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South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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September 20, 2022

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Pierre, SD 57501

Ms. Van Gerpen,

RE: 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.

At the August 30, 2022, Commission meeting, the Commission discussed Greg Wall's recent request to staff regarding further sound testing of the Crowned Ridge Wind II wind facility. At the conclusion of Commission discussion, the Commission indicated an interest in moving forward with an additional sound test that Xcel Energy voluntarily agreed to do and requested Commission Staff (Staff) retain a consultant for the independent oversight of the sound study. Staff requests the Commission provide the Executive Director authority to enter into a consulting contract with a sound expert for this purpose.

To address the Commission's request for an independent consultant noted above, Staff obtained a proposal from Hessler Associates, Inc., Staff's expert on matters of sound, who has served as an expert witness for staff and has reviewed sound studies for Staff in the past. Hessler Associates, Inc. provided a cost proposal to Staff with an estimated scope total of \$42,680.

Given that the last authorization the Commission granted to the Executive Director for entering into consulting contracts associated with Crowned Ridge Wind II was more than three years ago and, further given that this expenditure is outside of the Commission's general expenditures for the investigation and review of the siting application and associated permit authorized by the Commission's July 31, 2019, Order, Staff requests the Commission grant authorization to the Executive Director to enter into a contract for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Amanda M. Reiss

Amanda M. Reiss
Staff Attorney