

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
CROWNED RIDGE ENERGY STORAGE I, LLC  
FOR A PERMIT FOR AN ENERGY  
CONVERSION FACILITY

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ORDER GRANTING IN  
PART AND DENYING IN  
PART PARTY STATUS  
APPLICATIONS

EL26-014

On May 14, 2026, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit from Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC (Applicant). Applicant proposes to construct an energy conversion facility in Codington County, South Dakota, known as the battery energy storage system (Project). The Project as proposed consists of 120-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) to store excess energy available on the grid. The Project includes a 120-MW, 4-hour duration BESS facility with associated inverters, transformers, medium voltage (mV) collection cables, and other ancillary facilities, such as fencing, roads, and a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. The Project will connect to the existing CRW Collector Substation via approximately 2,215-foot-long mV collection cables. The Project is expected to be in commercial operation in May 2028. Applicant estimates the total construction cost to be \$174 million.

On May 15, 2026, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Meeting; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status and electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 13, 2026, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On June 4, 2026, the Commission issued Order Assessing Filing Fee; Order Authorizing Executive Director to Enter into Consulting Contracts. On July 13, 2026, the Commission received twenty-eight applications for Party Status, which included a number of individuals, as well as South Dakota Rural Electric Cooperative (SDREA), and East River Electric Cooperative (East River)<sup>1</sup>. On July 14, 2026, Basin Electric Cooperative (Basin) filed a Petition to Intervene. On July 15, 2026, the Commission issued an order granting party status to Timothy Lindgren, Linda M. Lindgren, and Codington Clark Electric Cooperative.

On July 16, 2026, Staff filed Staff's Objection to Party Status Applications and Petition to Intervene. In its Objection, Staff recommended the Commission grant party status to those individuals whom Staff identified as owning land within a two-mile radius of the Project, and further recommended party status be denied to those individuals beyond that distance and denied to Basin, SDREA, and East River. On July 20, 2026, Intervenor Timothy Lindgren and Linda M. Lindgren submitted a response to Staff's Objection to Party Status Applications and Petitions to Intervene. On July 23, 2026, Intervenor Timothy Lindgren and Linda M. Lindgren filed a Formal Request to Extend Intervenor Radius. On July 23, 2026, the Applicant filed Response to Party Status Applications. On July 23, 2026, Staff filed Response to Lindgren's Formal Request to Extend Intervenor Radius to 5 Miles. On July 24, 2026, Basin filed Response to Staff's Objection to Petition to Intervene. On July 24, 2026, SDREA filed Response to Staff's Objection to Application for Party Status. On July 27, 2026, East River filed a Response to Staff's Objections to Application for Party Status.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 28, 2026, the Commission considered all pending Applications for Party Status. After a lengthy discussion and hearing from all parties and prospective parties in attendance at the meeting, Commissioner Nelson made a motion to grant in part and deny in part the party status applications and petition to intervene in alignment with Staff's objection filed on July 16, 2026. Commissioner Fiegen offered a substitute motion to grant the intervention to those persons recommended by Staff as well as to SDREA, East River, and Basin and to deny the remainder as recommended by Staff. With a vote of 1-2, Commissioner Fiegen

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<sup>1</sup> All applications for party status are available on the Commission's website at <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2026/EL26-014PartyStatus.aspx>.

supporting the substitute motion, the substitute motion failed. Commissioner Hanson made a motion to amend the main motion in order to follow the recommendation of Staff's objection but to grant the application of SDREA to intervene. The Commission voted 2-1 to amend the main motion, with Commissioner Nelson dissenting. The Commission voted 2-1, Commissioner Fiegen dissenting<sup>2</sup>, to grant the party status applications of SDREA, Paul Johnson, Bridget Johnson, and Bob Welder and to deny the applications of all of the rest who applied. It is therefore

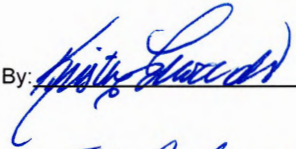
ORDERED, that Party Status is hereby granted to the SDREA, Paul Johnson, Bridget Johnson, and Bob Welder. It is further

ORDERED, that Party Status is hereby denied to East River, Basin, Sharon L. Falk, Amber Beisch, Dennis Thyen, Emily Mack, John Hoeke, Ron Schmeling, Zach Stricherz, Cheryl Mack, Terry Foster, Sam Roberts, Darlene Cunningham, Wayne F. Borgheiinck, William Cunningham, Debra L. Ries, Nancy Ryland, Diane Redlin, Justin Alex Rude, Valarie Rude, Dalton Rude, Wayne Owen, Barbra J Rude, Connie L. Stricherz, and Audrey F. Lindgren.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026.

**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: 

Date: 30 July 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner  
(Dissenting)



GARY HANSON, Commissioner

<sup>2</sup> Commissioner Fiegen dissenting as to the denial of Basin and East River.