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May 4, 2021

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Re: Crowned Ridge II Wind Energy Facility
Post Construction Sound Monitoring Protocol
Docket No. EL19-027

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Northern States Power Company doing business as Xcel Energy (“NSP”) hereby submits a draft Post-Construction Sound Monitoring Protocol (“Protocol”) for Crowned Ridge II. The Protocol follows the methodology and conditions set forth in paragraph 26 of the Permit Conditions, as well as PUC staff guidance. NSP met with PUC staff on April 15, 2021 to discuss the draft Protocol and gather input on the methodology for the sound study based on the recent post-construction noise monitoring at Crowned Ridge Wind I.

Pursuant to the attached Protocol, NSP will continuously monitor sound levels and ground level wind speeds at a minimum of six locations for 14 days or more. Three locations were selected due to landowner noise complaints and an additional four locations, along with an alternate, are proposed using a geographically distributed sample of residences with the highest cumulative modeled wind turbine sound levels. All non-participating residences will be contacted by the Public Liaison Officer to obtain permission to perform sound monitoring on their property. Background sound levels will be determined using four daily turbine shutdown periods of at least 10 minutes each for all turbines within 1.75 miles of a monitored location. NSP intends to begin sound monitoring the week of May 24, 2021.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 605-339-8350.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Kolbeck". The signature is fluid and connected, with a large initial "S" and a distinct "K" for "Kolbeck".

Steve Kolbeck