South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

EL18-026 - In the Matter of the Application by Prevailing Wind Park, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Bon Homme County, Charles Mix County and Hutchinson County, South Dakota, for the Prevailing Wind Park Project – Evidentiary Hearing

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Room 413, State Capitol, Pierre, SD

Please Print

Name	Representing	
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Lovi Fuerniss		
Mark Roberts	Proceeding Wind	
Reece Hlmond	Intervinous- Gigg-Mustha Hubrey + Paula-Lia Schoonfeller	
Kelli pazour	Sels	
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Karen genkins	pelf)	
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Danie Pardo	Prevailing wind	
Chris Howell	Prevailing Wind	
Scott Creech	Prevailing Wine	
Aann Anderson	Prevalence Wino	
Drogs Hulm	Jater Leven	
Or Wisha Hubrer	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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1	THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
2	
3	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION EL18-026 BY PREVAILING WIND PARK, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY
4	IN BON HOMME COUNTY, CHARLES MIX COUNTY, AND HUTCHINSON COUNTY,
5	SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR THE PREVAILING WIND PARK PROJECT
6	
7	Transcript of Hearing October 9, 2018 9:00 a.m.
8	Volume I, Pages 1-331
9	
J	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,
10	KRISTIE FIEGEN, CHAIRWOMAN
11	GARY HANSON, VICE CHAIRMAN CHRIS NELSON, COMMISSIONER
12	COMMISSION STAFF
13	Adam de Hueck Karen Cremer
	Greg Rislov
14	APPEARANCES
15	Mollie Smith and Lisa Agrimonti, appearing on behalf of Prevailing Wind Park;
16	Deage Almond
17	Reece Almond, appearing on behalf of Intervenors Gregg Hubner, Marsha Hubner, Paul Schoenfelder, and Lisa Schoenfelder;
18	
19	Sherman Fuerniss, appearing pro se;
20	Karen Jenkins, appearing pro se;
21	
22	Kelli Pazour, appearing pro se;
23	Kristen Edwards and Amanda Reiss, appearing on behalf of Staff.
24	
25	Reported By Cheri McComsey Wittler, RPR, CRR Precision Reporting, 213 S. Main, Onida, South Dakota

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1		I N D E X (Continued)			
2	INTERV	ENORS' EXHIBITS	M	0	R
3	I-10	Video of Malfunctioning Turbine on Scott Rueter's Property	19	1175	1176
4		(Section 21, Fairview Township, Osceola County, Iowa) taken on			
5	I-11	June 5, 2017 Google Maps View of Sherm and	19	29	29
6		Lori Fuerniss Residence			
7	I-12	Photo of Malfunctioned/Burnt Turbine on Scott Rueter's Property	19	1175	1176
8	I-13	Google Maps View of Kevin Andersh's Residence	19	29	29
9	I - 14	Bon Homme Co. Zoning Ordinance	19	29	29
10	I-15	GE Publication - Ice Shedding and Ice Throw Risk & Mitigation	19	532	532
11	I-16	Lease Payment Calculations and	19	29	29
		Land Use Area - Provided to Gregg Hubner to Entice Him to			
12	I-17	Sign Up for the Project Wind Energy Lease and Wind	19	29	29
13		Easement Agreement - Blank Form			
14	I-18 I-21	sPower Brochure Google Earth - Beethoven & PWP	19 19	29 29	29 29
	I-22	8/22/18 Letter from Charles Mix	19	29	29
15		Co. Along with Affidavit of Peter Pawlowski			
16	I-23	PUC Draft Model Ordinance	19	674	674
17	I-26	Applicant's Responses to Intervenors' First Set of DRs	19	29	29
	I-27	Applicant's Responses to	19	29	29
18	I-28	Intervenors' Second Set of DRs Applicant's Responses to	19	29	29
19		Intervenors' Third Set of DRs			
20	I-29	Applicant's Responses to Intervenors' Fourth Set of DRs	19	29	29
	I-30	PUC Staff's Responses to	19	29	29
21	I-31	Intervenors' First Set of DRs WHO Night Noise Guidelines for	19	29	29
22		Europe (2009)			
23	I-32	Guidelines for Community Noise (1999)	19	29	29
	I-33	The Environment and Disease -	19	29	29
24	I-34	Association or Causation? Intervenors' Responses to	19	29	29
25	.	Staff's Second Set of DRs	= 5	- -	

1	I N D E X (Continued)					
2	INTERVENORS'	M	0	R		
3		d Turbines - Is There A an Health Risk?				
4	I-36 12/	12/24 Team Report from s. PSC Infrasound Study at	749	749	749	
5	Shi I-37 Hes	rley Wind ssler Publication - Wind	756	756	756	
6 7	Des I-38 Lis	bine Noise - Recommended sign Goals t of Landowners with bines	966	966	966	
8	FUERNISS'S EX	HIBITS	М	0	R	
10	Sherm 2 Dr.	Visit 1 Visit 2 Map 4-2018 Red on Green 1	19 19 19		31 31 31	
11	Sherm 4 PV Sherm 12 Sta	Map 4-2018 Red on Green 2 ff's First Set of Data		31	31 31	
12 13	Sherm 13 Sta	uests to Sherman Fuerniss ff's Second Set of Data uests to Sherman Fuerniss	19	31	31	
14	Sherm 14 App Dat	clicant's First Set of a Requests to Intervenor erman Fuerniss	19	31	31	
15 16	JENKINS'S EXH	IBITS	М	0	R	
17	for	GF&P's Siting Guidelines Wind Power Projects in	19	34	3 4	
18	KJ5 Res	th Dakota ponses to Applicant's st Set of Data Requests	19	3 4	3 4	
19	to KJ6 Ame	Intervenors ended Response to Staff's	19	3 4	3 4	
20	to	st Set of Data Requests Intervenors				
21	Set	ponse to Staff's First of Data Requests to	19	3 4	3 4	
22	Int	ervenors				
24						
25						

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The following transcript of proceedings was
1
2
     held in the above-entitled matter at the South Dakota
3
     State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre,
     South Dakota, on the 9th day of October, 2018, commencing
4
5
     at 9:00 a.m.
6
7
     (Applicant's Exhibits are marked.)
8
     (Intervenors' Exhibits are marked.)
     (Staff's Exhibits are marked.)
10
     (Fuerniss's Exhibits are marked.)
11
     (Jenkins's Exhibits are marked.)
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Utilities Commission is called to order. We will begin this hearing in Docket EL18-026, In the Matter of the Application of Prevailing Winds Park, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Bon Homme County, Charles Mix, Hutchinson Counties in South Dakota for the Prevailing Winds Park Project.

It is 9:00 a.m. It is Tuesday, October 9, 2018, and we are in Room 413 of the Capitol Building in Pierre, South Dakota. I am Kristie Fiegen, and I am the Chairman of the Commission. And with me today is fellow Commissioners Gary Hanson, a little bit wounded but -- and Commissioner Nelson.

The hearing was noticed pursuant to the Commission Order for and the Notice of Hearing issued on September 11, 2018. The issue at that hearing as set forth in South Dakota Codified Law 49-41B-22 is determining, number one, whether the proposed project will comply with all applicable laws and rules; two, whether the project will pose a threat of serious injury to the environment or the social or economic conditions of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area; number three, whether the project will have -- substantially impair the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants; and, four, whether the project will

unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region area and with due consideration having given -- have been given to the views of the governing body of the affected local units of government.

Based on these facts, the Commission will decide whether the permit shall be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

The Petitioner, Prevailing Wind, has the burden of proof to demonstrate its right to relief as requested. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. All persons testifying will be sworn in and subject to cross-examination by the parties. The Commission's final decision may be appealed by the parties to the State Circuit Court or the State Supreme Court.

Adam de Hueck, which is one of our Commission attorneys, will be acting as the Hearing Examiner and will conduct the hearing subject to the Commission's oversight. He may provide recommended rulings on procedural and evidentiary matters. The Commission may overrule his preliminary rulings throughout the hearing. If not overruled, the preliminary ruling will become a final ruling.

```
1
              With that, Mr. de Hueck, the gavel is moved over
2
     to you.
 3
                            Thank you, Ms. Chairman.
              MR. DE HUECK:
              Good morning, everyone. We will begin this
 4
 5
     evidentiary hearing by taking the appearances of the
 6
     parties on the record.
7
              With that, Prevailing Winds as the Petitioner,
8
    we will begin with you.
9
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Thank you, Mr. de Hueck. Lisa
10
     Agrimonti and Mollie Smith on behalf of the Applicant,
11
     Prevailing Wind Park, LLC.
              MR. DE HUECK: Then I'll look over to
12
    Mr. Almond.
13
14
              MR. ALMOND: Reece Almond with the Davenport
15
     Evans law firm on behalf of Interveners, Gregg and Marsha
     Hubner and Paul and Lisa Schoenfelder.
16
17
              MR. DE HUECK: And now we have the Intervenors.
18
     We have three Intervenors representing themselves. I'll
19
     let you introduce yourself so I get your last name right.
20
              MR. FUERNISS: Sherman Fuerniss. It's been
21
     Americanized so just say furnace. And I'm representing
22
     our family.
23
              MS. JENKINS: Karen Jenkins, Intervenor.
24
              MS. PAZOUR: Kelli Pazour, Intervenor.
25
              MR. DE HUECK: And Staff.
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1 MS. EDWARDS: Kristen Edwards and Amanda Reiss 2 appearing on behalf of Commission Staff. 3 Thank you. So now, counsel, MR. DE HUECK: 4 let's talk about the stipulated exhibits that arose during our prehearing conference last week on Friday. 5 6 I'd like to talk about what has been stipulated to and 7 just go ahead and get those offered and admitted. 8 Ms. Agrimonti, would you like to -- can you 9 summarize what you think your understanding is? 10 yours. 11 MS. AGRIMONTI: Yes. I certainly can. 12 behalf of the Applicant, I understand that all of the 13 Exhibits A1 through A33, with the exception of 20-1, 14 20-2, and 20-3. And A10 -- oops. I've got one more. 15 And Mr. MaRous, A16, have been stipulated to. 16 read that list again. 17 As I understand, still in dispute is A10. A16 I 18 have spoken with Mr. Reece Almond, and I know at least 19 the Intervenors do not have an objection to our 20 replacement Exhibit, A16R. The reason for that 21 replacement was to narrow the scope of Mr. MaRous's 22 testimony on rebuttal, given that Mr. Lawrence had been 23 withdrawn as a witness for Staff. 2.4 And then also A20-1, 20-2, and 21-3 were also

25

not stipulated to.

1 MR. DE HUECK: That syncs up with what I have. 2 I did have marked by A8 and A8-1 -- that was 3 Keith Thorstad. Could you tell the Commissioners a 4 little bit about what's going on there and why that's 5 been apparently now resolved? 6 MS. AGRIMONTI: Yes. Thank you. I appreciate 7 that opportunity. 8 In looking at the number of witnesses we saw coming to the hearing, we looked for ways to consolidate, 10 and Mr. Peter Pawlowski will be addressing the 11 construction testimony that had been proposed by 12 Mr. Keith Thorstad. 1.3 So Mr. Pawlowski will be adopting Mr. Thorstad's 14 testimony, which is A8. And A8-1 has been withdrawn, 15 which is the resume from Mr. Thorstad. 16 MR. DE HUECK: Thank you. 17 Mr. Almond, are you okay with her summarization? It syncs up with what I have marked from our prehearing 18 conference. 19 20 MR. ALMOND: Now that I've -- A16R, that's 21 accurate. We have no objections to the replacement 22 Rebuttal Testimony of Mike MaRous. I can't speak for the 23 other Intervenors. 2.4 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Do you think people online 25 can hear Mr. Reece [sic]?

```
1
              MR. DE HUECK: Maybe just get your mic. closer.
2
              MR. ALMOND: As far as A20-1, 20-2 and 21-3,
 3
     I've now reviewed those.
                              They were provided, I think,
 4
     last night, and we have no objection to those. Again, I
5
    can't speak on behalf of the other Intervenors.
 6
              So that would leave us with just A8 and A10, as
7
     far as this camp is interested.
8
              MR. DE HUECK:
                            Thank you.
9
              Mr. Fuerniss.
10
              MR. FUERNISS: I wouldn't have anything to add
11
    to that.
12
              MR. DE HUECK: Okay. Mr. Almond has addressed
13
     20-1, 20-2, and 20-3. He's okay with stipulating to
14
     those being admitted and offered. You're on that --
15
              MR. FUERNISS: Yeah.
                                    That's fine.
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins.
16
17
              MS. JENKINS: That's good.
18
              MR. DE HUECK: Okay.
                                    Ms. --
19
              MS. PAZOUR: Pazour.
20
              MR. DE HUECK:
                            Thank you.
21
              MS. PAZOUR:
                          I'm good with that too.
22
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. de Hueck, just to clarify
    with Mr. Almond, I understand you're not stipulating to
23
24
    A8 or A10 at this time?
25
              MR. ALMOND: That's correct.
```

1 MR. DE HUECK: So moving on to Mr. Almond's 2 exhibits, would you like to do the same? I'm sorry. Ι 3 inadvertently skipped over Staff. Staff, do you have anything to add? 4 MS. EDWARDS: I do not. 5 6 I meant I don't have anything to add about the 7 Applicant's exhibits. Are we moving on to ours now? 8 MR. DE HUECK: Yes. Let's go ahead and take Staff. 9 10 MS. AGRIMONTI: I'm sorry to interrupt. 11 need to move those exhibits, or we just accept them as 12 stipulated? 13 MR. DE HUECK: I was going to go ahead but if 14 you'd like to do a formal move and I'll admit them. 15 ahead. 16 MS. AGRIMONTI: On behalf of the Applicants, 17 I'll move admission of A1 through A33, with the exception 18 of A8 and A10. MR. DE HUECK: Those will be admitted. 19 Staff. 20 21 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. 22 And for clarification purposes, for those not 23 familiar with it, A32 on the joint -- the Proposed Permit 24 Conditions some of the Intervenors might have been surprised to see. 25

So just so that everybody's aware, this is 1 2 typically what Staff does. And it doesn't mean we are 3 agreeing to the permit. This is just -- at a minimum if 4 the permit is granted, this is what we would want to have 5 seen. So for those who were surprised to see that this 6 morning, that's what's going on there. 7 Moving on to Staff Exhibits, I have S1 and S1 8 Confidential through S4 that I believe we all stipulated to. 10 Forgive me. S2 was removed. So there should be 11 no S2. 12 And then I have S5, which I just sent out this 13 morning. That includes the additional data requests that 14 were received on Friday through the last round of 15 discovery. It only includes the ones received from 16 Mr. Almond and from the Applicant because individual 17 Intervenors had indicated they were submitting those --18 their responses as their own exhibits so I didn't include 19 those as not to be redundant. 20 That's all I have. 21 MR. DE HUECK: Applicant, are you okay with 22 Staff's proposal? 23 MS. AGRIMONTI: We are. 2.4 MR. DE HUECK: Okay. Mr. Almond. 25 MR. ALMOND: No objection.

```
MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss.
1
2
              MR. FUERNISS:
                            That's fine.
 3
              MR. DE HUECK:
                            Ms. Jenkins.
              MS. JENKINS: That's fine.
 4
5
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour.
 6
              MS. PAZOUR: That's fine.
7
              MR. DE HUECK: That takes us to Mr. Almond.
8
              Oh, wait. Staff, would you like to formally --
9
              MS. EDWARDS:
                            Staff moves for the admission of
10
     S1, S3, S4, and S5.
11
              MR. DE HUECK: So admitted.
12
              MR. ALMOND: And if I accurately marked my
13
    exhibit list from Friday, those Intervenor Exhibits that
14
    have been stipulated to are I-4, I-8, I-11, I-13, I-14,
15
     I-16, I-17, I-18, I-21, I-22, I-20 -- no. Excuse me.
16
    And then I-26 through I-34.
17
              MR. DE HUECK: Applicant, does that sound good?
18
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Yes. That's correct.
              MR. DE HUECK: And Mr. Fuerniss?
19
20
              MR. FUERNISS: Yeah.
                                    That's okay.
21
              MR. DE HUECK:
                            Ms. Jenkins.
22
              MS. JENKINS: Yes.
23
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour.
24
              MS. PAZOUR: Yes.
25
              MR. DE HUECK: And Staff.
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```
1
              MS. EDWARDS: Yes. With the understanding
2
    there's still some question as to the confidentiality of
     some of those exhibits.
 3
 4
              MR. DE HUECK: Correct.
 5
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. de Hueck, we did have an
 6
    exchange yesterday I believe it was on the Exhibits I-16
7
     and I-17, and Applicant has no objection to those being
8
     filed publicly.
              MR. DE HUECK: Excellent.
10
              So, Mr. Almond, would you like to formally offer
11
    your exhibits?
12
              MR. ALMOND: Yeah. We'd move to admit I-4, 8,
13
     11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 26 through 34.
14
              MR. DE HUECK: Thank you. Those will be
15
    admitted.
16
              That will take us to Mr. Fuerniss.
17
              MR. FUERNISS: Well, as I recall from the other
18
     day, the only ones that were stipulated to by everybody
19
    were 1 through 4.
20
              MR. DE HUECK: Correct.
              MR. FUERNISS: And I've added the two data
21
22
     requests from Staff, the one from Applicant and also my
23
    Rebuttal Responses, as 12 through 15. So I don't know
24
    where we would stand on those.
25
              MR. DE HUECK: I think we discussed that they
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```
1
    would be stipulated to. But I'll double-check with all
2
    the parties.
 3
              So, Applicant, are you okay with Mr. Fuerniss's
 4
    summary?
5
              MS. AGRIMONTI: One moment, please. I'm looking
 6
     for the 12 through 15. My numbers end at 13. I have
7
    First Set of Data Requests from Staff on No. 12, which we
8
    don't object to. We would stipulate.
              13 is Staff's Second Set to Sherman
10
    Fuerniss. Again, we would stipulate. I'm trying to find
11
    the additional exhibits beyond that. Have I --
12
              MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss, could you tell us
13
    what 14 and 15 are?
14
              MR. FUERNISS: 14 is just a copy of Applicant's
15
    Data Requests to me, and 15 was what I sent in as
16
    Rebuttal Testimony.
17
              MS. AGRIMONTI: As represented, I can't find
18
    them on the actual exhibit page but I do recall those
19
    exhibits and we would stipulate to the list that
20
    Mr. Fuerniss has provided.
21
              And just to be clear that would be 1 through 4,
22
    and then 12, 13, 14, and 15 as he's represented 14 and
23
     15.
2.4
              MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Almond.
25
              MR. ALMOND: No objection.
```

```
MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins.
1
2
              MS. JENKINS: No objection.
 3
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour.
              MS. PAZOUR: No objections.
 4
5
              MR. DE HUECK: Staff.
 6
              MS. EDWARDS: No objection.
              MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss, would you like to
7
8
    offer those exhibits?
9
              MR. FUERNISS: Yes. I would move to offer those
10
    exhibits.
11
              MR. DE HUECK: They will be admitted.
12
              Ms. Jenkins.
                            I'm sorry.
13
              MS. JENKINS:
14
              MR. DE HUECK: Do you recall our prehearing
15
    conversation about your exhibits that were stipulated to?
16
    At that time you had six exhibits and then additional
17
    exhibits. And I can help you out.
18
              MS. JENKINS: Okay. I'm sorry. Can you tell me
    which ones were not?
19
20
              MR. DE HUECK: There were objections to your
21
    first three exhibits. The rest we were all in agreement
22
    with at that time.
              MS. JENKINS: And the first three were the --
23
24
              MR. DE HUECK: Conference program and conference
25
     report.
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```
MS. JENKINS: Okay. I'm fine with that.
1
2
              MR. DE HUECK: I'll go to Applicant. Are you
 3
    okay with that?
 4
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Make sure I understand. That we
5
    would stipulate to No. 4, 5, and 6.
              MR. DE HUECK: Correct. And then she had some
 6
7
    additional exhibits at that time. It was a response to
8
    Applicant e-mail to -- do you recall that?
9
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Yes. And I'm reviewing those
10
    now on my list. And, in addition, we would stipulate to
11
    14 and 15.
12
              MR. DE HUECK: Can you tell me what 14 and 15
1.3
    are?
14
              MS. AGRIMONTI: What I have on my list are
15
    Amended Response to Applicant's First Set of Data
16
    Requests to Intervenors.
17
              MR. DE HUECK: Okay.
18
              MS. AGRIMONTI: And then 15 I have as Response
19
    to Staff's First Set of Data Requests.
20
              MR. DE HUECK: All right. And objection on
21
    those DR responses?
22
              MS. AGRIMONTI: No objection to 14 or 15.
23
              MR. DE HUECK:
                            Okay.
24
              Mr. Almond.
25
              MR. ALMOND: I'm sorry. I didn't follow.
                                                          How
```

did we get to 14 and 15 for Ms. Jenkins? 1 2 MS. AGRIMONTI: I'm sorry. Could you repeat? 3 MR. ALMOND: How did we jump to 14 and 15 for Ms. Jenkins? 4 MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. Almond, that's what I have 5 6 on my list here, and I was looking for ones that I would 7 be able to stipulate to. 8 KJ-7 appears to be an attachment to a response. And I wanted to reserve those attachments. 10 MR. ALMOND: Is there an A through 13, I guess 11 is my question? I'm messed up on the numbering is all. 12 MR. DE HUECK: I'm right there with you, 1.3 Mr. Almond. I'm not sure. What I do know is what we've 14 now stipulated to. 15 Anything else that Ms. Jenkins tries to introduce won't be offered and admitted at this time. 16 17 I'm not sure what those are either. 18 MR. ALMOND: Okay. No objection. 19 MR. DE HUECK: Okay. 20 MS. AGRIMONTI: Part of the confusion may be 21 that they're not numbered on the submission and so we 22 added numbers for our own tracking and they're not 23 syncing up. And so I apologize. 2.4 MR. DE HUECK: Okay. So with that, I think we 25 all have an understanding of what is being stipulated to

```
would be Ms. Jenkins's 4, 5, 6, 14 and 15.
1
2
              Mr. Fuerniss, in agreement?
 3
              MR. FUERNISS:
                            In agreement.
                            Okay. Ms. Pazour?
 4
              MR. DE HUECK:
              MS. PAZOUR: I agree.
 5
 6
              MR. DE HUECK: Thank you.
 7
              And, Staff, you're in agreement with that?
8
              MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
9
              MR. DE HUECK: Okay. Ms. Jenkins, would you
10
     like to formally offer those exhibits at this time?
11
              MS. JENKINS: Yes.
                                  Thank you.
12
              MR. DE HUECK: Yep. They'll be admitted.
                                                          Thank
13
     you.
14
              Okay. So we've apparently resolved the
15
     confidentiality issue that I thought might come up before
16
     the hearing actually begins.
17
              Were there any other outstanding matters we
18
    needed to resolve or think about before we get going?
19
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Sir, I have one oral motion I
20
     would like to make this morning.
21
              MR. DE HUECK:
                             Okay.
22
              MS. AGRIMONTI:
                              In response to testimony from
23
     the Applicant, Professor Alves-Pereira submitted
24
     unsponsored rebuttal exhibits, and we believe that
25
     without foundational testimony that those are not
```

properly before the Commission. We would move to exclude 1 2 those. And that would be labeled I-25. There are 3 4 subparts A through F. 5 MR. DE HUECK: I'm going to have you say your 6 motion one more time. Try to get your real objection 7 nice and clear for us. That was a pretty heavy motion to 8 kick things off. MS. AGRIMONTI: I will do my best. I'll lay a 10 foundation as this is an administrative proceeding where 11 we prefile testimony. We prefile direct. We prefile 12 rebuttal. It allows us to use our hearing time in the 13 most efficient manner as possible. 14 The professor submitted rebuttal but didn't 15 actually put in any testimony, just submitted exhibits, 16 and we believe that unsponsored exhibits is improper 17 rebuttal and we would move to strike them. 18 MR. DE HUECK: So that's why when I click on --19 that's why it just says rebuttal exhibits for her. 20 There's no actual written testimony attached. 2.1 MS. AGRIMONTI: Correct. 22 MR. DE HUECK: Just exhibits. 23 Mr. Almond, have you had time to digest that? 24 Want to discuss on your end? MR. ALMOND: Yeah. 25 I-25 has not been stipulated

to. I anticipate covering those exhibits with Mariana 1 2 during her oral testimony. 3 As you know, Intervenors do not have the 4 opportunity to submit Rebuttal Testimony. Only the 5 Applicant is qualified to submit the written Rebuttal 6 Testimony. 7 After doing so, Mariana reviewed that and 8 anticipates providing oral Rebuttal Testimony. And to cover those -- I think there was five attachments to I-25 10 during her oral testimony and lay the foundation for why 11 those are important and why the Commission should 12 consider those. 1.3 So ultimately I would argue that the Applicant's 14 Motion to Exclude is premature. 15 MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss, do you have 16 anything to weigh in on this particular issue? 17 MR. FUERNISS: I don't think I can add anything 18 to that, no. MR. DE HUECK: And Ms. Jenkins. 19 20 MS. JENKINS: I would agree with what Reece 2.1 said. 22 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour. MS. PAZOUR: I don't have anything to add. 23 2.4 MR. DE HUECK: Okay. Staff. 25 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.

1 I would oppose the motion simply because at the 2 beginning of everyone's testimony we always ask if they 3 have any additions or corrections to make, and at that 4 point generally there's an opportunity to respond to 5 anything that you heard during the hearing, although I do sympathize with the fact that we endeavor to have 6 7 everything that we possibly can prefiled to make stuff 8 like this go smoother. But I would think it would be more prudent to 10 wait and see how they are offered and responded -- in 11 response to testimony at the time that they are offered. 12 MR. DE HUECK: And I agree. I'm going to 13 reserve any type of decision until we've got the witness 14 up and these exhibits start to come in. If we feel 15 improper at that time, we can deal with it, but I'm in 16 agreement with Mr. Almond and Staff on this. 17 MS. AGRIMONTI: Thank you. 18 MR. DE HUECK: So is that all the preliminary 19 matters? 20 Mr. Almond, did you have anything outstanding? 2.1 MR. ALMOND: Nothing at this time. 22 Mr. Fuerniss. MR. DE HUECK: 23 MR. FUERNISS: No. 2.4 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins. 25 MS. JENKINS: No.

1 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour. MS. PAZOUR: No. 2 3 MR. DE HUECK: And Staff. MS. EDWARDS: 4 No. 5 MR. DE HUECK: Okay. Great. 6 That will take us to the case in chief from 7 Prevailing Wind. After their case in chief, we'll go to 8 the Intervenors' case in chief, and Prevailing Wind will be given the opportunity for a final rebuttal. 10 Witnesses that have filed both Direct and 11 Rebuttal Testimony will offer all of their testimony when 12 they're initially called. Cross-examination will include 1.3 all the witnesses' testimony. Please begin with a brief 14 summary of the testimony, and then we will move into 15 cross-examination. If a situation arises where we have some sort of 16 17 excess Rebuttal Testimony on the record for one reason or 18 another, the parties should address that when 19 appropriate, and we'll work on striking that excess 20 rebuttal from the record. 21 At this point we have Prevailing Wind's case in 22 chief, and we are not doing opening statements today as 23 decided during the prehearing conference last Friday. 24 So, Prevailing Wind, you may call your first 25 witness.

1 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Good morning. This is I would call Aaron Anderson. 2 Mollie Smith. 3 Oh, Ms. Smith, just for the MR. DE HUECK: Commissioners' benefit, did you want to provide any 4 5 information on FedEx and your exhibits? 6 MS. SMITH: I most certainly will. So our 7 FedEx -- we sent exhibits on Friday. They were supposed 8 to arrive yesterday but due to some inability to land in Sioux Falls for a portion of the day, those exhibits are 10 delayed. 11 We understand they are in the hallway and we are 12 just inserting the pieces that we had to print separately 1.3 and we will bring those in. 14 Mr. Anderson's testimony, however, and his 15 exhibits are up here so he does have a copy of those, as 16 well as the Application, so we can move forward with him 17 and hopefully maybe after that pull in our exhibits. 18 MR. DE HUECK: Great. MS. SMITH: 19 Thank you. 20 Aaron Anderson, 21 called as a witness, being first duly sworn in the above 22 cause, testified under oath as follows: 23 MS. SMITH: Sorry. I'm moving because I didn't think Cheri would be able to see you, Mr. Anderson, while 24 25 I am asking you questions.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. SMITH:

1

- 3 | Q. Mr. Anderson, can you introduce yourself to the
- 4 Commission?
- 5 A. My name is Aaron Anderson. I'm with Burns &
- 6 McDonnell engineering company.
- 7 Q. And can you give an overview of your education and
- 8 your work history?
- 9 A. Sure. I have undergraduate degrees in physics and
- 10 | mechanical engineering, and I have a master's degree in
- 11 engineering management.
- 12 I've been with Burns & McDonnell for 11 years. I
- 13 run the wind energy department for Burns & McDonnell.
- 14 During that time I have worked on projects throughout the
- 15 United States in various capacities, including managing,
- 16 performing and overseeing a number of shadow flicker
- 17 | studies just like this one throughout the country.
- 18 Q. And did you file Prefiled Direct Testimony in this
- 19 | matter with the Application on May 30, 2018?
- 20 A. Yes.
- $21 \mid Q$. And is that prefiled testimony marked as Exhibits A2
- 22 and A2-1?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And did you file Rebuttal Testimony in this matter
- 25 on September 26, 2018?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And is that prefiled testimony marked as Exhibits A3
- 3 and A3-1?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 | Q. And did your Rebuttal Testimony include some updated
- 6 | shadow flicker results for the project?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And did you complete a report after that initial
- 9 Rebuttal Testimony was completed?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And is that updated report Exhibit A3-2?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And does that report that you have as Exhibit A3-2
- 14 | contain the same results as were provided in preliminary
- 15 | form with your Rebuttal Testimony?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Can you explain what changes were made that
- 18 | necessitated an update to the Shadow Flicker Analysis?
- 19 A. There were a few. We updated the hub height of the
- 20 | wind turbine. There was a modest increase in that. We
- 21 | moved a couple of wind turbines by a small amount. And
- 22 | we added some residences that were not in the original
- 23 report.
- Q. And did you also remove a receptor?
- 25 A. We did.

- 1 | Q. And was that A19 -- or Turbine 19?
- 2 A. Turbine 19, yes.
- 3 | Q. And can you just give a brief summary of all of the
- 4 | prefiled testimony that you've provided today, just a
- 5 brief summary of what you discuss?
- 6 A. It discusses a Shadow Flicker Analysis for the
- 7 | project and the shadow flicker caused by the project's
- 8 | wind turbines on occupied residences within the project
- 9 area.
- 10 Q. And do you have an understanding that there's been a
- 11 | commitment by Prevailing Wind Park with respect to shadow
- 12 | flicker in this -- for this particular project?
- 13 A. I do.
- 14 Q. And is that particular commitment outlined in the
- 15 Exhibit A32, I believe it is, in front of you,
- 16 paragraph 28?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And can you just read that for everyone since -- I
- 19 | handed out copies, but not everyone might have a copy.
- 20 A. Sure. Item 29 from that proposed conditions list
- 21 says --
- 22 Q. I'm going to stop you. It's 28 so it would be on a
- 23 | separate -- it will be on the other exhibit.
- 24 A. Got it.
- 25 It says that, "Applicant shall install turbine

- 1 | control equipment on the project's turbines that allows
- 2 for individual turbines to be shut down as necessary to
- 3 ensure that shadow flicker does not exceed 30 hours per
- 4 | year and/or 30 minutes per day at nonparticipating
- 5 | residences. Applicant shall also take steps to mitigate
- 6 | shadow flicker concerns at any residence that could
- 7 | experience shadow flicker levels above 30 hours per year
- 8 or 30 minutes per day."
- 9 Q. So is it your understanding that this commitment
- 10 regarding not exceeding 30 hours per year or 30 minutes
- 11 per day at nonparticipating residences is project wide
- 12 now?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Other than the updates that we've talked about
- 15 | today, if I asked you the questions that are in your
- 16 | prefiled testimony, would your answers be the same?
- 17 A. They would.
- 18 MS. SMITH: I have no further questions and
- 19 offer Mr. Anderson for cross-examination.
- MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Almond, you may cross-examine
- 21 the witness.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

- BY MR. ALMOND:
- 24 Q. Good morning, Mr. Anderson.
- 25 A. Good morning.

- 1 | Q. What are the problems with shadow flicker?
- 2 A. I'm not sure I understand your question.
- 3 Q. Why are we regulating it?
- 4 A. Well, the purpose of my analysis was not to identify
- 5 | problems with shadow flicker or to regulate flicker. It
- 6 was simply to identify how much shadow flicker occurred.
- 7 Q. So you're not aware of any problems caused by shadow
- 8 flicker?
- 9 A. The purpose of my analysis was simply to identify
- 10 duration.
- 11 Q. And I understand the purpose of your analysis, but
- 12 | as someone familiar with shadow flicker, I'm asking are
- 13 | you aware of any problems caused by shadow flicker?
- 14 A. I am aware of positions that people have taken that
- 15 | shadow flicker is or is not a good thing, I suppose.
- 16 Q. What kind of positions do people take?
- 17 A. I have heard certain health-related effects, I
- 18 | suppose, but I'm by no means an expert in that.
- 19 Q. What other type of complaints?
- 20 A. I'm not sure I know of others. That's the one that
- 21 | immediately comes to mind.
- 22 Q. So the only complaints you've heard of with respect
- 23 to shadow flicker are health-related complaints?
- 24 A. As I --
- MS. SMITH: Objection. Misstates testimony.

- 1 MR. DE HUECK: I'm going to ask -- this seems to
- 2 | be outside Mr. Anderson's Direct Testimony, so I would
- 3 sustain the objection.
- 4 Q. Are you offering any opinions to this Commission
- 5 | about whether or not shadow flicker causes any sort of
- 6 problems to anyone?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Okay. I want to talk a little bit about the shadow
- 9 flicker study that you performed. I think the most
- 10 recent analysis is Exhibit A3-2; correct?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. And you just testified that a few of the turbines
- 13 were moved; right?
- 14 A. I believe a couple moved a small amount, and there
- 15 | was one turbine, Turbine 19, that was removed.
- 16 | O. Which turbines were moved a small amount?
- 17 A. I would have to get back to you on that one. I
- 18 | don't know off the top of my head.
- 19 Q. Well, is there anything in the record or exhibits
- 20 | that could refresh your recollection?
- 21 MS. SMITH: Your report is right there in front
- 22 of you.
- 23 THE WITNESS: It is. But it doesn't discuss
- 24 which turbines were moved.
- MS. SMITH: Okay.

- 1 Q. How many turbines were moved?
- 2 A. I believe there were two moved and one removed.
- 3 Q. Right. T 19 was removed?
- 4 A. Removed.
- 5 Q. Okay. So the two that were moved --
- 6 A. I don't know the turbine numbers of those that were
- 7 moved.
- 8 | Q. Do you know what part of the project they were
- 9 located in?
- 10 A. I don't.
- 11 Q. So from a -- from your perspective, how do you get
- 12 | the project layout?
- 13 A. We receive turbine coordinates from the project
- 14 | team, from the developer.
- 15 Q. All right. And in your analysis have you suggested
- 16 | moving any turbines?
- 17 A. We have not.
- 18 Q. And in A3-2 -- which you have in front of you;
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. I do.
- 21 Q. You talk about the receptors. The receptors are
- 22 residences; correct?
- 23 A. There are 149 listed. Of those, two are cemeteries,
- 24 and the rest are occupied residences.
- 25 Q. Did your firm select the receptor locations, or were

- 1 those also provided?
- 2 A. We were provided with an initial list when we did
- 3 | the initial evaluation. And we attempted to identify any
- 4 missing receptors based on a desktop analysis. So
- 5 | through aerial imagery and things like that.
- And then there were more that were added through
- 7 | field verification where we went out, drove the site, and
- 8 verified that any houses that we found on the maps were,
- 9 in fact, occupied and included that were within the
- 10 project area.
- 11 Q. And what was the rationale for measuring shadow
- 12 | flicker at the residences as opposed to the property
- 13 lines?
- 14 A. The analysis was done at the receptor location just
- 15 because it's consistent with industry standards. That's
- 16 | how we do it in the majority of locations that we're
- 17 asked to perform these studies is at the residence
- 18 itself.
- 19 | Q. And what other states is that considered the
- 20 industry standard?
- 21 A. Well, the industry would, of course, cover all of
- 22 | the states. And in the analyses I've done that includes
- 23 | 10 states, I believe, something along those lines.
- 24 That's how we've done it, I believe, in every one.
- 25 Q. Every time you've performed an analysis, you've

- 1 | performed analysis regarding the receptors are residences
- 2 | and then perhaps some other sensitive areas like
- 3 | cemeteries?
- 4 A. Actually cemeteries are a bit atypical to be
- 5 | analyzed. They were included here, but, yes, when we
- 6 | look at occupied residences we do it at the residences
- 7 | themselves because that's where people are going to spend
- 8 | the majority of their time.
- 9 Q. So you want to gauge the amount of shadow flicker
- 10 | that someone's going to be exposed to at the residence
- 11 because that's where they spend the majority of their
- 12 time?
- 13 A. We want to measure the amount of flicker that
- 14 | accumulates over the course of the year at a residence.
- 15 Q. And because that's where people spend a lot of time
- 16 | is at the residence?
- 17 A. That's because that's how it's typically done
- 18 | throughout the industry. That's the typical standard
- 19 | from where it's measured at.
- 20 Q. If someone were to spend a lot of time outside,
- 21 | would it be appropriate to measure the shadow flicker for
- 22 the property where they're spending time outside?
- 23 A. No, not necessarily. Again, we try to do the study
- 24 itself consistent with what the industry requires and how
- 25 | these are done throughout the industry, and this is how

- 1 | they're done.
- 2 Q. Looking at Exhibit A3-2, you've modeled out or
- 3 | predicted the amount of shadow flicker at each receptor;
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. We have.
- 6 | Q. And can you tell the Commission where that's located
- 7 at in Exhibit 3-2?
- 8 A. Where what specifically is located? I beg your
- 9 pardon?
- 10 Q. The predicted levels of shadow flicker at each
- 11 receptor.
- 12 A. Oh, I see. Sure.
- 13 The results are listed by receptors in Appendix F
- 14 Foxtrot, Table F, Foxtrot, -1. List the duration in both
- 15 hours per year and minutes per day for each of the 149
- 16 receptors.
- 17 Q. And that starts on page 35 of Exhibit A3-2?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. So, for example, Receptor 1 looks like that's a
- 20 | nonparticipating residence, and your model is that it's
- 21 | going to get zero hours of shadow flicker; correct?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. And then you go through all 149 receptors and
- 24 | provide your predicted levels; correct?
- 25 A. That's correct.

- 1 Q. How accurate is this study?
- 2 A. The study is as accurate as the model can be. It's,
- 3 | again, consistent with how we've done all of our studies
- 4 | throughout the country when we do these.
- 5 Q. So is there a margin of error?
- 6 A. No. Not a quantifiable one.
- 7 Q. Okay. Have you or your firm gone out and actually
- 8 | tested your models to see how accurate they are?
- 9 A. We have not.
- 10 Q. Okay. Are you confident in these values in table --
- 11 or Appendix F?
- 12 A. I am confident in the analysis, yes.
- 13 Q. And the analysis includes those values in
- 14 Appendix F?
- 15 A. Yes. We believe the results are correct.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- MR. ALMOND: No further questions.
- MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss, do you have any
- 19 | questions of this witness?
- 20 <u>CROSS-EXAMINATION</u>
- 21 <u>BY MR. F</u>UERNISS:
- 22 Q. When you speak about industry standard, that makes
- 23 | it sound to me as if that's kind of a self-regulating
- 24 thing, that the industry itself, excuse me, determined
- 25 this possibly independently of those that might be

- 1 | affected by it?
- 2 A. What I intend when I say "industry standards" are
- 3 just a set of boundaries that are consistent are across
- 4 the country. So most -- there are no federal standards,
- 5 | for instance, for shadow flicker, and most states don't
- 6 | have requirements for shadow flicker. And, in fact, most
- 7 | locations where projects are built don't have
- 8 | requirements around shadow flicker for what sort of
- 9 duration must be in place. There certainly are some, but
- 10 | they are the minority.
- 11 So what I mean when I talk about typical industry
- 12 | standards are when these analyses are performed either
- 13 | with or without those standards that may be in place, we
- 14 as an industry try to do those studies consistently in
- 15 every location that we go to.
- That's what I'm referring to. We've done that
- 17 | consistently with how we would do it in other
- 18 locations.
- 19 Q. Okay. And then, as I'm understanding it here,
- 20 possible affects of shadow flicker on residences,
- 21 | negative, positive, whatever, is beyond the scope of what
- 22 you do?
- 23 A. Correct. I didn't opine in the study or here today
- 24 on any effects from shadow flicker.
- MR. FUERNISS: Okay. Thank you.

1 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 2 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins. 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION 4 BY MS. JENKINS: I just would ask if you work in this field, it would 5 6 seem like you would understand the -- why we measure 7 shadow flicker, why it's important. 8 Is the question if I understand why we measure shadow flicker? 10 I think the question is it seems like you said that 11 you are not aware of health effects. And I just am 12 wondering if you are our expert witness and we're relying 1.3 on your testimony --14 A. So I'm here to act as an expert on this Shadow 15 Flicker Analysis and how much shadow flicker will occur. 16 I am not presenting myself as an expert on any 17 health-related effects that may or may not occur from 18 shadow flicker. 19 MS. JENKINS: Thank you. 20 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 21 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour. 22 CROSS-EXAMINATION 23 BY MS. PAZOUR: 24 My question is you said either like six hours -- is 25 that right -- a year or 30 minutes a day?

- 1 A. The permit conditions that we've agreed to were
- 2 | anything above 30 hours per year and/or 30 minutes per
- 3 day that we would mitigate.
- 4 Q. What do you mean by "mitigate"?
- 5 A. There are things that can be done such as turbine
- 6 control modifications. We can adjust when the turbine
- 7 operates.
- 8 Shadow flicker can only occur when a turbine is in
- 9 operation. If it's -- and when it's turning, that's when
- 10 the flicker effect can happen.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. And we can modify when the turbine happens during
- 13 certain times of day or periods of year to ensure that
- 14 | anything above 30 is mitigated, that it doesn't happen.
- 15 Q. But can it happen, though, over 30 minutes?
- 16 A. We are currently modeling that some receptors will
- 17 experience above 30, and the commitment that we're making
- 18 | is that we will mitigate for those.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 MS. PAZOUR: That answers my question.
- 21 MR. DE HUECK: Any further questions?
- MS. PAZOUR: Not at this time.
- MR. DE HUECK: Staff, cross-examination.
- MS. REISS: Thank you.

25

CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. REISS:

1

- 3 Q. Good morning, Mr. Anderson. How are you?
- 4 A. Good. Thank you.
- 5 | Q. So in response to Mr. Pazour's questions you
- 6 | indicated that there's technology that would shut down a
- 7 | turbine if it got over 30 minutes per day or 30 hours per
- 8 | year; is that correct?
- 9 A. It's part of the machine itself, and it's simply a
- 10 | modification of the control software for the turbine.
- 11 And we can modify that so that if flicker above a certain
- 12 | threshold occurs, whether that's hours per year, minutes
- 13 per day, et cetera, we can adjust the turbine control
- 14 | settings and, simply put, tell it not to operate or to
- 15 operate in a different way.
- 16 Q. Would that be an automatic shutdown, or would
- 17 personnel need to shut that down?
- 18 A. I'm not sure that that's been defined at this point.
- 19 Q. Okay. Can you explain how a specific turbine would
- 20 know that its shadow flicker would be problematic and
- 21 over the proposed 30 hours or 30 minutes?
- 22 A. Sure. So the turbine itself is dumb. It wouldn't
- 23 | necessarily know that it's causing flicker on any
- 24 particular thing. However, we know through the study,
- 25 | the geometry of where the sun rises, where it falls,

- 1 | where everything is at, terrain, et cetera, so we can
- 2 | identify with a high level of accuracy when during the
- 3 | day and throughout the year flicker will occur, and we
- 4 can program the turbine accordingly.
- 5 Q. So it sounds like it would be a modeled calculation,
- 6 | not an actual calculation at a receptor; is that correct?
- 7 A. I'm not sure. Probably.
- But, again, I'm not sure that that detail's been
- 9 defined. I'm aware of what the commitment is. How
- 10 | exactly it will be enacted, I'm not sure yet.
- 11 Q. Okay. Are you aware of whether this technology has
- 12 | been used on other projects owned or operated by sPower?
- 13 A. By sPower I'm not aware.
- 14 Q. What about other companies?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And has the technology functioned as expected?
- 17 A. Yes. It's a common mitigation strategy.
- 18 Q. Okay. Do you categorize -- as you're calculating
- 19 | shadow flicker, do you categorize the sensitivity of the
- 20 | receptor based on where it's located?
- 21 A. Can you rephrase? I'm not sure I know what you mean
- 22 by the --
- 23 Q. Are all receptors treated the same way, or is there
- 24 categorization of the sensitivity, whereas potentially is
- 25 | the receptor a school or a bedroom window or a garage?

- 1 A. They're not categorized differently in that way.
- 2 They're all treated the same.
- 3 Q. Okay. Just looking through the updated shadow
- 4 | flicker report, it looks like there are a number of
- 5 receptors that would exceed the limit.
- Are you aware of how many would exceed the 30 hours
- 7 per year?
- 8 A. In that report if you turn to Section 3 -- I'll
- 9 | find a page number for you. It's page 14 of 67 in
- 10 Exhibit A3-2. There's a Table 3-1. And that shows the
- 11 | breakdown of how many receptors will experience flicker
- greater than or equal to 30 hours per year and how many
- will experience greater or equal to 30 minutes per day.
- 14 So there are three total, two nonparticipating, one
- 15 | participating, greater than 30 hours per year, and 27
- 16 | that are above 30 minutes per day.
- 17 Q. Okay. Are you aware of the participating landowners
- 18 | above the proposed limit, how many have agreed to this
- 19 level?
- 20 A. I haven't been a part of those discussions.
- 21 Q. And as far as a nonparticipating residence, have you
- 22 been a part of those conversations --
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. -- either?
- 25 Are you aware of another witness who may be able to

speak to those questions? 2 I'm not sure. Perhaps Mr. Pawlowski will be able to 3 speak to that. 4 And then Mr. Almond asked you a question -- or a 5 couple of questions about health impacts and the need for 6 avoiding health impacts due to shadow flicker. 7 Do you recall? 8 MS. SMITH: Objection. This is outside the scope of testimony. 10 MR. DE HUECK: What's your next question, 11 counsel? Because, yeah, we ruled on that. 12 MS. REISS: Correct. 13 There is a data request, Staff's Data Request 14 6.1, that refers to that issue, and I'd like to ask him 15 about the answer to that. MR. DE HUECK: Did he answer it? 16 17 MS. REISS: Mr. Pawlowski provided a response 18 indicating that Mr. Anderson would be able to speak to that. 19 20 MS. SMITH: Could you reference a little bit 21 more detail what you're talking about, Ms. Reiss, as far 22 as the answer? I'm just not sure what you're 23 referencing. 2.4 MS. REISS: If you pull up Staff's Exhibit 5,

25

Data Request 6-1 --

1 MR. DE HUECK: Can you read the question, 2 please. 3 The question says, "Refer to MS. REISS: Yep. the Application, page 15-14. Please provide all studies 4 5 and supporting documentation that show a shadow flicker 6 requirement of less than 30 minutes per day or 30 hours 7 per year will avoid a significant adverse impact on 8 neighboring land uses and a significant adverse impact on health." 10 MS. SMITH: I can represent that he was not 11 speaking to health. So if that is the question, it's 12 outside the scope of his testimony. 1.3 MR. DE HUECK: Yeah. I'm going to stick with 14 it's outside the scope of his Direct Testimony. 15 MS. REISS: Okay. Staff has nothing further. 16 MR. DE HUECK: That will bring us to 17 Commissioner questions where we have the opportunity to 18 let the Commissioners cross-examine the witness, as well 19 as Commission advisors. 20 And I'll start with Chair Fiegen. She'll have 21 the first round of cross-examination. Just to give her a 22 little bit of time to think, Mr. Anderson, I have 23 an elementary question I'd like to ask you. 2.4 So these receptors, they're outside the home 25 somewhere. Can you kind of give me a synopsis of how you place a receptor?

2.4

THE WITNESS: We place a receptor as -- to simplify it, think of it as a dot on a map, and we place that at the home itself. And then that dot is what we use to measure how much flicker accumulates at that specific location.

MR. DE HUECK: So that would be flicker outside the front door.

THE WITNESS: No. Because we model the home -we use what we call a conservatively realistic approach.
So we model the home as a glass house. So we choose a
point -- think of it as the center of the home and
everything that would accumulate there.

In reality, there are walls, there's a roof, everything else that could prevent flicker from coming in, but we model it as a glass house to be conservative so anything from any direction would accumulate at that point.

MR. DE HUECK: So if you modeled the whole chunk of property as a glass property, would it matter if you moved that receptor all the way down to the property line? The closer you get to a turbine, would you increase shadow flicker?

THE WITNESS: Generally speaking, yes, it would increase. It depends heavily on geometry.

1 So, for example, when the sun comes up in the 2 morning at this latitude it would be a little bit more 3 towards the southeast and due east so shadows would tend 4 to be cast to the northwest. 5 So a home due north of a turbine, flicker 6 impacts can be very minimal. So, yes, generally moving 7 closer would increase the effect, but it really all 8 depends on the location. MR. DE HUECK: Okay. Yeah. Of the complex 10 geometry at play. 11 THE WITNESS: Yes. 12 MR. DE HUECK: I have no further questions. 1.3 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Thank you. 14 Just to clarify, I thought it was -- you talked 15 about the center of the house, but I thought it was 16 within 25 feet of the house that the receptor or maybe the shadow flicker -- did I read that wrong in these 17 18 piles and piles and piles of paperwork? 19 THE WITNESS: We haven't modeled anything as a 20 25-foot buffer as it relates to shadow flicker. 2.1 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So it's the center of the 22 house? 23 THE WITNESS: Yes. Generally it's the center of 2.4 the house. 25 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. You talked about --

somebody had a question about outside. And in

South Dakota we like to be outside when it's nice out.

THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: And then you talked about -your response was industry requires. I didn't quite
understand that because I didn't --

Tell me about the industry requires you to do it in the resident?

THE WITNESS: Sure. If I said it was an industry requirement, I misspoke. What I was intending to say is that it's a typical industry guideline. So there are no specific requirements, per se, in the industry or in applicable law that would dictate where exactly a receptor is placed or how exactly it's modeled.

However, as an industry, the wind industry, we have determined certain best practices, let's say, for how shadow flicker will be analyzed and measured. And those best practices include placing the receptor where we measure flicker at the home. So that's what I was intending to convey.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: All right. Thank you.

We're going to go back to the question about being outside. So if it's an industry standard to do it at the residence and you stated that the majority of the time of the residence are spent at the -- no. Yeah. The

majority of the time of the citizen or the resident is spent at their residence, yeah, I guess you could say that when you're sleeping. That's probably true. But in South Dakota people are outside a lot.

And so the daylight hours so many people are at work, and then when they get home they're outside. So why aren't we -- why doesn't your model consider the acreage of when people are outside in their garden or working in their shop or doing other things, working with their horses or --

THE WITNESS: So when we build the model we have a number of inputs that go into it and all of those inputs are crunched and results are spit out. And those results come in one of two forms.

They come as what we call contours. So if you look at the maps in the back of the report, you'll see what's called a -- it's like a butterfly shape. And, again, that goes back to the geometry we were talking about a moment ago. The sun comes up in one direction, down in the other. And flicker tends to be cast further in those northeast, northwest, southwest, southeast directions.

So we have that information. But, again, I would go back to just generally how these are performed and where they're measured. And we need to measure it at

a specific location in order to present results in a concise and logical format, and that goes back to doing it at the home itself. So that's what you'll see in the tabular results of the study.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: I was surprised at your response of your model and asked how accurate it was and if you've ever tested its accuracy after construction.

THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Did I understand you right that you said, no, you have not tested the model for its accuracy after construction?

So if that is the case, why can the Commission believe that these shadow flicker studies are accurate?

THE WITNESS: Sure.

So, to clarify, we do believe that the results are accurate. We believe that it was modeled appropriately.

When he asked about the margin of error, for instance, there's simply just no answer for that. There is no objective, quantifiable number that I could give you with a straight face and say this is accurate to 75 percent, 100 percent, 0 percent, pick your favorite number.

The nice thing about shadow flicker is that it is -- while it's a complex model, it's a very understood

phenomenon that's happening.

1.3

So we know specifically where the sun's going to be. We know specifically what terrain looks like, what turbines look like, et cetera, so we can model with a really high level of confidence and accuracy as a result of where shadows will be cast, how the turbines will operate, and how much will accumulate.

So that's where the confidence comes from with what the results are showing us.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So your model of shadow flicker, does it take into consideration trees, buildings? Is that my understanding, it takes into consideration all of that?

THE WITNESS: Sort of.

We consider terrain. So if a turbine is down in a valley and a house is up on a hill, it's possible that a shadow wouldn't get up there. That's a simple one.

When we do our initial analysis, again, I had mentioned that we do this conservatively realistic approach. So we'll do things like we will model the home as a glass house, for example.

When we model how the turbine operates, we look at wind data for the year and try to estimate when those shadows are going to be cast.

As it relates to obstacles, our initial analysis

```
1
     includes none. So we don't consider any barns, any hedge
2
     rows, any trees, any neighboring houses, et cetera,
 3
     nothing that would block shadow flicker. That's how the
     initial analysis is done.
 4
5
              Then we identified, after that analysis,
 6
     residences that experienced more than the
7
     30-hour-per-year threshold, and we did add obstacles in
8
     the model at those locations. Those are the ones that
     are marked with an asterisk in the results table.
10
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: I forgot. I looked at those
11
     two tables of the no trees, no buildings. How many
     receptors had issues of 30 minutes or 30 hours on the no
12
     obstacle table?
1.3
14
              I can't remember that. I looked at that, and
15
    now I can't remember.
              THE WITNESS: Off the top of my head, I don't
16
17
     know. If you'd like, I could --
18
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So is it more? Is it more
19
     than your 3 and 27?
20
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
21
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN:
                                  Okay. So then if people
22
     take down trees or buildings, there could be an issue
     with shadow flicker with those residences.
23
2.4
              THE WITNESS: If we modeled that as an obstacle,
25
     it's possible, yes.
```

1 What we found, if you read the results, however, the obstacle analysis had a fairly de minimis impact. 2 3 was not a significant reduction. So I would offer that 4 in the scenario where someone did remove, say, a grain 5 bin or a hedge row or something like that, sure it's 6 possible that that flicker could increase, but it would 7 be a fairly small impact that results. 8 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Two remaining questions. 9 One of them was your mitigation. 10 Is the only mitigation to shut off the turbine? 11 THE WITNESS: No. 12 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. So is one of your 13 mitigations to put screens on the windows, and that's a 14 mitigation that one of your residents would have to just 15 deal with? 16 THE WITNESS: That's not what we're proposing. 17 It is a mitigation option, but that's not what we've 18 proposed. 19 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. And you're proposing? 20 THE WITNESS: Turbine controls. So modifying 21 the operation of the machine. 22 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: All right. So your 23 mitigation is pretty much all controls. All right. 2.4 And then the other final question is you work in 25 multi states, and I think -- I can't -- it just said

1 multi states, I think. 2 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh. 3 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Then you did make a 4 statement that there are some states or counties or 5 somewhere that do have shadow flicker regulations. 6 you just tell us about that? 7 I think that's what you stated. 8 THE WITNESS: I did. I would be misleading you if I told you what all of those were specifically. I can 10 tell you more anecdotally that 30 hours per year, for 11 example, is when we do see a requirement, the prevailing standard that's used. 12 1.3 So this is very much consistent with when 14 we've used regulations, what those regulations would call 15 for. CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Which states are those? 16 17 THE WITNESS: I would have to get back to you on 18 We can prepare a list. There are lists out there. that. 19 They're generally more regulated at the county level than 20 the state level, however. 2.1 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you. 22 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 23 MR. DE HUECK: Vice Chairman Hanson, do you have 24 any cross-examination? 25 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you.

Good morning.

THE WITNESS: Good morning.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: I just have a curious question on how the Prevailing Wind Park -- Prevailing Winds will monitor the durations of shadow flicker. I'm not quite clear. Would you review that for me, please.

How will they be certain that there's 5 minutes this day and 40 minutes another day?

THE WITNESS: So there's currently no plan to do postconstruction monitoring, which is again consistent with what we see throughout the industry.

If you look at the back of Exhibit A3-2, which is the report we've prepared, you'll see what we call calendars, and that shows for every receptor over the course of the year, which is along the bottom, then over the course of the day, which each individual hour is shown on the Y axis, it will show when that flicker, whether it's 1 hour, 2 hours, 10, whatever, how it accumulates through the year.

So we'll know quite specifically at each receptor when it's expected to happen and can mitigate accordingly based on that.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: So it's a little bit more than a guesstimate based on you'll know where the sun is certainly. However, you won't know for sure what type of

1 clouds there are, things of that nature? 2 THE WITNESS: To an extent, I would agree with 3 that. It is more than a quesstimate. It's fair to say that on a cloudy day we would not need to mitigate shadow 4 5 flicker, for example. 6 COMMISSIONER HANSON: When you show, for instance, 33.9 hours of flicker per year on Receptor 7 8 076 --THE WITNESS: Uh-huh. 10 COMMISSIONER HANSON: -- what's the spread on 11 that? Obviously, your analysis shows a high and a low. 12 THE WITNESS: Sure. So I would point you to -if you've got that report, Exhibit A3-2, page 54 of 67. 13 14 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you. 15 THE WITNESS: I'll give you a minute to get 16 there. COMMISSIONER HANSON: No. Go ahead. 17 18 THE WITNESS: So in the middle of that page on 19 the right side you'll see a box labeled Receptor 076, and 20 it's got an orange blob and a pink blob. And those 21 correlate to turbine numbers, and you can see them 22 cryptically defined at the bottom. 23 So, for example, the orange blob is Turbine 24 28.23, and the pink blob is Turbine 28.24. To address 25 your question, what this shows is that from those

```
turbines, shadow flicker would occur at this residence
1
2
     from the orange turbine, 28.23, in the month of January
 3
     and very early February as well as November through
 4
     December of roughly between the hours -- the printout
5
     isn't great. It looks like 8:30 to 9:30, somewhere in
 6
     that vicinity. And the same for the other turbine would
7
     be late afternoon, which is typical of what we see from
8
     shadow flicker.
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: My question was on 76.
10
              THE WITNESS:
                            That is Receptor 76.
11
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: It is. Okay.
12
              THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
1.3
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: And what's the high and
14
     low on it?
15
              THE WITNESS: I don't understand. The high and
     low for what?
16
17
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: For the number of hours in
18
     a year.
19
              THE WITNESS:
                            Oh.
                                 33.9.
20
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: That's the high.
21
              THE WITNESS: That's the modeled total.
                                                        So
22
    there is no high or low, per se.
23
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Well, you have to be
24
     working with some type of analysis there where you're --
25
     I understand what you're telling me, but what I want to
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know from you from your expertise is what would be the maximum number of hours one could expect.

THE WITNESS: I understand.

1.3

My opinion is, based on how the analysis performed, that that is a very conservative, i.e., worst-case number that we would expect to occur. And I would make that point based on how the model has performed.

Let's go back to the glass house example that we've talked about. Obviously, nobody's home is built of glass. So walls, curtains, et cetera, would help to mitigate what these results were showing.

Any obstacles that we haven't considered would help to mitigate what this is showing. I would consider 33.9 to be a worst-case end of the spectrum and that actual values will likely be lower.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right. I appreciate the very last part of your statement there, that you expect that 33.9 would be the maximum. I'm not on board completely with mitigation based on curtains and walls and things of that nature, just so that you understand that.

THE WITNESS: Understood. That's why we don't model it that way. It's simply to point out that there are things that will cause the number to reduce.

1 COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right. Thank you. 2 No further questions. 3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Ms. Reiss asked what I 4 thought were some excellent questions about how the 5 mitigation of -- strategy as it relates to the turbines 6 themselves actually operate, and you gave some very vague 7 answers. 8 Which witness can answer that with specificity? 9 THE WITNESS: I believe Mr. Pawlowski can speak 10 to that. 11 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I understand from your 12 background -- you've got a science background; correct? 1.3 THE WITNESS: I do. 14 COMMISSIONER NELSON: My understanding in 15 science when one has a hypothesis the next step of the 16 scientific method is to develop an experiment or a test 17 of that hypothesis to determine whether it's accurate; is 18 that correct? 19 THE WITNESS: It is. 20 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And yet with your model 21 you've testified that you have not endeavored to 22 determine the accuracy of the model; is that correct? 23 THE WITNESS: It is. That we -- we don't do 24 postconstruction monitoring of this model. However, I 25 would indicate that the model is -- it's a third-party

software. It's prepared by others, and I would have to assume -- I can't say with certainty, but I would have to assume that they verify the accuracy of what their model predicts.

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2.1

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. And just for the record, we don't deal with assumptions here. We deal with fact. Thank you.

Why is 30 -- we've talked a lot about 30 hours. Why is 30 hours acceptable and 31 is not?

THE WITNESS: I don't know how that guideline came to be or how that -- how that number came to be.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: So you've spent all this time doing all this testing, but you have no idea why; is that correct?

THE WITNESS: No. I don't think that that's a fair thing to say. I would just submit that 30 is typical or consistent with what we do see when there are regulations in place.

And, again, my understanding here is there are actually no strict requirements in place for what -- for what flicker would have to be mitigated above. So we're simply being consistent with the industry standards.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: So did Prevailing Winds provide you with the 30-hour threshold that you're measuring against? Where did the 30 come from?

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THE WITNESS: Well, we prepared our results
1
2
     independent of whether the value was 30 or 10 or 100.
 3
     The 30 was an agreement between Prevailing Winds and --
 4
     well, it was submitted by Prevailing Winds, by the
 5
    Applicant.
 6
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: So the Applicant
7
     determined that 30 was okay and 31 was not; is that
8
     correct?
              THE WITNESS:
                            The Applicant determined that 30
10
     would be the condition that they've submitted here today.
11
     Yes.
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: And is there a witness
12
13
     that can address how 30 was arrived at?
14
              THE WITNESS: I believe that Mr. Pawlowski can
15
     speak to that, yes.
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. No further
16
17
    questions.
18
              MR. DE HUECK: That takes us to -- oh, yep.
19
     Commissioner Fiegen.
20
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Could you help me figure out
21
     on the table that you have on your receptors like 76, 17,
22
     27, 31, which residence they are and which towers?
23
              Do you have that somewhere in all the
2.4
     information?
25
              THE WITNESS: I do. So this information we did
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1 not include the homeowner's name, but it's available and can be provided. 2 3 I beg your pardon. 4 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So you could show us the dots? 5 6 THE WITNESS: On a map, absolutely. 7 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. And then you could 8 also show us the towers that you're dealing with; right? 9 THE WITNESS: So the information is there, if 10 that's what you're asking for. 11 So, for example, if you were to look at this 12 same report, which is Exhibit A3-2 --1.3 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. Like A -- okay. I'11 14 write that down. 15 THE WITNESS: Yeah. No problem. 16 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Go ahead. Tell me again. 17 THE WITNESS: Sure. 18 So there's an Appendix A, Alpha, that includes a 19 map of where every turbine is at and where every receptor 20 is at. So those show the receptors by number. They do 2.1 not list the homeowner's name. And they also show which 22 turbines they are. 23 And then in the calendar information that we 24 were discussing a few moments ago, and it's H, hotel, 25 that shows which specific turbine causes shadow flicker

1 on each specific receptor. CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: 2 Thank you. There is more 3 documentation in this evidentiary hearing so it's hard to 4 find --THE WITNESS: I understand. 6 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: -- all those type of 7 information. 8 Thank you. 9 MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Rislov. 10 MR. RISLOV: As I listen to this, I'm curious. 11 Does your 30 hours reflect cloudy days, overcast days, 12 snow days, or does it reflect full sunlight all the 1.3 time? 14 THE WITNESS: We have what we call a sunshine 15 factor or a sunshine probability. So we do not model the 16 sun shining every day throughout the year because days 17 like this the sun just doesn't shine. So we gather 18 data -- we gather historical weather data, and we assign 19 a probability to each month on how many hours during that 20 month there will be enough sunlight to create flicker. 21 MR. RISLOV: One additional question. You talk 22 about the glass house. I assume everyone's sitting here thinking the center of the house. How material is moving 23 2.4 75 feet toward the tower on any given day? 25 I mean, I can't believe it just ends at this

spot. So if I walk 75 feet closer to the tower or 100 yards, what effect does that have on shadow flicker as far as the strength or the visibility of the shadow flicker?

THE WITNESS: So the visibility of the shadow is evaluated the same throughout the buffer from the turbines that we look at. So there is no change. A shadow at 10 feet is accumulated. It's considered the same way as a shadow at 500 feet, for instance.

So to address your specific question, though, the unfortunate answer is that it depends on which way you move. So, again, being due north or due south of a turbine, if you were to move in a direction that hits you in one of those ways, would actually be beneficial from a flicker standpoint. It would, generally speaking, reduce the amount that accrues.

But, to your point, moving closer to a turbine would typically increase the amount of shadow flicker that would occur.

MR. RISLOV: I understand that. But -Okay. For example, we have a house. I have a

garden on the north side, and I have a garden on the south side, both 50 feet from the house.

THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

MR. RISLOV: Are you telling me if the turbine's

1.3

2.4

1 on the south side, I'm going to experience shadow flicker much stronger or whatever on the south side than I would 2 3 on the north side? Stronger, no. It's experienced 4 THE WITNESS: all the same. 5 I would offer that if your garden was on 6 the north side and you were in the garden, that your 7 house would block flicker from occurring. 8 MR. RISLOV: No, no. I'm apart from the house. 9 They're both in direct line to the tower. Okav. 10 One's 50 feet south of the house. One's 50 feet north. 11 So if I'm in the north garden, I'm just fine? If I'm in 12 the south garden, I'm experiencing shadow flicker? Is there a materiality in 50 feet one direction 1.3 14 or the other? 15 THE WITNESS: No. No. It would not be a substantive difference. 16 17 MR. RISLOV: Thank you. 18 MR. DE HUECK: Commissioner Nelson, follow-up. 19 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Follow-up. 20 When you were discussing with Commissioner 21 Hanson the graph on page 54 in relation to Receptor 76 22 and you were talking about the two different turbine 23 numbers that were impacting, are those turbine numbers on 24 that graph? Can you help me find them? 25 THE WITNESS: Yeah. It's a little bit cryptic.

1 So hopefully your printout is better than mine 2 but there's an orange blob and a pink blob. 3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Yes. And if you look at the very 4 THE WITNESS: 5 bottom, there's a legend, so to speak, that says WTG for 6 wind turbine general. And with the software it has a lot 7 of extra text, but the important thing is right after the 8 orange blob it says 28.23. That's the turbine number corresponding to the orange blobs. And 28.24 is the 10 turbine number corresponding to the pink blobs. So those are the two machines that would cause 11 12 flicker on that particular residence. 1.3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: So 28.23, 28.24, we don't 14 have turbine numbers 28 point something. 15 THE WITNESS: Those were -- I could verify that. 16 There was some turbine numbering that updated, and I 17 could get back to you on T-1, T-2, et cetera, and draw 18 that correlation for you. 19 It's the same layout. The turbine numbering was 20 just updated over time. 21 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. But I want to be 22 able to figure this out, so if you could at some point 23 help me with that, I'd appreciate it. 2.4 THE WITNESS: We can. 25 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you.

MR. DE HUECK: It looks like that concludes 1 2 Commission, which will take us to redirect by the 3 Applicant. 4 MS. SMITH: I have no further questions. 5 MR. DE HUECK: Is there any recross based on 6 Commission questions? 7 MR. ALMOND: Yeah. 8 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ALMOND: 10 Q. Commissioner Hanson, I believe it was, was asking 11 about other jurisdictions and how they treat shadow 12 flicker. 13 Are you aware of any jurisdictions that do not allow 14 any shadow flicker to occur at nonparticipating 15 residences? 16 No. I'm not aware of any. 17 You've never encountered any jurisdictions at your 18 time at Burns & McDonnell that have prohibited shadow flicker --19 20 MS. SMITH: Asked and answered. 21 Q. -- on nonparticipating residences? 22 MR. DE HUECK: Sustained. 23 MR. ALMOND: No further questions. 24 MR. DE HUECK: Any redirect -- recross based

solely on questions that were asked by the Commissioners?

Mr. Fuerniss?

RECROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. FUERNISS:

1

2

- Q. Well, I think this would tie in. But Commissioner
- 5 | Nelson was asking about where the 30 hours came from.
- 6 And could you tell us that -- that 30 hours is the
- 7 | industry standard, that's a best practice for the
- 8 industry, not necessarily for the residents.
- 9 The 30 hours is a best practices as far as the
- 10 industry goes.
- 11 A. The 30 hours is a typical industry guideline.
- 12 Q. But the point I'm getting at, it was arrived at by
- 13 the industry in the best interests of the industry.
- 14 A. No --
- 15 MS. SMITH: I think it's asked and answered.
- MR. DE HUECK: I'm going to let him elaborate.
- 17 We've got some flexibility here.
- 18 A. I wouldn't say it was established by the industry
- 19 | for the industry. I'm telling you it's a value used by
- 20 the industry.
- I can't sit here today and tell you who specifically
- 22 came up with the value. I can only tell you that it's a
- 23 | value as an industry that we -- that we use and we use
- 24 | consistently through a number of jurisdictions.
- MR. FUERNISS: Okay. Thank you.

MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins, do you have any recross again based solely on questions that were asked by the Commissioners?

RECROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. JENKINS:

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- Q. Okay. I think this would tie in.
- My question is when you speak of industry what industry are you talking about?
- A. The wind industry.
- 10 Q. Okay. And could you give me examples of the people
- 11 | that make up the wind industry? Like how --
- 12 A. There are a number of participants, and they range
- 13 | from independent contractors and consultants like myself
- 14 | to people who are developing and designing wind projects
- 15 to even in some cases people who object to the industry
- 16 and what they're trying to do.
- All of those things factor into what creates and what molds what those guidelines become over time.
- 19 Q. Okay. And do you know of any jurisdiction that
- 20 allows or requires less than 30 hours shadow flicker?
- 21 A. There are many that don't have any requirement at
- 22 | all. So, said differently, there are many jurisdictions,
- 23 whether those are -- let's use counties, for example,
- 24 | that would not have any limitation on how much flicker
- 25 could occur.

So that could be a seemingly infinity amount. O course, we would try to avoid that, but some have no requirement at all for what that limit would be.

Q. Thank you.

1.3

So in the jurisdictions that do have requirements, do you know of any that are less than 30 hours?

A. The only one I know about in the United States is the State of Wisconsin. Perhaps it's a county in Wisconsin. You'll have to forgive me. But somewhere in Wisconsin has a requirement where the limit is 30, but they require mitigation above 20. But that's very much

Q. So the limit is 30 --

the exception and not the norm.

reduction of shadow flicker above 20 in that specific
jurisdiction. That's the only one I know of that's less
than this.

I believe they require mitigation avoidance,

- Q. I think the -- would you be able to tell me when the last time the industry standards for shadow flicker was updated?
 - A. There's no written guideline, per se, so there's no code I could point you to that says here's the value. I could simply direct you to what my firm and others like us do, which there are probably numerous examples on-line just like this one where the approach, the values used

- 1 | and other things like that, have become fairly
- 2 | standardized and consistent so that when I talk to you
- 3 today or if I talk to another Commission two weeks from
- 4 | now that I can hopefully tell you that I'm doing things
- 5 under a consistent, similar manner.
- 6 | Q. Okay. And is there any government regulation about
- 7 these standards?
- 8 A. There are no federal requirements, and there are,
- 9 generally speaking, no state requirements.
- 10 Q. I'm sorry. Just a moment.
- 11 A. No problem.
- 12 Q. Are you aware of outside of the United States if
- 13 there are standards less than 30?
- 14 A. I don't know. I haven't made it a habit of studying
- 15 foreign requirements.
- 16 Q. Okay. And are you aware that the wind energy has
- 17 | been in the -- outside of the United States a lot longer
- 18 | than it has been inside?
- 19 A. I am.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 MS. JENKINS: That's all I have.
- MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour, do you have any cross
- 23 | based again on Commissioner questions only?
- MS. PAZOUR: The answers were already asked for
- 25 me.

- 1 MR. DE HUECK: Okay. Thank you very much.
- MS. PAZOUR: Thank you.
- 3 MR. DE HUECK: Commissioner -- oh, Staff.
- 4 MS. REISS: Thank you. Just one quick question.

RECROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. REISS:

- 7 Q. I believe Commissioner Fiegen asked about measuring
- 8 | shadow flicker outside of the home because there's a lot
- 9 of usage on the property by landowners.
- 10 Do you recall that?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 Q. Did you take any steps to measure shadow flicker at
- 13 | public roads?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't measure shadow
- 16 | flicker on public roads?
- 17 A. We, to be frank, have never been asked or even
- 18 | considered it because the prevailing guideline has been
- 19 to measure it at the home itself.
- 20 Q. Are you aware of any public roads within the project
- 21 | area that may be affected by shadow flicker?
- 22 A. Not specifically, no. I'm aware that there are, of
- 23 | course, public roads within the project itself.
- Q. Are there any public roads between a wind turbine
- 25 and a receptor?

A. I -- I don't know. I haven't evaluated it. 1 2 Probably, but I don't know. 3 MS. REISS: Nothing further. Thank you. MR. DE HUECK: Commissioners, any -- you're 4 5 good? Okay. With that, that concludes this witness's 6 7 testimony. 8 Mr. Anderson, you may step down. Thank you very 9 much. 10 (The witness is excused.) 11 MR. DE HUECK: And I'm going to look at Cheri and assume she needs a break. She's been at it for an 12 13 hour. 14 We'll come back and, say, 10 minutes. It's 10:30 now so that would be 10:40. 15 16 (A short recess is taken.) 17 MR. DE HUECK: Welcome back. Prevailing Winds, 18 EL18-026, is back in session. We need to get our webcast 19 going. 20 EL18-026, In the Matter of Prevailing Wind Park, 21 LLC for a Wind Facility Permit is back in session. 22 just took a quick recess. And Prevailing Winds is early 23 in its case in chief, and you may call your second 24 witness. 25 MS. AGRIMONTI: Thank you. The Applicant calls

- 1 Dr. Mark Roberts.
- 2 Dr. Mark Roberts,
- 3 called as a witness, being first duly sworn in the above
- 4 cause, testified under oath as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. AGRIMONTI:

- 7 Q. Dr. Roberts, could you please introduce yourself to
- 8 the Commission.
- 9 A. My name is Mark A. Roberts. I am a principal
- 10 | scientist for a company called Exponent.
- 11 Q. Would you please employ an overview of your
- 12 | education and work history?
- 13 A. I have an associate's degree in pre-veterinary
- 14 | medicine, a B.S. in zoology, a master's in education,
- 15 | master's in public health, a Ph.D. in epidemiology and
- 16 | biostatistics, and an M.D. degree.
- 17 Q. Okay. What work have you done within the public and
- 18 safety sector?
- 19 A. I spent 17 years in the State Health Department in
- 20 Oklahoma, started out doing infectious diseases and then
- 21 | began to do environmental issues involving the state of
- 22 Oklahoma and citizens within the state. Things like
- 23 | Superfund sites, hazardous waste spills, all those sorts
- 24 of things. Air pollution.
- 25 During that time I finished my medical degree and

- 1 | moved to the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee
- 2 | where I was on the faculty at the Medical College of
- 3 | Wisconsin, Department of Permitting Medicine for nine
- 4 | years, doing teaching, teaching medical students, and
- 5 | also had a clinical practice. I was a clinic physician
- 6 for seven different companies during that time.
- 7 And then I became enamored with going out into the
- 8 | "real world" and went to work for a company called Amoco
- 9 that was later sold to BP. I worked there five or six
- 10 | years, packaged out, tried to retire and went to work for
- 11 | a company called Exponent. So I've been at Exponent for
- 12 | the last 14 years, working my 15th year now, basically
- 13 putting all the experience together, the public health
- 14 experience, the teaching, and the working internationally
- 15 | for a large corporation.
- 16 Q. Did you file Prefiled Supplemental Direct Testimony
- 17 | in this matter?
- 18 A. I did.
- 19 Q. And is that Prefiled Direct Testimony in front of
- 20 | you labeled as A4 and A4-1 through 4-8 with exhibits?
- 21 A. It is.
- 22 Q. Did you also file Rebuttal on September 26 of this
- 23 year?
- 24 A. I did.
- Q. And is that Exhibit A5 and A5-1 through 11 with

- l exhibits also before you?
- 2 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Could you please provide a brief summary of the topics covered in your Supplemental Direct Testimony?
- 5 A. Well, basically my first point that I cover is about
- 6 what we know about wind turbines and health effects. And
- 7 | in summary is there's no peer-reviewed published
- 8 literature. The body of knowledge involving
- 9 peer-reviewed published literature does not indicate that
- 10 | there's a specific adverse health effect as a result of
- 11 being exposed to wind turbines.
- Number two is the fact I -- I talk about the fact of
- 13 how the -- the scientific method of how that would be
- 14 determined and how we came to those conclusions.
- Number three is I'm struck by the case reports that
- 16 | are often depended upon in talking about wind turbines
- 17 and health effects and talk about the fact that case
- 18 reports and case series are not epidemiological studies.
- 19 And then, finally, talking about the number of
- 20 | state -- I'd back up and say local, state, national, and
- 21 | international organizations that have reviewed the
- 22 literature and come to the same conclusion that I have.
- So that's basically a summary of what I'll talk
- 24 about.
- 25 Q. All right. And in your Rebuttal Testimony, what

- 1 | were the topics you covered in that prefiled testimony?
- 2 A. Well, that brought up a number of issues that
- 3 other -- others had covered in their testimony.
- 4 | Specifically a condition called -- referred to as
- 5 | vibroacoustic disease, VAD.
- 6 And then there were also discussions by Dr. Punch
- 7 | and Dr. James concerning noise levels and possible health
- 8 effects.
- 9 Q. What was your Rebuttal Testimony with respect to
- 10 VAD?
- 11 A. My testimony is that VAD was reported by a series
- 12 of -- a group of researchers in Portugal. It's been --
- 13 | they've published a number of papers on it.
- 14 It has not been recognized as a disease by any other
- 15 group and has not been listed as -- in the diagnostic
- 16 categories that physicians use in coding different
- 17 diseases. And I find the science not to be there to
- 18 | support their conclusions.
- 19 Q. And with respect to Dr. Punch, what was your
- 20 response?
- 21 A. Well, Dr. Punch makes a number of claims about
- 22 health effects. And these are primarily based on case
- 23 | reports. And also about the validity or information used
- 24 | in terms of collecting case report information.
- 25 Q. Just to follow up, you noted that case reports have

- 1 a different level of value and scientific knowledge.
- 2 Can you please explain a little bit more about case 3 reports?
- 4 A. Absolutely. The literature or -- it's kind of hard
- 5 anymore to publish about a case report. But a case
- 6 | report is really a scientist's way of putting it out,
- 7 hey, I just observed this. Have you seen it? What have
- 8 other people seen?
- 9 Part of that is due to get funding and other
- 10 | additional research. So case reports are merely a
- 11 person's reporting their observations. And it's not an
- 12 | epidemiological study. It's merely putting it out there
- 13 that I've seen this. Has anybody else seen something
- 14 like this, and what does the science tell us?
- 15 Q. Lastly, with respect to Mr. James, what was your
- 16 Rebuttal Testimony?
- 17 A. Mr. James again talks about the infrasound and
- 18 | hearing and makes some assumptions about how these -- the
- 19 noise affects individuals.
- 20 Q. And do you agree with his conclusions?
- 21 A. No, I don't.
- 22 Q. All right. And have you also reviewed the
- 23 | literature regarding health effects and wind turbines
- 24 | cited in the testimony of Mr. James, Dr. Punch,
- 25 Dr. Alves-Pereira?

- A. I have. I've looked at a considerable volume of information. But what I was struck with is the fact that
- 3 the number of local, state, and national organizations or
- 4 groups that have been impaneled to review the information
- 5 came up with similar results. As I --
- 6 You know, I have a number of exhibits that talk
- 7 about or that give examples of this from Wisconsin, from
- 8 Minnesota, from Massachusetts. Then, internationally,
- 9 Canada, Germany, Japan, France, New Zealand.
- 10 So it's been looked at, and there is a consensus
- 11 | that's been developed around it that there's not
- 12 sufficient evidence to indicate there's an adverse health
- 13 effect associated with wind turbines.
- 14 They do talk about annoyance, and we can talk more
- 15 about annoyance as the questions come up.
- 16 Q. All right. Was there anything in the literature
- 17 that these three witnesses attached to their testimony
- 18 | that would cause you to change your opinions?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Did you also review Intervenors' Exhibit I-25, which
- 21 | has several sub Exhibits A through F? Again, those were
- 22 | marked for Professor Alves-Pereira?
- 23 A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And do you have any response to those exhibits?
- 25 A. Two of them or maybe -- I'd have to look at them

- 1 again to refresh my memory, but they were case reports.
- 2 And, like I say, quite a varied description. Not only of
- 3 the symptoms but also of possible exposures to sounds in
- 4 general.
- 5 There's also one about a protocol for diagnosing
- 6 | VAD, I recall. And I was struck. Number one is it was
- 7 | published at a time when it's clearly not been accepted
- 8 by the medical community.
- 9 But number two is 27 -- I think 27 out of 31 of the
- 10 references all goes back to that research group. In
- 11 other words, they didn't quote other researchers as
- 12 | supporting what they were talking about.
- 13 Q. And, again, there's nothing in there that changes
- 14 your conclusions?
- 15 A. No, there's not.
- 16 Q. All right. Were you here this morning when there
- 17 | were questions regarding shadow flicker and health
- 18 effects?
- 19 A. Yes, I was.
- 20 Q. And there was also some testimony regarding standard
- 21 | in the industry with respect to shadow flicker levels.
- Do you remember that as well?
- 23 A. That's true.
- Q. Do you have a response to the testimony that you
- 25 | heard this morning?

A. Number one is there was a lot of talk about shadow
flicker. I think that to back up for a minute and talk
about it, is flicker, light flicker in general.

We are surrounded by light flicker. This monitor in front of me right now is flickering at probably about 75 hertz. The lights above us, if they're florescent, are probably about 125 hertz.

What I know about wind turbines is the fact that they range in a flicker of between .5 and probably 1, 1.5 hertz maybe max, depending on how fast they're spinning.

So it's really one of there certainly are health effects associated with flicker at different frequencies but not at the frequency that -- the very, very low frequency that wind turbines produce.

- Q. All right. Are you aware of any basis for the 30 hours per year of shadow flicker that Mr. Anderson talked about?
- A. No, I don't. I have seen it on occasion. I've seen it in the literature internationally. I have not seen a consensus of its acceptance. I've seen it applied on occasion.

If I'm asking about a wind turbine project, I ask if there is a flicker requirement in the state or jurisdiction where it's happening. But I'm not aware

- 1 | that it's been addressed nationally -- federally for
- 2 | sure. And not every state has it.
- 3 | Q. Do you have any additions or corrections to your
- 4 | prefiled testimony?
- 5 A. No, I don't.
- 6 | Q. And if I asked you the same questions today, would
- 7 your answers be the same?
- 8 A. Yes, they would.
- 9 MS. AGRIMONTI: Dr. Roberts is available for
- 10 cross-examination.
- MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Almond, your witness.
- 12 <u>CROSS-EXAMINATION</u>
- 13 BY MR. ALMOND:
- 14 Q. Dr. Roberts, when did you first start looking into
- 15 wind turbines?
- 16 A. Probably about 2011, 2012, something like that.
- 17 Q. And how is it that you came to start looking into
- 18 wind turbines?
- 19 A. I was asked to look at a wind turbine project up in
- 20 | Wisconsin, I believe, at that point. Sometime along
- 21 about that time frame.
- 22 Q. And were you -- who hired you to look into the
- 23 Wisconsin project?
- 24 A. I think it was an energy company -- it was an
- 25 | energy company in Wisconsin, and I don't recall the name

- 1 of it.
- 2 Q. Was that energy company looking to develop? Had
- 3 | they already developed a project? What was going on?
- 4 A. I think they were going through the permitting
- 5 process.
- 6 Q. Okay. And what were you asked to look into for that
- 7 project?
- 8 A. I was asked to look at the science of are there
- 9 health effects associated with wind turbines in the
- 10 | peer-reviewed, published literature.
- 11 Q. And how many times have you been hired by an
- 12 energy company to provide opinions about the health
- 13 | effects of wind turbines?
- 14 A. I don't count that. It's not something I track. I
- would say something probably around between 15 and 25
- 16 times.
- 17 Q. Have you ever provided any opinions that are
- 18 unfavorable to a wind or energy company?
- 19 A. As far as the science area, no.
- 20 Q. And I assume you're being compensated for your time
- 21 | here today?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And how much --
- 24 | A. The company will be. The company gets paid for my
- 25 | time. I'm an hourly employee.

- 1 Q. And how much is the company charging?
- 2 A. The company bills my rate of 585 an hour.
- 3 Q. All right. I want to talk a little bit about your
- 4 | educational background. So if you want to turn to
- 5 | Exhibit A4-1, feel free to. It's your CV or statement of
- 6 | qualifications. If you don't need to rely on it, that's
- 7 | fine too.
- 8 A. If you're going to ask me dates, I'll have to go
- 9 back and look. It's been a long time ago. Go ahead, And
- 10 I'll turn pages as you ask the question.
- 11 Q. Yep. I was looking through the education section,
- 12 and I noticed there isn't anything in there regarding the
- 13 | study of acoustics; correct?
- 14 A. Study of what?
- 15 Q. In your education there wasn't anything in there
- 16 | regarding the study of acoustics; correct?
- 17 A. Other than the fact of as an occupational medicine
- 18 physician, hearing conservation is extremely important in
- 19 most of the industries that I've dealt with. So the
- 20 | hearing conservation, testing of hearing, and that sort
- 21 of thing I dealt with on a daily basis when I was in
- 22 clinical practice.
- 23 Q. And I'm asking about your education section. Have
- 24 you received any formal education in the field of
- 25 | acoustics?

- 1 A. During residency about hearing conservation, hearing
- 2 testing, that sort of thing. So that would be acoustics.
- 3 Q. During your medical residency?
- 4 A. During medical residency. That's correct.
- 5 Q. How long were you in residency?
- 6 A. Three years.
- 7 Q. Why don't you flip to the first page of your CV
- 8 there for me.
- 9 A. I'm there.
- 10 Q. And looking at that education section. Have you
- 11 received any formal education regarding noise?
- 12 A. Again, as a -- in my residency training and
- 13 occupational environmental medicine, that's about noise.
- 14 Q. And low frequency noise, was that covered in the
- 15 same residency?
- 16 A. Noise in general is covered during that. So I don't
- 17 | recall specifically about low frequency noise. It was
- 18 just about noise in general in the occupational setting.
- 19 Q. Do you recall if -- anything about infrasound?
- 20 A. Not specifically, no.
- 21 | Q. Let's go to your publication list in your CV. In
- 22 | reviewing that I saw there was one publication that dealt
- 23 | with wind turbines; is that right?
- 24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. And this list of publications, are those all peer

- 1 reviewed?
- 2 A. They are.
- 3 | Q. Okay. And that publication, that peer-reviewed
- 4 | publication about wind turbines, what was the name of
- 5 that?
- 6 A. I have to go back and read it to be -- it's 2013.
- 7 Q. Was it Wind Turbines: Is There a Human Risk?
- 8 A. That sounds correct. I haven't found it on my list
- 9 | yet so --
- 10 Q. It's on page 5 of your CV there.
- 11 A. That is correct.
- 12 Q. And that's the only peer-reviewed paper that you've
- 13 | published about wind turbines; correct?
- 14 A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. Did any of your other peer-reviewed publications
- 16 look at noise?
- 17 A. Not that I recall.
- 18 Q. So I assume they didn't look at low frequency noise
- 19 or infrasound either?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 | Q. Any of them look at acoustics at all in any of those
- 22 other peer-reviewed publications?
- 23 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. So I've reviewed all the exhibits you've submitted
- 25 | along with your testimony, and I noticed your lone

- 1 | publication about wind turbines was not included as an
- 2 | exhibit; is that correct?
- 3 A. That is correct.
- 4 Q. Is the document I just handed you your loan
- 5 publication about wind turbines?
- 6 A. That is my 2013 publication about wind turbines.
- 7 That's correct.
- 8 Q. And a large part of the questions I'm going to ask
- 9 | you about that I'm going to be referring to that
- 10 publication.
- MR. ALMOND: So at this point I think it would
- 12 be appropriate for the Commission to have a copy of that
- 13 | in front of them. So I would move for the admission of
- 14 Exhibit I-35.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: No objection.
- 16 MR. DE HUECK: It will be admitted.
- 17 (Exhibit I 35 is marked for identification.)
- 18 Q. All right. Let's step back a little bit. You're an
- 19 | epidemiologist; correct?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 Q. You'd agree you're not an expert in acoustics?
- 22 A. No, sir.
- 23 Q. You agree you're not an expert in noise?
- 24 A. Acoustics is noise.
- 25 Q. So no?

- 1 A. So the answer is still no.
- 2 Q. Okay. Now in your career with respect to wind
- 3 | turbines and health effects have you conducted any
- 4 experiments?
- 5 A. No, I have not.
- 6 | Q. Okay. Have you collected or analyzed any data
- 7 | produced from any experiments?
- 8 A. Other than what's in peer-reviewed, published
- 9 literature, no.
- 10 Q. And have you examined any individuals who have
- 11 claimed to be experiencing negative health effects caused
- 12 by wind turbines?
- 13 A. Not as a physician, no.
- 14 Q. I assume you haven't treated any individuals either?
- 15 A. Well, at hearings and that sort of thing we hear
- 16 | testimony about health concerns and that sort of thing,
- 17 | so I'm sitting there as a physician evaluating that.
- 18 | Q. So you have treated individuals?
- 19 A. I said no, I have not.
- 20 Q. Okay. And, again, I assume you haven't performed
- 21 | any medical tests on any individuals who are claiming
- 22 | adverse health effects caused by wind turbines?
- 23 A. No, I have not.
- Q. Okay. So is it fair to summarize your experience in
- 25 | this field as just reviewing the literature that existed

- 1 | out there and forming conclusions or opinions about what
- 2 | the literature says?
- 3 A. Among other things. And also listening to testimony
- 4 | such as this, talking to various experts who have
- 5 testified at hearings like this before and after the
- 6 hearings. So that combination.
- 7 Q. Okay. And let's just briefly go through your
- 8 exhibits quickly that you included with your testimony.
- 9 If you go to Exhibit A4, page 3, you have them all
- 10 listed there.
- 11 A. Okay. Page 3. I'm there.
- 12 Q. You there?
- Exhibit 2, the Australian National Health and
- 14 Medicine Research Council, 2010. Do you see that
- 15 exhibit?
- 16 A. T think --
- 17 Q. Or the reference to the exhibit?
- 18 A. On this page? On page 3 of A4?
- 19 | O. Correct.
- 20 Our pages are off. What page do you first start
- 21 listing your exhibits in your --
- 22 A. That would be -- in mine it's page 4 of 21,
- 23 Exhibit A4 at the bottom.
- 24 Q. And what are the line numbers?
- 25 A. Exhibit 1 is line 86.

- 1 | Q. And do all the exhibits go through line 121?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. All right. We've got the same line numbers then.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. So Exhibit 2 on line 87, Australian National Health
- 6 | and Medical Research Council, was that a peer-reviewed
- 7 study?
- 8 A. I believe it was.
- 9 Q. What about Exhibit 2A?
- 10 A. Those are all a series of reports that came out of
- 11 Australia. I believe they were all produced by the
- 12 | Adelaide University for the National Health and Medical
- 13 Research Council of Australia.
- 14 Q. And let's go to Exhibit 3 there on line 100. Was
- 15 | that peer reviewed?
- 16 A. Exhibit 3. The French study?
- 17 Q. Yeah.
- 18 A. This was a national panel that was put together to
- 19 | advise the French National Agency For Food Safety and
- 20 | Environmental and Labor, I think. And so I'm not sure
- 21 | that that was peer reviewed.
- 22 That would be considered grey literature produced by
- 23 | the government. So it would have value as far as
- 24 reviewing the data that we have.
- 25 Q. So in all of that was the answer no to my question

- 1 when asking was that peer reviewed?
- 2 A. I think I can't answer that yes or no in the fact
- 3 | that they used peer-reviewed literature to come to their
- 4 conclusions.
- 5 Q. But you don't know whether or not that study, that
- 6 | French study, was peer reviewed?
- 7 A. I do not know whether it was described as peer
- 8 reviewed or not.
- 9 Q. All right. Exhibit 4, that Wisconsin Wind Siting
- 10 | Council, 2014, was that a peer-reviewed publication?
- 11 A. Again, this is a review of the peer-reviewed
- 12 | published literature. I do not know the state's process
- 13 before that is produced.
- 14 Q. So you don't know whether or not Exhibit 4 was peer
- 15 reviewed?
- 16 A. I know that they used peer-reviewed literature to
- 17 | come to their conclusions, but I do not know the process
- 18 for its publish.
- 19 MR. ALMOND: Mr. de Hueck, I think we're going
- 20 to be here for a long time if the witness doesn't just
- 21 | answer the questions that are asked.
- MR. DE HUECK: Okay. If you don't know if it's
- 23 | peer reviewed, just say I don't know if it's peer
- 24 reviewed.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: I think the problem is the

- 1 question is more complex, or the answer is more complex.
- 2 And I think that Dr. Roberts has attempted to explain the
- 3 | nuance of a government publication having reviewed and
- 4 | relied upon peer-reviewed articles but maybe not having a
- 5 | peer-reviewed process itself.
- 6 MR. DE HUECK: Absolutely understood. But it
- 7 | all boils down to he can't answer whether or not it's
- 8 peer reviewed.
- 9 So it looks like Reece is going to go through
- 10 | all of these. So if there's a long process to
- 11 determining whether it is but ultimately he doesn't know
- 12 | if it is, let's just say we don't know if it is.
- 13 Q. Dr. Roberts, Exhibit 5, the Rand and Hoen study from
- 14 | 2017, is that a peer-reviewed publication?
- 15 A. Based on the instructions that I've just been given,
- 16 I do not know.
- 17 Q. And Exhibit 6, the Public Service Commission of
- 18 | Wisconsin, is that a peer-reviewed publication?
- 19 A. Based on the instructions I've been given, I can't
- 20 answer yes to that.
- 21 Q. And Exhibit 7, the Massachusetts Department of
- 22 | Environmental Protection Study, I think it's often
- 23 referred to as the Massachusetts Study from 2012, was
- 24 | that a peer-reviewed publication?
- 25 A. I believe it is. I can't answer definitive yes or

