

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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) BY CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A) PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY) IN GRANT AND CODINGTON COUNTIES)) | ORDER GRANTING PARTY STATUS; ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE |
| | EL19-003 |

On January 30, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit for a wind energy facility (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (Crowned Ridge or Applicant) to construct a wind energy conversion facility to be located in Grant County and Codington County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated on approximately 53,186-acres in the townships of Waverly, Rauville, Leola, Germantown, Troy, Stockholm, Twin Brooks, and Mazeppa, South Dakota. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 300 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 130 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, one permanent meteorological tower, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project will utilize the Crowned Ridge 34-mile 230-kV generation tie line and a new reactive power compensation substation to transmit the electricity from the Project's collector substation to the Project's point of interconnection located at the Big Stone South 230-kV Substation, which is owned by Otter Tail Power Company. Applicant has executed a power purchase agreement with Northern States Power Company (NSP) to sell NSP the full output of the Project. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$400 million.

On January 31, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 1, 2019, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On February 6, 2019, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. On February 22, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee; Order Authorizing Executive Director to Enter into a Consulting Contracts; Order Granting Party Status. On March 20, 2019, a public input hearing was held as scheduled. On March 21, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Granting Party Status. On March 25, 2019, Patrick Lynch filed an Application for Party Status. On March 26, 2019, Commission staff filed a Motion for Procedural Schedule. On March 27, 2019, Crowned Ridge filed its Responses to the Motion for Procedural Schedule. On March 28, 2019, intervenors filed a Response to Crowned Ridge's Response to the Motion for Procedural Schedule.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22, specifically 20:10:22:40.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 2, 2019, the Commission considered Patrick Lynch's Application for Party Status and Commission staff's Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule. Applicant did not object to the request for party status. Intervenors present for the meeting objected to Commission staff's Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule and Crowned Ridge's request that the date of its Supplemental Testimony be changed. Having heard the arguments of the parties and having reviewed the parties' written submissions, the Commission voted unanimously to grant party status to Patrick Lynch and to adopt Commission staff's proposed procedural schedule with the changes requested by Commission staff at the Commission meeting. It is therefore

ORDERED, that party status is hereby granted to Patrick Lynch. It is further

ORDERED, that the parties shall follow the procedural schedule as set forth below except as otherwise ordered by the Commission:

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| Applicant Supplemental Testimony Due | April 10, 2019 |
| Staff/Intervenor Testimony Due | May 10, 2019 |
| Rebuttal Testimony Due | May 24, 2019 |
| Final Discovery to All Parties | May 28, 2019 |
| Responses to Final Discovery Due | June 4, 2019 |
| Witness and Exhibit Lists Due | June 6, 2019 |
| Evidentiary Hearing | June 11-14, 2019 |

It is further

ORDERED, that responses to discovery are due ten business days after service of discovery except as provided in the procedural schedule above.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of April 2019.

| CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE | |
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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: | <u>Karen E. Cremer</u> |
| Date: | <u>04/05/19</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) | |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner