

October 9, 2020

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: EL 19-003 and EL 19-027 Road Conditions

Ms. Van Gerpen,

My reason for contact with you is to respond to Staff and the Public Liaison Officer's letter submitted to the docket EL 19-003 on October 5, 2020, and also to address similar issues which are showing to be of concern in the Crowned Ridge II project area.

Yes, I believe Staff and the Liaison Officer have not sufficiently addressed the road concerns raised by me first in April. I did not reply to Staff or Mr. Riniker regarding their response to my concern because I waited for Crowned Ridge Wind to rectify the problems. According to the phone call Mr Riniker made to me relaying the problem with repairs, it was too early in the year to repair the roads with hotmix. I waited all of May and all of June for those repairs because hotmix was certainly available during those months. Staff's letter intimates the same in their letter to me on April 22<sup>nd</sup>,

“It is PUC staff's understanding that the plan is to temporarily patch the areas of concern with gravel and install signage to inform drivers of the road condition until frost conditions are conducive to permanently repairing the road.”

Not only were repairs insufficient, but signage was absent in most of the areas, as all can see by the pictures submitted by me on September 30, 2020.

The liaison officer admits in his letter submitted to you, that “The topic of road conditions comes up in most of my communications with landowners.” Why are those not registered as complaints? Why were they ignored?

I waited patiently for the roads to be improved, but in July, during the July 8<sup>th</sup> PUC, I discussed the problem. Here is the link to that PUC meeting.

<https://puc.sd.gov/commission/media/2020/puc07082020.mp3>

The topic of the road conditions begins at marker 53:25. The discussion included Crowned Ridge Wind, NextEra Energy, the Commissioners, Staff, Liaison Riniker and myself. During that call, Mr. Riniker said there had been 3 complaints in the previous 3 weeks, none of those would have been from me, so those were in ADDITION to my previous complaint. Mr. Riniker's letter to you is in conflict with that. Mr. Riniker does not live in the area, and apparently did not visit the area until October 1<sup>st</sup> to look into the road problem. That in itself is a problem. During the July hearing he said it's to "normal for construction in a rural area". You've seen the pictures. That is not normal and not acceptable.

Staff and Mr. Riniker's statements of not knowing of the issue and of me not saying anything after April, are disingenuous.

We also discussed the completion of the project in December, and that roads were to be returned to their previous state or better at the end of the project completion.

This problem has been ignored; the reason it is in the rural area, should not negate the fact our roads should be safely passable. A road in Pierre wouldn't be in this condition, neither should my road, or roads my friends and neighbors travel. The PUC issued this permit and should be holding CRW accountable.

As for the weed issue, I did say during the Open that I had not reported that previously, but it has been two years of weeds going to seed in a very large area. When complaints are made, our community would expect those complaints to be resolved, not wait for the next complaint to come in.

The problem persists with the Crowned Ridge 2 project. I have included screenshots of a post from someone in that project area concerning roads. I do not know who this person is, but apparently, CR2

has ignored the roads near her, too.

 **Mikayla Krause**  
October 3 at 9:09 PM · 🌐

**Look out on the Bemis and  
Kranzburg tar roads! The  
tower guys have spots torn up  
and poorly marked.**



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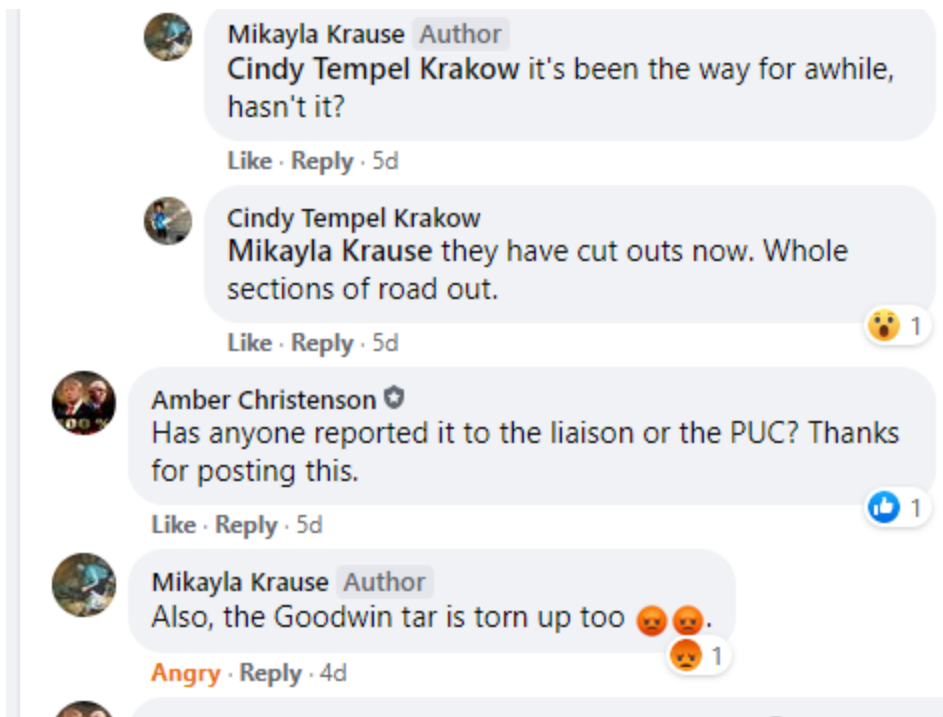
 **Karen Brakke**  
Should be fun for the grain trucks  
Like · Reply · 5d

 **Mikayla Krause** Author  
Karen Brakke We take gravel from the Hidewood up to LaBolt with trucks. We were in the van and about lost our front end both ways 😞  
Like · Reply · 5d  1

 **Cindy Tempel Krakow**  
The north/south road from South Shore to Waverly is the same way. Poorly marked and no warning.  
Like · Reply · 5d  1

 **Mikayla Krause** Author  
Cindy Tempel Krakow it's been the way for awhile, hasn't it?  
Like · Reply · 5d

 **Cindy Tempel Krakow**



The project area communities deserve better resolution than what I have seen.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[/s/Amber Christenson](#)

Amber Christenson  
Intervenor  
16217 466<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Strandburg, SD 57265