- no.
- 2 Q. Let's turn to your Rebuttal Testimony and look at
- 3 | the exhibits that you attached to your Rebuttal
- 4 Testimony.
- Are you there?
- 6 A. I'm there.
- 7 | Q. And it looks like Exhibits 1 through 11; correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And I'll try to speed this up. Which of those
- 10 exhibits do you know are peer-reviewed publications?
- 11 A. We start at the bottom. Exhibit 11, 10, 9. I
- 12 | believe that's the only ones I can testify for sure were
- 13 peer reviewed.
- 14 Q. Now I want to talk a little bit about the opinions
- 15 | you're offering in this case. And you summarize them at
- 16 | the beginning. And my notes were that you said your
- 17 opinion was you viewed the peer-reviewed literature --
- 18 your opinion was that no peer-reviewed study shows
- 19 adverse health effects.
- Is that a fair summary of your opinion?
- 21 A. I said a review of the peer-reviewed literature did
- 22 | not indicate there was a specific disease entity
- 23 associated with wind turbines.
- Q. Has the peer-reviewed literature concluded that wind
- 25 | turbines, whether it be noise, flicker, what have you,

- 1 does not cause adverse health effects?
- 2 A. It has not because the science can't prove the
- 3 | negative.
- 4 Q. Now you understand, I assume, that one concern that
- 5 | the Intervenors have with respect to this project is that
- 6 the audible noise that it creates is going to interfere
- 7 | with their sleep.
- 8 You understand that's one of the concerns of the
- 9 Intervenors?
- 10 A. I have heard that concern, and I have read it in the
- 11 | material that's been provided. That's correct.
- 12 Q. And would you agree with me that chronic sleep
- disturbance has a negative effect on a person's health?
- 14 A. It can under some circumstances.
- 15 Q. It creates problems in mood?
- 16 A. Once you get into the -- what causes the sleep
- 17 disturbance, that can affect the psychological part.
- 18 | Mood is part of the psychological part.
- 19 Q. Problems with cognition?
- 20 A. It's possible. I'm not a sleep expert. There's
- 21 | going to be a sleep expert that will testify later that
- 22 can testify about sleep.
- 23 Q. So at any time in your residency, your education did
- 24 you ever look at the health effects of sleep?
- 25 A. In medical training we often thought about the lack

of sleep. But certainly there is disruption of sleep can 1 2 affect one's performance. That's correct. 3 So if this project were to create chronic sleep 4 disturbance in those who live around it, wouldn't you 5 agree that it would cause an adverse health effect on 6 those individuals? 7 MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. Assumes facts not in 8 evidence. MR. ALMOND: May I respond? 10 MR. DE HUECK: You may. 11 MR. ALMOND: This is an expert qualified to 12 answer hypothetical questions. 1.3 MR. DE HUECK: Can you ask your question again, 14 please. 15 MR. ALMOND: Cheri, can you reask the question. 16 (Reporter reads back the last question.) 17 MR. DE HUECK: I'm going to sustain the objection, and that sounds like speculation on facts that 18 aren't in the record. 19 20 MR. ALMOND: Just so I'm clear on the order, are 21 you saying that the witness cannot testify to 22 hypotheticals? 23 MR. DE HUECK: Just that particular question 24 you're asking him to speculate on a what-if what-if, and 25 we have nothing saying that's going to happen.

