



Gary Hanson, Chairman  
Chris Nelson, Vice Chairman  
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070  
www.puc.sd.gov

(605) 773-3201

Consumer Hotline  
1-800-332-1782

Email  
puc@state.sd.us

May 28, 2020

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

**RE: Docket EL19-003, Crowned Ridge Wind Sound Testing Data Review and Assessment by Hessler Associates, Inc.**

Ms. Van Gerpen,

On January 9, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Granting Temporary Waiver that allowed Crowned Ridge to operate the project, subject to certain conditions, without low noise trailing edge (LNTE) blade attachments installed on all the wind turbines. One of the conditions was that Crowned Ridge had to complete sound testing during the LNTE waiver period in order to verify the project is in compliance with Condition 26 of the Permit. Staff hired David Hessler, from Hessler Associates Inc., to oversee the sound testing conducted by Crowned Ridge and complete an independent review of the sound test data collected during the test.

Mr. Hessler's analysis of the survey data concluded that the project sound levels, with curtailment, are compliant with the limits set forth in Condition 26 of the Permit. This is summarized in Table 3.0.1 of the report and is provided below. In addition, Mr. Hessler reviewed Crowned Ridge's Sound Level Compliance Report prepared by Epsilon Associates Inc. and agreed with the conclusions made therein. Attached is Mr. Hessler's Sound Testing Data Review and Assessment Report for filing.

**Table 3.0.1**  
Comparison of Independent Analysis Results

Location	Project-only Leq Sound Level Range, dBA		Applicable Regulatory Limit, dBA
	Epsilon	Hessler	
1	43 to 50	43 to 48	50
2	37 to 45	35 to 42	45
3	37 to 43	37 to 44	45
4	35 to 43	35 to 44	45
5	36 to 43	34 to 43	45
6	33 to 38	34 to 35	50

Sincerely,

Darren Kearney  
Staff Analyst