

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A )  
FACILITY PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A )  
230-KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND )  
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES FROM )  
CODINGTON COUNTY TO THE BIG )  
STONE SOUTH SUBSTATION )**

**ORDER ASSESSING  
FILING FEE; AUTHORIZING  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER  
INTO CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

**EL17-047**

On October 27, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (Crowned Ridge). Crowned Ridge proposes to construct a new reactive power compensation substation and an approximately 34-mile 230-kilovolt (kV) generation tie line that will connect two 300 megawatt (MW) wind projects (Crowned Ridge Wind (CRW) and Crowned Ridge Wind II (CRW II)) to the Big Stone South Substation owned by Otter Tail Power Company. Together the new reactive power compensation substation and 34-mile generation tie line are the Project. The planned Crowned Ridge Wind facilities will be permitted separately and are not included as a part of the Project. The generation tie line will be located in Codington and Grant counties, South Dakota, while the new reactive compensation substation will be located in Grant County. The Project is expected to be in service by December 31, 2019. Crowned Ridge estimates the total construction cost to be approximately \$30 million for a single circuit transmission line plus approximately \$8.5 million for the associated substation, or \$40 million for a double circuit transmission line plus approximately \$8 million for the associated substation.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent for the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs of the Project plus one-twentieth of one percent of all additional estimated construction costs of the Project. However, the minimum total fee chargeable may not be less than eight thousand dollars. The fee shall be deposited in a subfund in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee Fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon the Application.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 7, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$120,000 with an initial deposit of \$8,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into consulting contracts needed for review of the Application. Crowned Ridge stated it did not object to the fee assessment. The Commission voted unanimously to assess Crowned Ridge a filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$120,000, with a minimum filing fee of \$8,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of the Project commencing from the filing date. The Commission further voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. It is therefore

**ORDERED**, that Crowned Ridge shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$120,000 for the wind energy facility portion of the Application. It is further

**ORDERED**, that Crowned Ridge shall make an initial deposit with the Commission in the amount of the minimum filing fee of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Commission's Finance Manager. It is further

ORDERED, that the Executive Director is authorized to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Karan E. Bremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>11/15/17</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Eiegen  
KRISTIE EIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner