Chris Nelson, Chairman
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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October 31, 2025

Troy VanDusen, Chairman
Codington County Commission
14 1st Ave. SE
Watertown, SD 57201

Penny Thyen, Chairperson
Waverly 14-5 School District
319 Mary Pl
Waverly, SD 57201

William Tostenson, Chairman
Grant County Commission
210 E. 5th Ave
Milbank, SD 57252

Richard Schwandt, President
Milbank 25-4 School District
1001 East Park Ave
Milbank, SD 57252

Jamie Dolen, Mayor
South Shore
102 N Main St.
South Shore, SD 57263

Thomas James
Senior Project Manager,
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
700 Universe Blvd, A3125
Juno Beach, FL 33408

RE: EL25-034 - In the Matter of the Filing by Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC regarding its Notification of Intent to Apply for a Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility

On November 6, 2025, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued the enclosed Order Designating Affected Area and Designating Local Review Committee in response to a Notification of Intent filed on October 15, 2025, by Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC (CRES). CRES proposes to construct, own and operate a 120-megawatt, 4-hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be located on approximately 15.4 acres within the existing Crowned Ridge I Wind Energy Facility project area and connected to the existing Crowned Ridge Wind Collector Substation through an approximately 1,355-foot collection line. The proposed BESS will be located at the southeast intersection of 464th Avenue and 161st Street in Codington County, South Dakota. (Project). The Project is described in more detail in the enclosed Order and the Notification of Intent.

You have received a copy of this Order and the other enclosed materials because our contacts with local governments in the area indicate you currently hold one of the offices designated to serve on the Local Review Committee (Committee) for the Project. The responsibilities of the Committee are essentially to assess the potential social and economic effects of the proposed generating facility, assess the surrounding area's ability to absorb those effects and arrive at recommendations and mitigation measures deemed necessary. State law requires the Commission designate an Affected Area and designate a Local Review Committee within 30-days of receiving a Notice of Intent and defines the Committee's duties in detail. Copies of the applicable state laws are enclosed for your reference.

At this time, CRES has only filed a notice of its intent to file an application for a permit, as it must do at least six months prior to filing its permit application. This means that CRES can file its actual application for a permit on or after April 15, 2025. Within seven months after the actual application is filed, the Committee is required to file a final report with the Commission containing its findings and its recommendations. If the Commission so approves, the Committee may employ outside persons, such as consultants, to assist it in performing duties and the expenses of this will be paid from the initial fee that CRES will be required to file with its application. Expense and compensation payments to the committee members themselves, however, are the responsibility of the units of government which the members represent.

The Committee's first step is generally to meet and select a chairperson. While the Committee is an independent body separate from the Commission Staff, Staff is available to answer any questions the Committee may have. Should you need to contact Staff, please do not hesitate to contact Jennie Fuerst, Darren Kearney, or Jon Thurber at 605-773-3201.

The Notice of Intent, Order and all other documents in this case are on file in the Commission's office in the Capitol Building in Pierre and may also be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov under "Commission Actions." "Commission Dockets," "Electric Dockets," "2025 Electric Dockets," "EL25-034."

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, or the Local Review Committee.

Sincerely,



Jennie L. Fuerst
Staff Attorney

Enc.

Cc/enc.- Service List EL25-034