

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

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

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER
FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC
INPUT MEETING; NOTICE OF
OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY
FOR PARTY STATUS**

EL19-027

On July 9, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC (Crowned Ridge or Applicant), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. Crowned Ridge proposes to construct a wind energy conversion facility to be located in Deuel, Grant, and Codington Counties, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated within approximately 60,996-acres in the townships of Waverly, Kranzburg North, Kranzburg South, Troy, Rome, Goodwin, and Havana, South Dakota (Project Area). The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 301 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-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 230-kV collection substation, two permanent meteorological towers, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project will utilize the Crowned Ridge Wind II 5-mile 230-kV generation tie line and the Crowned Ridge Wind II collector substation to transmit the generation to the dead-end transmission structure adjacent to the Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC project's collector substation and conjoined to the Big Stone South 230-kV Substation, which is owned by Otter Tail Power Company. Applicant has executed a purchase and sale agreement with Northern States Power Company (NSP) to sell NSP the Project and the Facility Permits once constructed. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$425 million.

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

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application on Monday, August 26, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., CDT, at the Whitewood Room, Watertown Event Center, 1901 9th Ave. SW, Watertown, South Dakota.

The purpose of the public input meeting will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the meeting, Crowned Ridge will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Deuel, Grant, and Codington County Auditors pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-5.2 and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2019 Electric Dockets, EL19-027 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, or by phone at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission staff. Each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited, or any directly interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making timely written application to the Commission. Applications for

party status will be available at the public input meeting or may be obtained from the Commission's website or by contacting the Commission. **Applications for party status must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, September 9, 2019.** The Commission will also be accepting comments in writing from anyone, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mailing the Commission right up until the time of the decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by putting on actual testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct.

Following the public input meeting, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, the Commission's staff, or the Commission itself. At such a formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, cross-examine the other parties' witnesses, and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

For approval, Crowned Ridge must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether a permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application and Project on **Monday, August 26, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., CDT, at the Whitewood Room, Watertown Event Center, 1901 9th Ave. SW, Watertown, South Dakota.** It is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, **applications for party status must be filed on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, on September 9, 2019.**

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these meetings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of July 2019.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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>07/11/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner