

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

**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 APPROVING  
ESCROW AGREEMENT**

**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 July 26, 2019, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility; Notice of Entry (Permit).

Condition 32 of the Permit requires Applicant to file an escrow account plan with the Commission for Commission approval. On November 27, 2019, Applicant filed an Escrow Agreement between Applicant and First Bank & Trust. On December 18, 2019, and December 19, 2019, Applicant filed an Amended and Restated Escrow Agreement (Escrow Agreement) to address concerns raised by Commission staff.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B.

On December 20, 2019, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting approval of the Escrow Agreement as filed on December 19, 2019. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Escrow Agreement as filed on December 19, 2019. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicant's request for approval of the Escrow Agreement, filed on December 19, 2019, as required in Condition 32 of the Final Order, is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of December 2019.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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. Cremon</u>
Date: <u>12/20/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner