# DEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY CROWNED RIDGE ENERGY STORAGE I, LLC REGARDING ITS NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT FOR AN ENERGY CONCERSION FACILITY

ORDER DESIGNATING
AFFECTED AREA AND
DESIGNATING LOCAL REVIEW
COMMITTEE

EL25-034

On October 15, 2025, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Notice of Intent to submit an application for a permit for an energy conversion facility from Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC (CRES). CRES proposes to construct, own and operate a 120-megawatt, 4-hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be located on approximately 15.4 acres within the existing Crowned Ridge I Wind Energy Facility project area and connected to the existing Crowned Ridge Wind Collector Substation through an approximately 1,355-foot collection line. The proposed BESS will be located at the southeast intersection of 464th Avenue and 161st Street in Codington County, South Dakota.

On October 16, 2025, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 31, 2025, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listsery. No petitions to intervene were filed. On October 28, 2025, PUC Staff filed a letter regarding designation of Affected Area and exhibits.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically SDCL 49-41B-5 and 49-41B-6, as well as ARSD 20:10:22:02. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-6, the Commission is required to designate the affected area relative to this filing and also designate a local review committee within thirty days after the filing of the notification of intent.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 6, 2025, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to designate the affected area as a five-mile radius from the proposed energy conversion facility. In accordance with SDCL 49-41B-6, the Commission voted unanimously to designate the local review committee which shall be compromised of the following individuals, ex officio:

(1) Affected South Dakota Counties Codington (Chair of County Commissioners) Grant

(2) Affected SD Municipalities (Mayor) South Shore

(3) Affected SD School Districts Waverly 14-5 (President of Board of Education) Milbank 25-4

(4) A representative of CRES

Any person on the committee who ceases to hold such office or appointment shall be replaced on the committee by its successor, who shall promptly notify the Commission of such succession. It is therefore

ORDERED, that for the purpose of this energy conversion facility, the affected area shall be a five-mile radius from the proposed energy conversion facility. It is further

ORDERED, that the local review committee shall be compromised of the above referenced individuals, serving ex officio, and that any person on the committee who ceases to hold such office or appointment shall be replaced on the committee by his or her successor, who shall promptly notify the Commission of such succession.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2m day of November 2025.

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list electronically or by mail.

By: Kynty Henrido

Date: 7 /VOV 2025

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

GARY HANSON, Chairman

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

#### OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

EL 25-

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF CROWNED RIDGE ENERGY STORAGE I, LLC FOR A FACILITY PERMIT

NOTICE OF INTENT UNDER SDCL § 49-41B-5

Pursuant to SDCL § 49-41B-5, Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC ("CRES") hereby provides notice that it intends to construct, own, and operate an energy conversion facility.

On August 1, 2025, CRES filed in Docket No. EL25-027 a Petition seeking the Commission to disclaim jurisdiction of CRES. On October 1, 2025, the Commission issued an order denying CRES' Petition, finding that CRES was not excluded from statutory definition of an energy conversion facility. Therefore, as required by SDCL § 49-41B-5, CRES is filing this Notice that it intends to file an application for a facility permit for an energy conversion facility. As required by ARSD 20:10:22:02, this Notice provides the following information:

1. Description of the Size and Type of Proposed Facility (ARSD 20:10:22:02(1));

CRES will be a 120-megawatt, 4-hour Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS") in

Codington County, South Dakota. The BESS will be located on approximately 15.4 acres within the existing Crowned Ridge I Wind Energy Facility project area and connected to the existing Crowned Ridge Wind Collector Substation through an approximately 1,355-foot collection line. CRES will be located on property with a voluntarily executed lease with a purchase option agreement.

2. Estimate of the Total Cost of Construction of the Proposed Facility (ARSD 20:10:22:02(2));

The proposed BESS will cost approximately \$174MM to construct.

3. Identification of the Location of the Proposed Plant Site General Description of the Anticipated Affected Area (ARSD 20:10:22:02(3));

The proposed BESS will be located on approximately 15.4 acres at the southeast intersection of 464th Avenue and 161st Street. The Project is not expected to have significant impacts on the environment, wildlife, or human residences. The majority of the land that will be impacted by the BESS is agricultural. Construction of the Project is not expected to adversely affect terrestrial ecosystems.

4. Brief Statement on Social and Economic Impact of the Proposed Facility (ARSD 20:10:22:02(4));

The BESS will pay property taxes and employ 1-2 full time positions. Approximately 180 construction workers will be required to construct the BESS.

