

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF CROWNED RIDGE WIND II, LLC FOR A )  
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN )  
DEUEL, GRANT, AND CODINGTON )  
COUNTIES )**

**ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF  
MOTION HEARING ON LESS THAN  
10 DAYS' NOTICE**

**EL19-016**

On April 1, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Wind Energy Facility Permit (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC (Crowned Ridge Wind or Applicant), a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. Crowned Ridge Wind proposes to construct a wind energy facility to be located in Codington, Deuel, and Grant Counties, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated within an approximately 60,996-acre project area, located east of the City of Watertown (Project Area). The Project Area is in Waverly, Kranzburg, Troy, Rome, Goodwin, and Havana Townships. The total installed capacity of the Project would be approximately 300.6 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The proposed Project includes up to 132 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5 kV electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 230-kV collection substation, up to two permanent meteorological towers, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project would interconnect to the electric grid at the Big Stone South 230-kV Substation using the Crowned Ridge II's 5-mile 230-kV transmission line that was approved in Docket EL18-018 and the Crowned Ridge 34-mile generation tie line that was approved in Docket EL17-050. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant has executed a purchase and sale agreement with Northern States Power Company (NSP) to sell NSP the Project upon commercial operation. Applicant estimates the total construction cost to be \$425 million.

On April 4, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 31, 2019, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On April 3, 2019, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. A public input hearing is scheduled for May 22, 2019, in Watertown, South Dakota. On April 15, 2019, the Commission received applications for party status from six individuals being represented by attorney A.J. Swanson. On April 9, 2019, Mr. Swanson filed a Petition of Ehlebracht, Et Al. To Commission Staff Concerning Applicant's Burden of Proof. On April 16, 2019, Commission staff filed a Motion to Dismiss Petition of Ehlebracht, Et Al. to Commission Staff Concerning Applicant's Burden of Proof.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22. The Commission may rely upon any or all of these or other laws of this state in making its determination.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:22.02, the Commission may order a hearing on less than ten days notice if the Commission determines good cause exists therefor. The Commission finds that because scheduling concerns surrounding the Easter holiday, good cause exists to hear the motion on less than ten days' notice.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that a hearing on the Motion for Denial will be held on May 2, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., CDT, in Room 413, of the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, South Dakota.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 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>Adam Jethelle</u>
Date: <u>4/18/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner