



September 7, 2022

Mr. Darren Kearney
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Subject: EL19-027 Crowned Ridge II Wind Farm
Proposal for Field Sound Testing Oversight and Independent Data Analysis

Reference: P-2173-090722-0

Dear Mr. Kearney:

Thank you for requesting a proposal to assist the Commission Staff in an oversight capacity on the upcoming field sound testing at the Crowned Ridge II Wind Farm (CRWII).

Proposed Scope

It is understood that the project owner, Excel Energy, will engage their own acoustical consultant to voluntarily carry out additional field sound testing at the site in order to evaluate the sound emissions from the project relative to Condition 26 of the permit under fall/cool weather conditions. A previous survey was carried out during summer conditions.

We anticipate the following specific oversight activities:

- Review the test protocol developed by the project's consultant and coordinate with that consultant to:
 - develop noise monitoring protocols that are consistent with industry standards;
 - identify the number of locations to monitor and the proper locations or receptors to monitor; and
 - ensure the noise monitoring protocol is adequate for determining compliance with permit noise limits.



- Participate in Commission meetings by telephone to provide comment on behalf of Staff for the proposed noise monitoring protocols that are submitted by the project for Commission approval.
- Oversee the noise monitoring by inspecting the project's consultant's equipment set-up in order to ensure it is done in accordance with the test protocols approved by the Commission and is otherwise satisfactory.
- Receive raw data from the project's consultant and complete post-processing and analysis of the data independent of project's consultant. The post-processing of the data shall be done in accordance with test protocols approved by the Commission and Condition 26 of the Permit issued in docket EL19-027.
- Submit a report to Staff with Contractor's results independently derived from the monitored sound levels.
- Participate in Commission meetings by telephone to provide a summary of Contractor's results and attest to the validity of the post-construction compliance monitoring, if needed.
- Review comments on the post-construction compliance monitoring received by the Commission from interested parties and provide an expert opinion on those matters.
- Assist Staff in reviewing any matter related to the post-construction compliance monitoring that arises and provide an expert opinion on those matters.

Cost Proposal

A cost estimate for both manpower and expenses has been included in the Fee Schedule of the Scope of Services document.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

David M. Hessler, P.E., INCE
Principal Consultant
Hessler Associates, Inc.

**SD PUC Docket EL19-027: Scope of Services for Post-construction Sound Test Survey
September 7, 2022**

Through this scope of services, staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Staff”) requests a proposal from the Contractor for overseeing the post-construction sound test survey (“survey”) to be completed at the Crowned Ridge II Wind Farm (“Project”) by the Project’s owner. Contractor will be responsible for completing the work as set forth in the paragraphs below.

1. Contractor agrees to provide consulting services to Staff in the following Commission Docket: EL19-027, In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Deuel, Grant and Codington Counties. The docket can be found at: <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2019/EL19-027.aspx>.
2. The Contractor shall review and oversee the survey that will be voluntarily completed by the Project Owner in the Fall of 2022. The survey shall be conducted in accordance with condition 26 of the Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility (“Permit”) issued by the Commission on April 6, 2020.
3. At a minimum, the work to be performed by the Contractor is set forth below.
 - 3.1. Review the test protocol developed by the Project Owner’s consultant and coordinate with that consultant to:
 - 3.1.1. develop noise monitoring protocols that are consistent with industry standards and condition 26 of the Permit;
 - 3.1.2. identify the number of locations to monitor and the proper locations or receptors to monitor; and
 - 3.1.3. ensure the noise monitoring protocol is adequate for determining compliance with the Permit’s noise limits in condition 26.
 - 3.2. Participate in Commission meetings by telephone to provide comment on behalf of Staff for the proposed noise monitoring protocols that are submitted by the Project for the Commission’s approval.
 - 3.3. Oversee the noise monitoring by conducting on-site inspections of Project Owner’s consultant equipment set-up in order to ensure it is done in accordance with the test protocols approved by the Commission and appropriate industry standards.
 - 3.4. Receive raw data obtained from the Project Owner’s consultant and complete post-processing of the data independent of Project Owner’s consultant. The post-processing of the data shall be done in accordance with test protocols approved by the Commission and Condition 26 of the Permit.
 - 3.5. Submit a final report to Staff with Contractor’s results on the monitored noise levels obtained during the survey.

- 3.6. Participate in Commission meetings by telephone to provide a summary of Contractor's results and attest to the validity of the survey, if needed.
4. Contractor shall review comments on the survey received by the Commission from interested parties and provide an expert opinion on those matters, if needed.
5. Contractor shall assist Staff in reviewing any matter related to the survey identified in paragraph 2, above, that arises and provide an expert opinion on those matters.
6. Staff understands and agrees that Contractor will perform the work set-forth herein to the best of the Contractor's abilities based on the knowledge and experience of the Contractor.

Fee Schedule for Scope of Services

Estimated Costs Crowned Ridge Wind II – Post Construction Sound Test Survey				
Task	Estimated Hours	Labor Rate (\$/hour)	Expense Cost	Total
Review and oversee development of survey protocol; participate in Commission meeting by telephone for approval of test protocol.	20	\$275/hr	-	\$5,500
Oversee noise monitoring conducted by Project, including on-site inspections.	24	\$275/hr	-	\$6,600
Conduct post-processing of raw data collected by Project and independently determine noise levels observed at each receptor studied.	56	\$275/hr	-	\$15,400
Submit final report to Staff on the survey.	24	\$275/hr	-	\$6,600
Participate in Commission meetings by telephone to provide summary of, and expert opinion on, survey results.	6	\$275/hr	-	\$1,650
Estimated Travel Expense (Flight, Hotel, Rental Car, Meals, Airport Parking, etc). To be reimbursed at actual cost without mark-up.	-	-	\$2,530	\$2,530
Contingency for review of unforeseen matters that may arise during survey.	16	\$275/hr	-	\$4,400
Estimated Scope Total	146	\$275/hr	\$2,530	\$42,680