

**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 )**

**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST  
TO APPROVE PUBLIC  
LIAISON OFFICER**

**EL19-027**

On July 9, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Wind Energy Facility Permit (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC (CRW II), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. CRW II 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 approximately 60,996-acres in the Waverly, Kranzburg North, Kranzburg South, Troy, Rome, Goodwin, and Havana townships. The total installed capacity of the Project would be approximately 301 megawatts 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 will interconnect to the electric grid at the Big Stone South 230-kV Substation using the Crowned Ridge II 5-mile 230-kV transmission line that was approved in Docket EL18-019 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. CRW II has executed a purchase and sale agreement with Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (NSP) to sell NSP the Project upon commercial operation. CRW II estimates the total construction cost to be \$425 million. The Commission issued its oral decision granting a permit to construct facilities (Permit) on March 17, 2020. The Permit includes a condition that requires Applicant to provide a public liaison officer, approved by the Commission, prior to commencement of construction. On March 19, 2020, Applicant filed a letter requesting the Commission approve Brian Riniker as the public liaison officer.

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

On March 31, 2020, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered CRW II's request to approve Brian Riniker as the public liaison officer for the Project. Commission staff and pro se Intervenor Amber Christenson recommended approval of Brian Riniker as the public liaison officer. No other parties appeared. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the request to approve Brian Riniker as the public liaison officer. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Brian Riniker is hereby approved as the public liaison officer.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of April 2020.

<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. Cromer</u>
Date: April 2, 2020
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner