

**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 POST
CONSTRUCTION NOISE
COMPLIANCE TEST
PROTOCOL**

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 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). On January 9, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Granting Temporary Waiver that approved Crowned Ridge to operate temporarily without low noise trailing edge blade attachments installed on all turbines, subject to the curtailment of certain turbines, and Crowned Ridge conducting post construction noise compliance testing in accordance with Condition 26 of the Permit. Condition 26 of the Permit requires the post construction noise compliance test protocol (Noise Test Protocol) to be approved by the Commission. On February 13, 2020, Crowned Ridge filed a proposed Noise Test Protocol for Commission approval.

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

On February 18, 2020, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the Noise Test Protocol as submitted by Crowned Ridge. After hearing oral presentations from the parties, the answers given to Commission questions, and having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket, the Commission, after public discussion, voted unanimously to approve the proposed Noise Test Protocol and also require the Public Liaison Officer to assist in contacting non-participating landowners for permission to test noise levels on their property. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicant's request for approval of the Noise Test Protocol as required in Condition 26 of the Permit is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Public Liaison Officer will assist in contacting non-participating landowners for permission to test noise levels on their property.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of February 2020.

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: Karen E. Bremer

Date: 02/19/20

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner