definition in ARSD 12:62:02:01, is "a weed which the commission has designated as sufficiently detrimental to the state to warrant enforcement of control measures." Based on your photographs, the language in the permit, and the specific definition of what a noxious weed is, Staff finds that no action is required by Crowned Ridge at this time. If you disagree with this assessment, please provide more detailed information on the noxious weeds you observed as well as additional photographs.

In response to your concern about the Crowned Ridge II turbines operating, it is Staff's understanding that the turbines are producing test energy and the project has not yet reached its commercial operations date. This understanding is derived from Crowned Ridge II's letter that was filed on September 10, 2020, and can be found at the following link:

<https://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2019/el19-027/Ltr091020.pdf>. Operating wind turbines to test circuits, feeders, and synchronizing with the transmission grid is a normal course of wind turbine construction and is not prevented by a permit condition. If you believe that wind turbines operating for test energy purposes is in violation of a permit condition, please identify the specific condition you believe Crowned Ridge II is violating.

Finally, per the Commission's comments provided during the October 13, 2020, Commission meeting, please contact Mr. Riniker first if you have new concerns so that the parties can attempt to

address the concern without commission intervention. If you are not satisfied with the resolution of your concern, then you have the ability to file a complaint in accordance with ARSD 20:10:01:07:01 and the process set forth in the rules will be followed for addressing your complaint.

Sincerely,

Darren

**Darren Kearney**

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