



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

February 25, 2020

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capital Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capital Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Docket No. EL19-003 and Docket No. EL19-027

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

This letter is to express Northern State Power Company's (NSP's) commitment to cooperate with NEER to provide site access so that they can implement their Grouse Mitigation Plan as ordered in the Site Permit for Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC.


As a part of their site permit, Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (CRW), an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER), is required to implement a post-construction grouse lek monitoring plan. To address this requirement CRW has proposed to conduct a multi-year study of greater prairie-chicken and sharp-tail grouse lek monitoring. Some of the planned study areas will involve the Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC wind facility.

Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC, a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NEER, is concurrently developing a second wind farm referred to as the Crowned Ridge II Wind Energy Facility (CR2) immediately to the south of the CRW project boundary. CR2 submitted an application to the Commission on July 9, 2019 for an up to 300.6-megawatt (MW) wind energy facility to be located in Codington, Deuel, and Grant Counties, South Dakota. CR2 has entered into a purchase and sale agreement under which it will permit and construct this Project, and, thereafter, transfer the Project, along with its Facility Permits, to NSP at the commercial operations date.

Since NSP will own and operate CR2 once the site is constructed, we wanted to assure the Public Utilities Commission that we will work cooperatively with CRW and their contractors to ensure they have the needed access to safely conduct their study in the CR2 area provided we receive reasonable advance notice and they agree to follow Xcel Energy safety requirements. We recognize the potential scientific value that the study may provide both the Commission and the wind industry.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 612-330-6278 or via email at patrick.flowers@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Flowers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Flowers
Manager, Environmental Services
Xcel Energy, Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall (414-02)
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Cc: Robert Sandling
Nathan Svoboda
ES Records Center