- 5. Anticipated Permit Authorization Date, Construction Schedule, and Commercial Operation Schedule (ARSD 20:10:22:02(5));
  - Anticipated filing of CRES Application for a Facility Permit: 4/2026.
  - Anticipated issuance of a Facilities Permit: 4/2027.
  - Anticipated construction schedule: start construction 5/2027, with a duration between 9 to 12 months.
  - Anticipated Commercial Operation 12/2027 to 5/2027.

- 6. List of the Names and Addresses of All Chairmen Tribal Councils, Presidents of School Boards, Chairmen of County Commissions, and Mayors of Municipalities in the Anticipated Affected Area Identified (ARSD 20:10:22:02(6));
  - Tribal:

Chairman J. Garret Renville 12554 BIA Highway 711 Agency Village, SD 57262

Dianne Derosiers Tribal Historic Preservation Officer PO Box 907 Sisseton, SD 57262

- Watertown School Board: Jon Iverson, President: address, Watertown School District 200 9th St NE, Watertown, SD 57201
- County Commission: Codington County; Commissioners: Lee Gabel, Tyler McElhany, Myron Johnson, Tryo VanDusen (Chair), Randy Schweer; address, 14 1st Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201
- Watertown Mayor: Ried Holien; address, 23 2nd St NE. Watertown, SD 57201
- 7. Description of All Permits (ARSD 20:10:22:02(8)); and
  - Facility Permit from the Commission:
  - Codington County Conditional Use Permit, Road Use Agreement, and Building Permit; and
  - No Federal permits required.
- 8. Questions or Requests Concerning the Proposed Facility, including a Request for a Prefiling Conference: ARSD 20:10:22:02(7).

CRES requests a prefiling conference in March 2026.

#### **CONCLUSION**

CRES submits the above-referenced information to satisfy the notice requirements of SDCL § 49-41B-5 and seeks a prefiling conference in March 2026.

### WOODS, FULLER, SHULTZ & SMITH P.C.

### By /s/ James E. Moore

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# 49-41B-6. Designation of affected area by commission after notification of intent filed--Local review committee designated, composition.

Within thirty days after the filing of the notification of intent to apply for a permit for the construction of an energy conversion facility or AC/DC conversion facility, the Public Utilities Commission shall designate the affected area and a local review committee composed of:

- (1) The chair of the tribal council of each affected reservation;
- (2) The president of the board of education of each affected school district;
- (3) The chair of the county commissioners of each affected county;
- (4) The mayor of each affected municipality; and
- (5) A representative of the applicant utility designated by the utilities.

Source: SL 1977, ch 390, § 10; SL 2006, ch 242, § 3.

# 49-41B-7. Assessment by local review committee--Factors included.

The local review committee shall meet to assess the extent of the potential social and economic effect to be generated by the proposed facility, to assess the affected area's capacity to absorb those effects at various stages of construction, and formulate mitigation measures. The assessment of the local review committee shall include consideration of the temporary and permanent alternatives in the following areas:

- (1) Housing supplies;
- (2) Educational facilities and manpower;
- (3) Water supply and distribution;
- (4) Waste water treatment and collection;
- (5) Solid waste disposal and collection;
- (6) Law enforcement;
- (7) Transportation;
- (8) Fire protection;
- (9) Health;
- (10) Recreation;
- (11) Government; and
- (12) Energy.

**Source:** SL 1977, ch 390, § 12; SL 2010, ch 226, § 5.

# 49-41B-8. Employment of personnel by committee--Expenses--Information furnished by commission.

The local review committee may employ such persons as determined by the Public Utilities Commission which may be required to carry out the provisions of § 49-41B-7 and the expenses of said staff shall be paid from the initial filing fee. The commission shall furnish copies of the application to the members of the local review committee and all other information which the commission determines that the committee should receive.

**Source:** SL 1977, ch 390, § 14.

49-41B-9. Financing of committee expenses.

Expense payments and other authorized payments to members of the local review committee for their service on the committee shall be financed by the unit of government or utility which they represent.

**Source:** SL 1977, ch 390, § 11.

# 49-41B-10. Final report of committee.

Within seven months after the application is filed the local review committee shall file a final report with the Public Utilities Commission which includes the recommendations of the committee as to mitigation measures and minority reports.

**Source:** SL 1977, ch 390, § 13.

# 49-41B-20. Final report heard by commission at final hearing--Decision on application--Adoption of committee's report.

The final report shall be heard by the Public Utilities Commission at the final hearing wherein the commission makes its decision on the application for a permit. The local review committee report may be adopted in whole or in part, at the discretion of the commission.

**Source:** SL 1977, ch 390, § 13.