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1
              MR. ALMOND: Do I need to appeal this to the
2
     Commissioners to get a formal ruling?
 3
                                  They can overrule me but so
              MR. DE HUECK:
                            No.
 4
     far it stands. And I haven't heard anything.
 5
     they'll definitely step on my toes if I've done
 6
     something --
7
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Let's just take a short
8
     time.
                              (Pause.)
10
              MR. DE HUECK:
                            Quick recess.
11
                     (A short recess is taken.)
12
              MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Roberts, I'm going to change
13
     my ruling. I'm going to direct you to go ahead and
14
     answer Mr. Almond's hypothetical question. Mr. Almond --
15
              Or maybe, Cheri, would you please read it again.
16
             (Reporter reads back the last question.)
17
         This hypothetical that I've been presented with, one
18
     of the things you have to dissect out is the fact of the
19
     human response to something they don't like or they have
20
     a feeling about. We'll talk about placebo and nocebo
21
     effect probably a little bit later.
22
         But the point being that they're reacting to the
23
     events, not necessarily to the sound. And so reaction to
24
     the events. Waking up and hearing the sound of wind
25
     turbines would like -- likely they would associate that
```

- 1 with the wind turbines but the fact that wind turbines
- 2 were not what woke them up.
- 3 | Q. So you agree that chronic sleep disturbance can have
- 4 | negative health effects in individuals; correct?
- 5 A. Tdo.
- 6 Q. Do you agree if something is going to cause negative
- 7 health effects in individuals, that the thing that causes
- 8 the negative health effects is going to cause the adverse
- 9 health effects?
- 10 A. If they know what it is.
- 11 Q. Okay. So if any wind project causes adverse
- 12 health -- or excuse me.
- 13 If any wind project causes chronic sleep disturbance
- 14 | in a particular individual or a group of individuals,
- 15 | wouldn't you agree that that project is causing the
- 16 | adverse health effects?
- 17 A. Only if you specify that it's their reaction to the
- 18 | wind project, their emotional reaction and physical
- 19 reaction to it.
- 20 Q. Right. If the project is causing them to have
- 21 | chronic sleep disturbance, the project is causing the
- 22 adverse health effects; right?
- 23 A. If their psychological -- their evaluation of the
- 24 | project -- any noise, if they are concerned about that,
- 25 | that could be associated with them having sleep

- 1 problems.
- 2 Q. And if they have chronic sleep problems, they're
- 3 likely to have adverse health effects?
- 4 A. Right. And it's partly as a result of their
- 5 | response to that stimuli.
- 6 Q. Now isn't it true that the epidemiological studies
- 7 | indicate that noise and/or vibration from wind turbines
- 8 has been noted as causing sleep disruption?
- 9 A. They say -- what they're reporting is that it is
- 10 | associated with it. As far as the cause, again, I go
- 11 | into the point they have not evaluated whether it's the
- 12 noise itself or the person's response, emotional
- 13 response, to hearing that sound.
- 14 Q. Let's look at the Massachusetts study that you
- 15 referenced. I believe it's Exhibit A4-7. And if you
- 16 turn to page 50 of that exhibit, please.
- 17 A. Page 50?
- 18 O. Correct.
- 19 A. I'm there.
- 20 Q. And the bottom of page 50 there, there's a
- 21 | heading, Impact Of Noise From Wind Turbines On Sleep.
- Do you see that heading?
- 23 A. On page 50?
- Q. Page 50 of the exhibit. These page numberings are
- 25 going to be tricky for us.

- 1 A. Pardon me. Let me go backwards.
- 2 I'm there.
- 3 Q. So on the very bottom of that page there's a
- 4 | heading, Impact Of Noise From Wind Turbines On Sleep. Do
- 5 you see that heading?
- 6 A. I do.
- 7 | Q. And read along with me as I read this out loud.
- 8 "The epidemiological studies indicate the noise
- 9 and/or vibration from wind turbines has been noted as
- 10 | causing sleep disruption."
- 11 Did I read that correctly?
- 12 A. That's what it says.
- 13 Q. This is a study you cited to support your opinions;
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- 16 Q. And even -- I think even the Intervenors would agree
- 17 | that when sited appropriately, a wind turbine or a wind
- 18 | farm is not going to create sleep disturbances. But if
- 19 | sited inappropriately, there's a high likelihood of it
- 20 causing sleep disturbances.
- 21 Would you agree with that?
- 22 A. Partially I agree with it. That's not the whole
- 23 answer, but that's part of it.
- Q. So when sited improperly wind turbines or wind farms
- 25 do have the ability to cause sleep disturbances. Would

- 1 you agree with that?
- 2 A. You'd have to define "improperly" to me. Because
- 3 | that's a general term. And one of the points is improper
- 4 may be in the eyes of the person reporting symptoms. So
- 5 | they may think it's inappropriately sited, but it's their
- 6 response to it.
- 7 Q. Yeah. I appreciate -- I'll ask it a little
- 8 differently.
- 9 Do you agree that wind turbines can cause sleep
- 10 disruption?
- 11 A. The association of wind turbines and the emotional
- 12 | response to it can, yes.
- 13 Q. I mean, we just read in this Massachusetts study
- 14 | that the epidemiological studies indicate that the noise
- 15 and/or vibration from wind turbines has been noted as
- 16 | causing sleep disturbance.
- 17 Are you now somehow trying to distinguish those
- 18 | epidemiological studies or --
- 19 A. Well, then I'd go ahead and read this next sentence
- 20 | in that section. It says, "In addition, suggestions are
- 21 | provided for more definitive evaluation of the impact of
- 22 | wind turbines on sleep."
- 23 Q. So back to the original question, do you agree that
- 24 | wind turbines can disrupt sleep?
- 25 A. Emotional response to it can certainly do it.

- 1 | Q. What about aside from emotional response?
- 2 A. I'm not a sleep expert so I wouldn't be able to
- 3 | answer all the things that go into sleep disturbances.
- 4 Q. But you have reviewed the epidemiological studies;
- 5 correct?
- 6 A. I've reviewed the epidemiological studies of wind
- 7 turbines and their proposed effects.
- 8 Q. And the epidemiological studies indicate that the
- 9 noise and/or vibration from wind turbines has been noted
- 10 as causing sleep disturbance; correct?
- 11 A. In this one study that's a statement that is made.
- 12 Q. And this study, didn't it go on to find that because
- of the potential of causing effects -- causing of
- 14 effects, wind turbines should have certain siting
- 15 recommendations?
- 16 A. I don't recall that. If you could point that out to
- 17 | me, I'd be glad to look at it.
- 18 Q. Yeah. Let's go to page 80 of Exhibit A4-7.
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. Actually, 79 it starts.
- 21 A. Their page 60. Our page --
- 22 Q. Our exhibit page number 79 of 164.
- 23 A. Got it.
- 24 Q. Section 5.1, Noise.
- Doesn't this section talk about recommendations for

- 1 | limiting the noise created by wind turbines?
- 2 A. It appears to, yes.
- 3 | Q. Uh-huh. And if you look at Table 4, it talks
- 4 | about -- do you see Table 4 on page 80?
- 5 A. I do.
- 6 Q. Labeled as Promising Practices For Nighttime Sound
- 7 Pressure. And then for residential areas it looks like
- 8 | it has a range of 37 to 39 dBA.
- 9 Do you see that?
- 10 A. I do.
- 11 Q. And then if you go on page 80 there, the second
- 12 paragraph from the bottom that reads, "The panel
- 13 recommends that noise limits such as those presented in
- 14 | the table above be included as part of a statewide policy
- 15 | regarding new wind turbine installations."
- 16 Did I read that correctly?
- 17 A. You did.
- 18 Q. So isn't this Massachusetts study basically saying
- 19 to avoid adverse effects caused by noise, we should site
- 20 them in accordance with these noise limitations?
- 21 A. Well, number one, it says the panel recommends it.
- 22 And I think that the other thing you have to consider is
- 23 | the fact that I don't know exactly how these numbers
- 24 | should be interpreted because the WHO recommendation of
- 25 | 40 is averaged over a year.

- I don't have any idea, and it doesn't tell me in
- 2 | this, if this is averaged over a year. That's one of the
- 3 | problems, I think, that is certainly something to
- 4 | consider. But you've got to be more specific in what the
- 5 numbers mean.
- 6 Q. No. I appreciate that. So let's talk about what
- 7 | the panel did recommend. And this is the panel that you
- 8 | sited to as support for your opinions; correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And it says, "The panel recommends those noise
- 11 limits as presented in the table above, " referring to
- 12 Table 4; right?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. And if you read under Table 4, that first
- 15 | paragraph -- or the paragraph below Table 4, those are
- 16 | actually based off of Denmark's noise limits, aren't
- 17 they?
- 18 A. That is what it says. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And those are calculated over a 10-minute period.
- 20 A. Right.
- 21 Q. So the panel recommends those noise limits, 37 to
- 22 | 39, over a 10-minute period.
- 23 A. It doesn't say that in the table.
- Q. Well, certainly the Commission can read the
- 25 paragraph below the table to see what's -- information is

- 1 included in the table; correct?
- 2 A. I certainly think so.

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Q. Let's move away from audible noise now and talk about infrasound and low frequency noise.

In reading your testimony, do you group them together, infrasound and low frequency noise?

A. You know, the literature, you've got to be careful in the fact of -- read the literature carefully whether they're talking about low frequency or infrasound.

But in general anything below like 20 hertz you

can't hear unless you really push up the sound pressure,

the decibels. You crank up the volume. So I would

include those together.

- Q. In fact, infrasound is a subset of low frequency noise; right?
 - A. You've just got to be careful and make sure what the author's -- how they're defining it.
- Q. Okay. And you understand that another concern that the folks up here have is that the infrasound or the low frequency noise generated by wind turbines is going to cause adverse health effects.

You recognize that as a concern that they have; correct?

- A. I recognize that as a concern of theirs. Correct.
- 25 Q. So I want to look at the opinions that you've

- 1 offered in this matter on infrasound. And on Exhibit A4,
- 2 | line 472, I'll go ahead and quote your opinion. If you
- 3 | want to flip to it, you're welcome to, or you can trust
- 4 | that I quoted it correctly.
- 5 "I am not aware of any reliable evidence providing
- 6 any link between infrasound and adverse health
- 7 effects."
- 8 Is that an opinion you're offering in this matter?
- 9 A. The only thing I would add is it's at the levels
- 10 | we're talking about with wind turbines.
- 11 Q. Sorry. Can you repeat that?
- 12 A. I would add I agree with that statement, but I would
- 13 clarify it for the Commission that it would be at the
- 14 levels that we -- that are associated with the operation
- 15 of wind turbines.
- 16 Q. Let's take a look at your Rebuttal Testimony on
- 17 Exhibit A5, page 10.
- 18 A. A5?
- 19 Q. Correct.
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 | Q. I'm actually talking about line 277, in case our
- 22 | page numbers are --
- 23 A. Got it. 277.
- Q. In your rebuttal you say, "Put simply, adverse
- 25 | health effects have not been linked to infrasound

- generally or to infrasound generated by wind turbines,
- 2 more specifically."
- 3 So you're actually opining more generally than just
- 4 | the infrasound sound caused by wind turbines; correct?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. And those are the opinions you want the Commission
- 7 | to rely on because those are included in your testimony;
- 8 right?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Now if you'd refer to Exhibit I-35 for me, please,
- 11 this is your peer-reviewed publication.
- 12 A. Oh. Oh, okay. All right.
- 13 You referred to this as I what?
- 14 Q. I-35.
- 15 If you go to page 4 of I-35 for me, it looks like
- 16 you have a section devoted to research on human health
- 17 | effects and low frequency sound.
- Do you see that?
- 19 A. At the bottom of the page. That is correct.
- 20 Q. And it looks like that section of your paper
- 21 | stretches from pages 4 over to 5, and that section ends
- 22 on page 6; right?
- 23 A. It appears to, yes.
- Q. So let's look at page 4 first. It starts off with,
- 25 | "Low frequency sound is often accompanied by vibrations.

- 1 High levels of low frequency sound at a frequency of
- 2 | 50 to 80 hertz can excite body vibrations."
- 3 Do you agree with the findings of those studies you
- 4 | cite in your peer-reviewed paper?
- 5 A. I do. That's a vibration, yes.
- 6 Q. And the next sentence, "These chest wall and body
- 7 | hair vibrations have also been shown to occur in the
- 8 infrasonic range."
- 9 Do you agree with the findings of that study?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And the next two sentences, "Human tendency often
- 12 occurs to confuse vibration with sound on its own,
- 13 resulting in people hearing more sound than is actually
- 14 present."
- Do you agree with that finding?
- 16 A. T do.
- 17 Q. And, likewise, the reverse has been shown to occur
- 18 | as evidenced by the association found between motion
- 19 sickness and low frequency sound even without
- 20 accompanying vibration.
- 21 Do you agree with that finding?
- 22 A. That is correct.
- 23 Q. Okay. And it looks like you reference vibroacoustic
- 24 disease in this publication; right?
- 25 A. I do.

- 1 | Q. And you disagree with the findings of that study you
- 2 | have referenced here in your peer-reviewed publication
- 3 regarding vibroacoustic disease?
- 4 A. I disagree with the publications about vibroacoustic
- 5 disease, yes. And a majority of it. Every publication
- 6 | has points I might disagree with. So there's -- I'm not
- 7 | going to say that there's not something that's been
- 8 published about vibroacoustic disease that I don't agree
- 9 with.
- 10 Q. Let's go to page 5, the third paragraph down there.
- 11 "Studies have shown changes in heart rate in subjects
- 12 | that were exposed to low frequency sound."
- 13 A. I'm confused about the paper that you're -- I can't
- 14 follow based on your number. I see numbers at the bottom
- 15 | 1 through 17.
- 16 | O. Correct.
- 17 A. Okay. I tried to follow that, and I can't. Which
- 18 one are you -- which one are you on?
- 19 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I would concur. We're not
- 20 | following up here either. So if you could help us out,
- 21 Mr. Almond.
- MR. ALMOND: Sorry about that.
- 23 Q. All right. So I'm on page 4. The paragraph
- 24 | starting out with "Cardiovascular and respiratory
- 25 effects."

- 1 Do you see that paragraph?
- 2 A. We're on the same page. I do.
- 3 O. Excellent.
- And you reference a study there. "Studies have
- 5 | shown changes in heart rate in subjects who were exposed
- 6 to low frequency sound."
- 7 A. From that publication -- those publications. That's
- 8 correct.
- 9 Q. Yep. Do you dispute what those studies showed? Do
- 10 | you dispute the findings of those studies?
- 11 A. No, I don't.
- 12 Q. Okay. And then the next paragraph talks about a
- 13 study that, "Subjects reported aural complaints after
- 14 exposure to industrial infrasound below 20 hertz".
- Do you see where I'm at there?
- 16 A. T do.
- 17 Q. First of all, what are aural complaints? Am I
- 18 | pronouncing that right?
- 19 A. You are. And that can be complaints of a sensation
- 20 of movement, of visualization, that sort of thing. You
- 21 | hear in migraines you have an aura before the migraine
- 22 headache occurs.
- 23 And this would be common because if you go back up
- 24 one sentence above that, we're talking about they bring
- 25 | in the fact that when you're talking about low frequency

- noise and symptoms, these are talking about -- clarifying 1 2 that sentence that we're talking about 150 to 154 3 decibels.
- And I think it's really, really important to 4 5 understand the sound pressures that we're talking about 6 when these symptoms occur.
- 7 So you added the 150 to 154 decibels there?
- 8 In the previous paragraph where you're reading about cardiovascular respiratory?
- 10 And we're referring to different studies in that 11 next paragraph. The Karpova study and the Slarve and
- Johnson study; right?

Karpova is K-A-R-P-O-V-A.

at those high sound pressures.

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- What I'm saying is you have to keep in mind when you talk about low frequency sound you have to keep in mind the sound pressure that's being -- that they're measuring. And actually this came up during the Apollo astronaut training because of the low frequency sound levels associated with liftoff and the rocket -- riding a rocket up as an astronaut and the feelings that you get
- 22 So you're saying the Karpova study and the Slarve 23 and Johnson study include sound pressures in the 150 to 24 154 decibel range?
- 25 I'd have to go back and look and see. I suspect

- 1 they do.
- 2 Q. Okay. And staying with that same paragraph on the
- 3 | Karpova and Slarve and Johnson studies, it talks about
- 4 increase in diastolic blood pressure; right?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 | Q. And a decrease in systolic blood pressure?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. And significantly decreased respiration rates?
- 9 A. That's what it says in this paragraph. That's
- 10 correct.
- 11 Q. And the next sentence there, "Karpova and coauthors
- 12 | reported complaints of fatigue, feelings of apathy, loss
- of concentration, somnolence, and depression following
- 14 exposure to low frequency sound."
- Did I read that correctly?
- 16 A. You did.
- 17 Q. And the last sentence there, "Furthermore, the
- 18 | relationship between fatigue and tiredness after work and
- 19 | increasing low frequency sound exposure was found among
- 20 | 439 employees working in offices and laboratories and
- 21 industries in a later study."
- 22 Did I read that correctly?
- 23 A. You read that correctly.
- Q. So in your Rebuttal Testimony you offer the opinion
- 25 | that adverse health effects have not been linked to

l infrasound generally.

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Wouldn't you agree that all of these studies we just went through show a link between infrasound and adverse health effects?

- A. At the sound levels that they measured, that's correct.
- 7 Q. The sound levels that you can't recall as you're 8 sitting here; correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Okay. So you are aware that adverse health effects
- 11 | are linked to infrasound?
- 12 A. At high levels, that's correct.
- Q. And, in fact, why don't we go to your conclusion of this peer-reviewed publication that you authored.

And it starts off saying, "The answer to the

question of whether or not exposure to wind turbine sound is a human health risk is still under review and warrants further research. Although limited, research has demonstrated that low frequency sound can elicit adverse

20 physical health effects, such as vibration or fatigue, as

21 | well as annoyance or unpleasantness response."

That's the opinion you offered in this peer-reviewed publication; right?

- A. At that time, that is correct.
- 25 Q. Let's move down to talk about infrasound

- 1 | specifically generated by wind turbines. I want to focus
- 2 on your Rebuttal Testimony, page 7 -- or lines 181 to
- 3 228.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. And you were asked the question about infrasound,
- 6 | particularly that from wind turbines and its potential
- 7 | impact on human health, and then you provide a response
- 8 there.
- 9 Lines 184 through 228. Are you with me?
- 10 A. Which one are we --
- 11 Q. Rebuttal Testimony.
- 12 A. Oh. Okay. A5; correct?
- 13 Q. Yes. Exhibit A5, lines 181 through 228.
- 14 A. I'm there.
- 15 Q. Okay. So you were asked a question about
- 16 | infrasound, particularly that from wind turbines and its
- 17 | potential impacts on human health. And then you provided
- 18 | this answer; correct?
- 19 A. I'm not following you. A5. My line 181 is
- 20 | question: "Professor Alves-Pereira."
- 21 Q. The question is --
- 22 A. Are you aware of any recent studies on the topic?
- 23 Okay?
- Q. Yeah. On the topic of infrasound, particularly from
- 25 | wind turbines --

- 1 A. All right.
- 2 Q. -- and its potential impact on human health.
- 3 A. I'm there now. Excuse me.
- 4 Q. Okay. And this is the answer you provided in
- 5 response to that question; right?
- 6 A. That is correct.
- 7 Q. And you identify, it looks like, nine studies there
- 8 | in that first sentence in response to that question;
- 9 right?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. I want to talk about those nine studies.
- But before doing so, you say, "Each study concluded
- 13 | infrasound levels are multiple orders of magnitude below
- 14 | the threshold of human hearing."
- Do you see that?
- 16 A. T do.
- 17 Q. I mean, that's just saying people don't hear
- 18 infrasound; right?
- 19 A. That is correct.
- 20 Q. Is anyone here contesting that? Do you know? Have
- 21 | you read anyone that's contesting that humans don't hear
- 22 infrasound?
- 23 A. Anyone here?
- Q. Yeah. Have you read anything, anything you've been
- 25 | provided that anyone's contesting that issue?

- 1 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 2 Q. So that sentence there doesn't provide a lot of
- 3 | value in terms of whether or not infrasound from wind
- 4 turbines causes adverse health effects; right?
- 5 A. The infrasound level produced by wind turbines,
- 6 that's correct.
- 7 Q. So let's talk about the German study from 2016. You
- 8 have it marked as Exhibit 1.
- 9 We confirmed earlier you don't know whether or not
- 10 it's peer reviewed; correct?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. You say that, "That study concluded that the
- 13 infrasound levels generated by wind turbines lie clearly
- 14 below the limits of human perception, and there is no
- 15 | scientifically proven evidence of adverse effects in this
- 16 level range."
- 17 That was your conclusion of what the study, the
- 18 German study, showed; right?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. Let's look at that study, Exhibit A5-1. Page 12.
- 21 Are you with me?
- 22 A. Our page 12, our new page 12?
- Q. Exhibit A5-1. Page 12 of that exhibit.
- 24 A. Yes. I'm there.
- 25 Q. There's a conclusion section. And in that section

it says, "It can be concluded that given the respective compliance with legal and professional technical requirements for planning and approval, harmful effects from noise and wind turbines cannot be deduced."

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Now, to paraphrase, isn't that sentence saying as long as they're sited appropriately -- you might quibble with the word "appropriate." But as long as they're sited in accordance with the legal and professional technical requirements, harmful effects aren't going to come up; right?

- A. It sounds reasonable, but I'm stuck. That's a really generalized statement.
- Q. Well, how would you interpret that sentence? "It can be concluded that given the respective compliance with legal and professional technical requirements for planning and approval, harmful effects of noise from wind turbines cannot be deduced."

What's your interpretation of that sentence?

- A. I don't do planning of wind turbines so I don't know how to interpret that. I can just say that based on the knowledge that I have and the peer-reviewed published literature and the reviews that have been done do not indicate there's an adverse health effect associated with wind turbines.
- 25 Q. In this German study, I mean, isn't it saying as

- 1 long as -- we're studying turbines that are sited in
- 2 | accordance with the law that exists; right?
- 3 A. That's what they say. But I presume it's German
- 4 law, but I don't want to make that presumption here.
- 5 | Q. Now it's funny you know German law. Isn't it true
- 6 | many German state governments recommend 1,000 meter or
- 7 3,291-foot setback from residences?
- 8 A. I have not looked at the German laws.
- 9 Q. What about nighttime noise limits? Isn't it true
- 10 that Germany requires a 35, 40 dBA nighttime noise limit?
- 11 A. I have not looked at the German noise laws.
- 12 Q. I mean, to understand whether a project is going to
- 13 | cause adverse health effects, if you're looking at all
- 14 those other projects that have been studied, isn't it
- 15 | important to know how those projects have been sited in
- 16 order to arrive at the conclusion that they're not going
- 17 to cause adverse health effects?
- 18 A. Well, one of the things in epidemiology is you don't
- 19 | get to choose. You don't get to generate all the data
- 20 you use in epidemiology. And especially in reviewing
- 21 | such a broad event as this, as the siting -- or as the
- 22 use of wind energy. So some -- they're all varied.
- But, you know, that's the first question you look
- 24 at: Does the data show there is an adverse health effect
- 25 | in general? And then you can hone it down. You can

- 1 focus it down. That's the scientific method.
- 2 Q. Are you giving any opinion about whether or not this
- 3 project as sited, whether or not it will create adverse
- 4 health effects?
- 5 | A. Partially I'm looking at it in terms of are the
- 6 sound levels that have been modeled, are they within the
- 7 limit that's been set for regulatory purposes.
- 8 Also to hopefully help clarify what the science says
- 9 about adverse health effects associated with wind
- 10 turbines.
- 11 Q. And, again, I don't think you answered the question
- 12 | I asked you.
- 13 A. I'm sorry.
- 14 Q. Are you giving an opinion in this matter that this
- 15 | project as it's proposed is not going to cause adverse
- 16 health effects?
- 17 A. Based on the information I have and being below
- 18 | the -- the only limit that I have seen so far is 45. The
- 19 | modeling indicates it's below 45 so I think it is not
- 20 likely to cause adverse health effects.
- 21 Q. Any other limits that are proposed on this project
- 22 that went into your analysis aside from that 45 dBA
- 23 limit?
- 24 A. I mean, obviously I looked at what was the modeling
- 25 | for shadow flicker. Those were the -- primarily the two

- 1 | things, health effects -- basically it's health effects.
- 2 Q. And I guess the requirements you focused on with
- 3 respect to this project were the 45 dBA and then the
- 4 | shadow flicker requirement.
- 5 A. Well, I mean, there were other questions that came
- 6 | up at various points. A hearing aid device and also I
- 7 | think there was a question about autism.
- 8 Q. Right. But in terms of the requirements or the
- 9 restrictions placed on this project, whether it be a
- 10 noise restriction, a setback restriction, a shadow
- 11 | flicker restriction, what you focused on was whether or
- 12 | not a 45 dBA noise restriction is going to cause any
- 13 issues.
- And you focused on whether or not a 30-hour-per-year
- 15 | shadow flicker is going to cause any issues, and you
- 16 | concluded that, no, you don't think it will; right?
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Asked and answered. We've gone
- 18 around this a couple of times.
- 19 MR. ALMOND: I don't think he has answered the
- 20 question.
- 21 MR. DE HUECK: Go ahead and answer.
- 22 A. Well, that's part of it. And part of it was to
- 23 address the health concerns associated with the wind
- 24 project.
- 25 Q. So just so I'm clear, your opinion, is it your

- 1 opinion that if this project is approved at the 45 dBA
- 2 | noise limitation, it won't cause any adverse health
- 3 effects?
- 4 A. It's not likely to. Will there be health
- 5 | complaints? There's going to be annoyance, yes.
- 6 Q. And your opinion that it's not going to cause
- 7 | adverse health effects at a 45 decibel limit is derived
- 8 from these studies that have analyzed wind turbine
- 9 projects; right?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Don't you think it's important to understand what
- 12 | the noise limitations were in those studies and that
- 13 | those projects were being analyzed in order to place a
- 14 | value at 45 dBA?
- 15 A. Well, one of the things is every project is unique.
- 16 | So, first of all, you have to look at it and say, okay,
- 17 have there been scientific evidence, peer-reviewed
- 18 | published literature that has indicated there's a health
- 19 effect?
- 20 And my analysis is there has not been that opinion.
- 21 | Q. And one of those studies you referenced was this
- 22 | German study. And if German wind farms are obligated to
- 23 | be sited at, for example, 35 decibel limits and they went
- 24 and analyzed those farms and concluded that there's no
- 25 | evidence of adverse health effects, how are you able to

- 1 \mid take that and transfer that to a 45 dBA limit?
- 2 A. Because you add -- you use the accumulated
- 3 | information about all wind farms. It's not at 35 that
- 4 | you have a problem. Is it at 40? Is it at 45? Is it at
- 5 | 50, 55?
- I don't get to choose what the levels are. I get to
- 7 | look at what they've recorded. And they said in that
- 8 | report there's no scientifically proven evidence of
- 9 adverse effects in these level ranges -- level range.
- 10 Excuse me.
- 11 Q. In the German study what was the level range that
- 12 | they were measuring?
- 13 A. I think you told me --
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. I was going to
- 15 object. Asked and answered.
- 16 A. I think we've been talking about 35.
- 17 Q. Let's talk about the Japan study from 2017,
- 18 Exhibit A5-2. And that study found that wind turbine
- 19 | noise is not an issue for adverse health effects; right?
- 20 A. That's what it says on page 4 of 11.
- 21 | Q. And didn't that study actually when defining wind
- 22 turbine noise exclude infrasound?
- 23 A. I'd have to go back and look at it.
- Q. Well, look at page 3 for me, please, and see how
- 25 | they define wind turbine noise.

- 1 A. Where on page 3?
- 2 Q. I might have the page number wrong. Excuse me
- 3 again. I apologize.
- 4 Yeah. The bottom of page 3 there, "Wind turbine
- 5 | noise should be regarded as audible sound noise when
- 6 discussing it."
- 7 We discussed earlier that infrasound was not
