

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2019 6:02 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** EL19-003

Mr. Fuerniss,

Thank you for your message regarding the Crowned Ridge siting permit request docket, EL19-003. As you are likely aware, the commission is scheduled to make a decision on that application on July 9. I must refrain from getting into details in response to your message since this is an open docket and you touched on issues that will likely be addressed during the meeting.

My fellow commissioners and I take several factors into account when considering whether or not to grant a wind siting permit. Our primary duty is to ensure the location, construction, and operation of the facilities will produce minimal adverse effects to the health, safety, and welfare of the environment and citizens. The standards we must follow are defined in South Dakota Codified Laws and Administrative Rules.

We receive written comments from individuals that are for as well as from those against siting permit requests, and these are posted in each relevant docket. The number of pro and con comments received is not important. Comments do help inform and guide us as commissioners when we are forming questions to ask of witnesses about dockets. Keep in mind that as a commissioner, I consider facts and **evidence** presented in areas that fall under the legal siting jurisdiction of the commission. That evidence must be presented to the commission by a party in the docket during and leading up to the evidentiary hearing.

As far as permit applications being rejected, the commission has done so. Refer to Crocker Wind Farm, docket EL17-028, <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2017/el17-028.aspx>. Here is a link to that commission order, <https://puc.sd.gov/commission/orders/electric/2017/el17-028deny.pdf>, and the reconsideration order, <https://puc.sd.gov/commission/orders/electric/2017/el17-028deny2.pdf>.

Again, I appreciate your concern and encourage you to follow along as the EL19-003 docket continues being processed, as well as the commission's other siting dockets.

Chairman Gary Hanson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)