



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

February 7, 2020

Chairman Gary Hanson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Authority of Game, Fish and Parks to Require Crowned Ridge Wind II (Nextera) to Complete Grouse Studies

Dear Chairman Hanson,

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks does not have the authority to require Nextera or any subsequent owner of Crowned Ridge Wind II to complete a proposed grouse study in the Crowned Ridge II project footprint. The authority to require the completion of a grouse study by Nextera or any subsequent owner of Crowned Ridge Wind II would need to be a condition of a permit issued by the Public Utilities Commission.

In docket EL19-003, Crowned Ridge Wind I/Nextera proposed a grouse study in-lieu of mitigation to fulfill condition number 45 included as part of the Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Crowned Ridge Wind. The study plan was submitted by Nextera to the Public Utilities Commission on 12/18/19. The proposed study voluntarily incorporates the footprint of Crowned Ridge II, in addition to Crowned Ridge I, as required by permit condition 45 in docket EL19-003.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Hilary Morey
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