- 8 audible; correct?
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. So when they're talking about wind turbine noise
- 11 | they're not considering infrasound; right?
- 12 A. In that particular point.
- But if you turn the page, they talk about wind
- 14 turbines in general. And they talk about low frequency
- 15 | components so I would go with the -- the findings in the
- 16 literature that they reviewed.
- 17 Q. Let's turn to the Massachusetts study, A4-7.
- 18 A. I'm there.
- 19 Q. Turn to page 35 of that exhibit, please.
- 20 A. Exhibit page 35?
- 21 Q. Yes.
- 22 A. I'm there.
- 23 Q. This is talking about the human exposures to wind
- 24 turbines; right? Section 3.2?
- 25 A. Correct.

- 1 \mid Q. And it talks about that they only considered four
- peer-reviewed publications; right?
- 3 A. Could you point me to that spot? I haven't found
- 4 it.
- 5 Q. Yep. Sorry.
- 6 It's the second to the last sentence. "The process
- 7 | identified four studies that generated peer-reviewed
- 8 papers on health effects of wind turbines."
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. And then a few other nonpeer-reviewed documents.
- 11 And that's what this study or this section of the study
- 12 | relied on, four peer-reviewed documents and a few other
- 13 | nonpeer-reviewed; correct?
- 14 A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. Now of the four peer-reviewed studies that they
- 16 | relied on, did any of those consider infrasound?
- 17 A. I'd have to go back and look and see.
- 18 Q. Well, the Pedersen 2007 study, any idea if that one
- 19 studied infrasound?
- 20 A. They studied wind turbines. I can't specifically
- 21 | testify to what levels they measured, if they did.
- 22 Q. And the other two Pedersen studies, as well as the
- 23 | Shepherd study, do you have any knowledge of whether or
- 24 | not any of those four studies actually studied
- 25 infrasound?

- 1 MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. Asked and answered.
- 2 A. They studied wind turbines. I can't tell you the
- 3 | sound levels that they looked at.
- 4 Q. And then if you go on, it talks about the
- 5 | nonpeer-reviewed studies that were looked at. Did any of
- 6 | the nonpeer-reviewed studies look at infrasound?
- 7 A. I don't recall that they did.
- 8 Q. Okay. And when I looked at all eight of those
- 9 studies they analyzed noise from wind turbines using the
- 10 dBA metric.
- Do you have an opinion whether or not the dBA
- 12 | metric's appropriate for studying infrasound, or is that
- 13 | outside of your area?
- 14 A. You know, I've seen it discussed. I looked at the
- 15 literature, and nearly all of it is based on dBA. So I'm
- 16 going to have to use that.
- So I know that the dB(C) has different filters. I'm
- 18 | most familiar with dBA, but that's -- I can't testify any
- 19 further than that.
- 20 | Q. So you can't testify whether or not the dBA metric's
- 21 | appropriate for looking at infrasound?
- 22 A. It can be used, but that -- I can't -- the studies
- 23 | that have been -- the bulk of the literature right now is
- 24 based on dBA measures.
- MR. DE HUECK: Say, Mr. Almond, I hate to

- lacktriangledown disrupt your flow. I just want to point out that it's
- 2 | 12:09, and it sounds like you're going to just keep
- 3 | hammering away on cross.
- 4 Can you kind of give me an update as to where
- 5 you're at, when we can break for lunch?
- 6 MR. ALMOND: 15, 20 minutes.
- 7 MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. de Hueck, may I add some
- 8 information to your consideration?
- 9 MR. DE HUECK: Yes.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Dr. Roberts does have to return
- 11 on his flight and will need to leave by 2:30 today so if
- 12 | we need to press through, we understand, to make him
- 13 available live.
- MR. DE HUECK: Cheri?
- Again, apologies for disrupting your flow.
- 16 O. Let's look at Exhibit A4-2c. It's another exhibit
- 17 | that you pointed the Commission to in response to a
- 18 question about infrasound and its potential adverse
- 19 | health effects on people.
- 20 A. I'm there.
- 21 Q. Can you turn to page 11 for me of that exhibit.
- 22 You see the heading "Results"?
- 23 A. I do.
- Q. And it talks about the literature that it reviewed
- 25 and that only 11 articles reporting seven different

1 cross-sectional studies investigated the associations 2 between wind turbines and health.

Do you see that?

A. I do.

3

4

- Q. So that's what this study was looking at was those
 11 articles that were all focused on those seven
- 7 cross-sectional studies; right?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Now go down to the last sentence on page 11 there
 10 under Noise. It says, "Noise produced by wind turbines
 11 was discussed in all seven studies, but infrasound and
 12 low frequency noise were not specifically measured or
- discussed."
- So if this study wasn't looking at infrasound or noise, why were you directing the Commission to it as support for your position on infrasound and adverse
- 17 health effects?
- 18 A. Because this, like the other studies that we've
- 19 talked about, look at wind turbines in general, and
- 20 that's one of the ways that in epidemiology -- obviously,
- 21 you'd like to know the exact level of exposure to every
- 22 individual in every study, but in epidemiology we don't
- 23 get to do pure data sources.
- And so what I've done is pulled the literature,
- 25 looked at the literature where they have reviewed the

experience around wind turbine farms. And so has each one of them measured infrasound or used C-weighting measurements? Probably not. But they have looked at wind turbines, wind turbine farms, and made conclusions

Q. Go back to your Rebuttal Testimony.

about the health effects.

The question that was asked in your Rebuttal

Testimony was about infrasound particularly from wind

turbines and its potential impacts on human health. And

you referred the Commission to this Exhibit 2c that has

nothing to do with infrasound and specifically says that

noise produced by wind turbines, infrasound and low

frequency noise, were not measured or discussed.

So I guess my question was why were you pointing the Commission to this study in response to that question?

A. Because, number one, it's a national study. It's a scientifically generated review of the literature, and I felt it good to provide the Commission with additional information about the question about health effects.

Excuse me. Health effects associated with wind turbines. I should be specific.

Q. Let's look at the French 2017 study you responded to in that question with.

Exhibit A4-3.

- 1 A. Is there a question?
- 2 Q. Yep. Let's just go straight to the epidemiological
- 3 section of that study. I think it starts on page 9 of
- 4 the exhibit.
- 5 Doesn't it state that they considered that no
- 6 | conclusions can currently be drawn as to the health
- 7 | impacts from noise and turbines?
- 8 A. Could you point me to where you're reading that?
- 9 Q. Yep. Last sentence of the section, Limited and
- 10 Inconclusive Studies. Review of Epidemiological Data.
- 11 "Given the small number of studies undertaken on this
- 12 | topic and their methodological shortcomings, it should be
- 13 | considered that no conclusions can currently be drawn as
- 14 | to the health impacts of noise from wind turbines."
- Do you see that?
- 16 A. Correct. I see that.
- 17 Q. So this study is saying that no conclusions can be
- 18 drawn as to whether or not wind turbines cause adverse
- 19 health effects or whether they don't cause adverse health
- 20 effects.
- 21 A. Well, that's not under the conclusions.
- 22 So if you look at down below where it says,
- 23 | "Exposure to infrasounds and low frequency sounds from
- 24 | wind turbines is merely one of the many assumptions
- 25 reported" blah-blah "to explain these effects. The

situation is not specific to wind turbines."

So what they're saying is the fact that the health concerns are not specific to wind turbines, not specific to the sound that they generate, and so that's one of the conclusions on page 9 of 15.

- Yeah. But so there's no conclusions can be drawn as to whether or not there are adverse health effects caused by wind turbines or whether wind turbines don't cause adverse health effects?
- 10 Actually I think what they were referring to is the 11 fact you can't make a conclusion about whether it's sound 12 or what aspect of the wind turbines it is.
 - epidemiological studies have even been conducted that examine the health effects of infrasounds and low frequency sounds produced specifically by wind turbines."

And actually on page 10 there it says that, "No

I do.

Do you see that?

Is that true?

Α.

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- 20 Best of my knowledge, specific to wind turbines,
- 21 there have been some studies as far as measuring the
- 22 levels but not epidemiological studies.
- 23 So from an epidemiological perspective, we just
- 24 haven't looked at whether or not the noise generated by
- 25 wind turbines causes adverse health effects?

- 1 A. No. That's not correct. That sentence says
- 2 | infrasound and low frequency sound specifically. Sound
- 3 | in general from wind turbines has been evaluated.
- 4 Q. Okay. So you'd agree that no epidemiological
- 5 | studies have looked at whether or not the low frequency
- 6 noise and/or infrasound causes adverse health effects?
- 7 A. That's part of the answer. That's correct.
- 8 | Q. And that warrants additional research into the
- 9 topic; correct?
- 10 A. As a former academician, you can never say that
- 11 there's not more research that needs to be done. And so,
- 12 | yes, this will continue to be evaluated. It's a moving
- 13 target.
- 14 | Q. And you actually encouraged additional research in
- 15 | your peer-reviewed publication; right?
- 16 A. Every academician includes that statement at the end
- 17 of their research as hoping to stimulate additional
- 18 research.
- 19 Q. And so the peer-reviewed publication that you
- 20 | authored, sent to your colleagues for peer review, also
- 21 | got published and stood behind in the academic world, you
- 22 | concluded that the answer to the question of whether or
- 23 | not exposure to wind turbine sound is a human health risk
- 24 is still under review and warrants further research and,
- 25 | further, that the research has demonstrated that low

frequency sound can elicit adverse health effects such as 1 2 vibration or fatigue, as well as annoyance or 3 unpleasantness response. 4 But now you're -- it seems to me you're offering a 5 different opinion to this Commission in your rebuttal 6 than your original testimony. 7 MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. Argumentative. 8 MR. DE HUECK: Sustained. 9 Have you published -- the opinions you're offering, 10 have you included those in any publication? 11 No. Α. That have been peer reviewed? 12 13 Α. No. 14 MR. ALMOND: Okay. No further questions. MR. DE HUECK: Very short recess. 15 16 (A short recess is taken.) 17 MR. DE HUECK: We're back in session. We are at 18 Mr. Fuerniss for cross-examination of Mr. Roberts. 19 MR. FUERNISS: I'll be brief. Just a few 20 questions. 21 CROSS-EXAMINATION 22 BY MR. FUERNISS: 23 Although I would like to visit with you at length.

In discussing the strict, you know, scientific

evaluations, are case reports then of no value?

24

25

- A. No. I think that case reports are that first indication of a potential issue, potential problem. But how many times have you read in the newspaper the latest
- This week my wife told me that after cigarette smoking, obesity is the next most common cause of cancer.
- 8 O. Uh-huh.

discovery is?

That's a case report.

4

7

- 9 A. Actually that's a case series. And so a lot of those case reports never pan out. Most journals,
- 11 peer-reviewed published journals, won't publish case
- reports anymore. And that's very, very unfortunate
 because that's where we get the first kernel of
- because that's where we get the first kernel of identification of a potential problem.
- Q. So it's kind of like going to the doctor. I've got a sore throat, and then he takes it from there?
- 17 A. Exactly. All the way, on the population basis.
- 18 Q. Uh-huh. Okay. Thank you.
- 19 Would you agree with this statement: Action in 20 defense of the public health does not require certainty?
- A. I don't think you can ever achieve certainty. Okay.

 So technically I think that's correct.
- I think that in public health we have to make decisions based on the data that's available, the information that's available. It's not always

comfortable. I can tell you. I helped commissions like this in my tenure at the State Health Department. But you have to make a response based on the data as it's

presented, the information that's there.

Q. So would you say that -- obviously, there's ongoing research in these areas yet -- that we should not wait until we're certain or that we should take some action now to back off to protect public health, whether it's from a negative perception or from an actual physical event?

Do we need to wait until we have absolute certainty or more and more studies are done to get the percentages of ifs down further?

MS. AGRIMONTI: Excuse me. I didn't mean to interrupt you, Mr. Fuerniss, but I've already done it.

You appear to be asking several questions while you're talking so I would object on that basis. If it could be broken down, I think it would be a clearer record.

MR. FUERNISS: Okay.

- Q. Should we wait on more research, I guess is what I'm asking.
- A. You have to make decisions. This Commission has to make decisions based on the data it has. We as scientists have to make decisions. As public health

- 1 officials we have to make decisions based on the science
- 2 that we have.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. Excuse me. That's my opinion.
- 5 | Q. Okay. Could some of these studies and reports -- in
- 6 | their conclusions they will say something like evidence
- 7 of exposure to wind farms was not associated with, you
- 8 know, adverse health effects or whatever. Could they
- 9 just as well say that it was or was not, that it may or
- 10 may not?
- 11 Would that not be a more neutral stance?
- 12 A. It's a more neutral stance, but they're interpreting
- 13 | the data as they see it and as the studies that they've
- 14 looked at.
- 15 Q. All right. When it comes to the acoustic energy
- 16 exposure, is there a difference between acute and
- 17 chronic?
- 18 A. I'm not aware of data on chronic exposures to low
- 19 frequency that has been confirmed. Vibroacoustic disease
- 20 | would be classified as a chronic condition if research
- 21 | ever convinces folks that that's what it is.
- 22 Acute effects, absolutely. I mean, you can lose
- 23 | hearing from high-level exposures. So the chronic --
- 24 But then the chronic effect is also -- not of
- 25 | infrasound but sound in general of like high-frequency

- $oxedsymbol{\mathsf{I}}$ hearing loss that you and $oxedsymbol{\mathsf{I}}$ are going to experience.
- 2 | Q. So you would not necessarily agree with Moller and
- 3 | Pedersen that the low frequency sounds are an
- 4 | especially important part of wind turbine sounds?
- 5 A. I don't -- I think that you have to understand
- 6 | how -- that Pedersen's looking at it -- he really -- I'm
- 7 | not sure if it's a he or a she. I haven't met the
- 8 person.
- 9 It's the annoyance factor that's the big part of
- 10 that, the visual part as well as the auditory part.
- 11 Q. And so, to your way of thinking, perhaps if a person
- 12 | has a negative perception of the whole wind farm concept,
- 13 | they're more likely to be annoyed than if a person has a
- 14 | positive reaction to it?
- 15 A. That is totally human nature and normal.
- 16 Q. Are you dismissing then any possibility of any
- 17 | actual physiological response?
- 18 A. As a scientist you can never rule that out.
- 19 Q. Could you explain a little bit the difference
- 20 between sensitization and habituation?
- 21 A. I'm not sure -- I've looked at it in terms of
- 22 | sensitization and noise exposure, but habituation I have
- 23 | not looked at it in terms of sound so I can't -- I'm not
- 24 | sure that I could say much on that.
- 25 Sensitization is two parts. One of the things is we

often think about sensitization about allergies, getting exposed and the next time you have a reaction. But in hearing you can also have sensitization that you attach certain emotional responses to a particular sound.

We are sensitized to fire engines, to ambulance sirens, that sort of thing. It has nothing to do with the level. It has to do with what we associate with it. So there's -- Steve Cooper talked about sensitization in the Kate Bridgewater Australian study of six to eight people. That was not well defined.

So sensitization can occur, but it has as much emotional response as physical response, I think.

Q. Okay. One last thing.

We talked often here about peer review. Those peer reviewers that basically can a project -- or I should say a paper or a document or something, does anybody ever find out about what they had to say?

A. Usually in the peer-review process there's a series. You get the responses back from the peer -- from the reviewers. You don't know who they are. They're usually not identified, and they give you a chance to -- unless it's a mortal wound to the paper, they give you the chance to address it and clarify it.

So you do get to see the reviewer's responses in most journals.

1 MR. FUERNISS: I quess that's it for now. Thank 2 you. 3 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins. 4 MS. JENKINS: No questions. 5 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour. 6 MS. PAZOUR: No questions. MR. DE HUECK: 7 Staff. 8 MS. REISS: Yes. Just briefly. Thank you. 9 CROSS-EXAMINATION 10 BY MS. REISS: 11 Dr. Roberts, based on your professional opinion, what level of audible sound from wind turbines would lead 12 1.3 to adverse health impacts? 14 I'm not sure that I can give you a number. You 15 know, we know that higher levels of physical painful ones 16 in the 110, 120, the jet engine sort of sound levels --17 you know, I've seen levels as high as 55 that have been 18 for approval of wind farms. I've seen levels I think as 19 low as 35. So I can't answer. I haven't formed an 20 opinion of what is a reasonable level. 21 What I've seen is that in the projects that I've 22 been involved with, they've managed the design and that 23 sort of thing to the level required by the statute or the 24 Commission has required them to do. 25 0. You testified earlier that you reviewed shadow

- flicker as a part of your review of this docket and your testimony; is that correct?
- 3 A. Tangentially. It was primarily about health effects
- 4 and sound. But, yes, I was asked to address the question
- 5 of shadow flicker or be able to.
- 6 Q. Based on your review and in your professional
- 7 opinion, what level of shadow flicker impact from a wind
- 8 turbine could lead to an adverse health impact?
- 9 A. Well, again, the few situations that I've seen, they
- 10 | have done the 30 hours per year. I don't recall about
- 11 | the hours per day. So at this point I don't think
- 12 | there's enough literature to tell us whether 30 is right
- 13 or 25 is right.
- We are all exposed to flicker. And I think the one
- 15 thing I would recommend is carefully consider that shadow
- 16 | flicker is no different than flicker from other devices
- 17 except for the emotional attachment that it may have to
- 18 | the source.
- 19 Q. Okay. And then just briefly, it seems a majority of
- 20 | your Supplemental Direct Testimony focuses on a lack of
- 21 | an epidemiological study proving causation of health
- 22 effects from wind turbines; is that correct?
- 23 A. Well, that's one of the things. But the scientific
- 24 | process goes where -- the case report, like we've talked
- 25 about and then a series of studies and evaluations. And

what I have provided to the Commission is where panels have gone in and looked at the data, looked at the published material, and rendered opinions about it.

That's how we get from association to causation.

Cigarette smoking is the best example. People smoked for years, and there was discussion about lung cancer and that sort of thing. But before the Surgeon General impaneled their group and the group came out and said there is association -- so there has to be a review of the material. And it can be -- it can happen more than once, as I have demonstrated here in my exhibits.

Q. Okay. Typically how long would an epidemiological

A. An epidemiological study to look at wind turbine health effects would be very, very difficult to design. I'm not going to say it couldn't be designed.

study that you discussed take?

But one of the things as we talked about Pedersen for example in the publications in the Scandinavia countries, how do you get around the visibility. Some of the studies have looked at using recordings of wind turbines and using speakers that would give the same infrasound in the sound booth, and they've shown that they can -- the reported adverse effect in the sound booth is directly related to the person's opinion -- I'll use that word, opinion, about wind turbines.

1 So how long would it take? It could take years to 2 do one study. And one study, one epidemiological study, is not going to prove it one way or the other. 3 Okay. So, in your professional opinion, until we 4 5 have an epidemiological study to prove one way or 6 another, there should be no specified limits? 7 No. What I'm saying is we have to use the data, the Α. 8 ongoing research that's being done. You know, there's certainly driving interests in it. Academicians are 10 looking at it. And it's going to be even more difficult. 11 But there will continue to be information available 12 or scientific information developed that will help to 13 refine the point about what the level should be. 14 MS. REISS: Staff has nothing further. Thank 15 you. That will take us to Commission 16 MR. DE HUECK: 17 questions, and I'll start with Vice Chairman Hanson. You 18 can, of course, pass it if you'd like to. 19 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you. Appreciate 20 that. 21 Dr. Roberts, good afternoon. 22 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon to you. COMMISSIONER HANSON: I don't believe I have 23 24 many questions. But that's relatively speaking in 25 comparison to others who have asked you questions, I

1 quess. Did I understand you to say that there are no 2 3 health effects from flicker at any frequencies? I didn't say that. 4 THE WITNESS: No. 5 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Okay. I thought you had 6 said that there are health effects at some frequencies. 7 THE WITNESS: I appreciate the opportunity to 8 clarify that. 9 There is a condition called photosensitive 10 epilepsy. And it was a -- a very -- we can laugh about 11 it now, but a very severe emotional situation occurred 12 in Japan with a -- one of the early Pokeman games where 13 it was at a frequency that would induce epileptic 14 seizures among those people that were conditioned for 15 that. 16 And that is in the range -- it's not in the 17 range of wind turbines. In fact, it's much higher. It's 18 like 10 to 25 hertz, and a wind turbine is about .5 to 19 1.25, maybe 1.5 hertz. 20 So the point I was making is, yes, there is 21 flicker. Light impulses can cause seizures, but it's at 22 higher levels than are associated with wind turbines. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSON: I appreciate your answer 24 because that was the second question. And I'm glad you 25 elaborated on that.

Would strobe lights, for instance, then cause 1 2 the epileptic seizure? 3 THE WITNESS: Some strobe lights can. In fact, 4 at one point I saw something about there is a time 5 interval for a strobe as well. So strobe lights, disco 6 lights, that sort of thing can in some circumstances have 7 the frequency to stimulate it. 8 The Pokeman event, I think, was with blue-green 9 So light may have something to do with it as liaht. 10 well. 11 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Are you familiar -- I'm 12 sure you are -- that wind turbine blades turn at different speeds depending upon wind velocity? 13 14 That's right. And I have actually THE WITNESS: 15 asked about that and was -- my .5 to 1.25 is based on --16 the high end at the time that I did that calculation was 17 based on the maximum speed that the turbine -- that they 18 would operate the turbine at. So and I don't remember 19 the particulars of that, but that's a number that's in the literature. 20 2.1 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Would the light flicker 22 frequency change depending upon whether it was closer to the nacelle or farther away on the blade? 23 2.4 THE WITNESS: There is a difference, I think, in

the flicker, depending on the width of the blade.

25

And as

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1
     you may recall, the blade changes, the face of it
2
     changes, as you go up. And also the tilt of the blade.
 3
              I think in the end it doesn't make that much
 4
     difference because it's all blending as it comes toward
 5
     the recipient.
 6
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: So you don't think that
7
     the frequency changes?
8
              THE WITNESS: I don't think the frequency
9
     changes. Maybe the intensity.
10
              COMMISSIONER HANSON:
                                    Okay.
11
              THE WITNESS: But I'm not an engineer, sir.
12
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right.
1.3
              Can convulsions be brought on in a short
14
     period -- duration? Using the frequency that you were
15
     talking about?
              THE WITNESS:
16
                            Can we --
17
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Does it take a long
18
     period of time to see that flicker, or is it a shorter
     duration?
19
20
              THE WITNESS: It all depends on the individual.
21
     And I'm taking convulsion to mean epilepsy.
22
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Yes.
                                           That's right.
23
              THE WITNESS: Okay. A period of exposure, I'm
24
     not sure about that. I'm not sure I can answer that.
25
              Those people that are extremely sensitive, I
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would say it was a very short period of time, but that's the best I could answer.

1.3

2.1

COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right. A lot of my questions have to do with that specifically, and your clarifications that you're speaking have answered most of them. Appreciate that.

You said -- maybe I'll just let you tell me what you said. But I believe you said that we are sensitive to fire and ambulance sirens; however, our sensitivity has nothing to do with volume. I swear that's what you said.

THE WITNESS: I did say that.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right. Intuitively that just doesn't seem to ring true with me.

Loud noises surprise us. Loud speeches inspire us. Loud crying causes us into action. Loudness deals a great deal -- volume deals a great deal with our lives.

And so volume of something that's irritating, if it's a -- like my tinnitus, I get accustomed to that.

It's 24/7. When I first wake up the volume's louder so it bothers me more then. So I don't take naps during these hearings.

So when that occurs I have to deal with it for that short period of time. If it was like that all the time, it would be very, very burdensome for me. So help

me with that volume makes no difference.

2.4

THE WITNESS: Okay. And what I was talking about there I believe was -- had to do with emotional response. Number one is the emotion. Something is happening.

The volume is one of, is it coming toward me?

Where is it coming from? So it's two different responses

to the same noise.

And so it's -- there are emotional aspects to all the noises that we hear. I think I said probably in testimony that one person's noise is another person's music. A baby crying means different things to different individuals.

A siren means different things. And what I was trying to maybe inartfully explain is that there are emotional aspects to sound as well as the other insight to sound like what direction is it coming from? Is it coming toward me, and how fast?

COMMISSIONER HANSON: All that's good, but it doesn't answer my concern then.

If something irritates us, if we don't want it to be there, the volume is not very loud, we seem to live with it better than if the volume is loud.

At the same time, if it's an irritating noise, even if it's not very loud, it will bother us

significantly. So how does that jive with -- for folks who don't want the turbines close by and they can hear them? Won't that just really bother them a lot?

THE WITNESS: Yes, it will. And I apologize

that I have not been more clear with the question.

Absolutely. When you attach a certain response to a sound -- the classic example is fingernails on a blackboard. I didn't even -- you don't even hear it now but I said that and you felt it, I think, probably. That's something that we all recognize as being extremely irritating.

The other thing is the fear of the unknown. If you know what it -- that sound wakes you up or you hear that sound and you don't know what it's from, is that a gas leak? What is that? And then you explore and find what it is. You can often accept that as not being dangerous, life-threatening and move on and ignore that sound.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you.

And your testimony is that wind turbines, blades, will not emit a frequency that would cause an epileptic convulsion.

THE WITNESS: The flicker, the light frequency, is not high enough that would cause epilepsy. That's correct.

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1
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right. Thank you.
2
              THE WITNESS: Stimulate. I'm not going to say
 3
             Stimulate an epileptic response.
    cause.
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Correct.
 4
 5
              THE WITNESS: Excuse me.
 6
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Good afternoon.
7
              THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.
8
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
                                    In your discussion with
9
    Mr. Almond you talk about the fact that there's been a
10
     45 dBA limit established for this particular project;
11
    correct?
12
              THE WITNESS: In one county. I don't know that
13
     it's for the whole project.
14
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: And I think that is
15
                     In one county.
    correct. Yes.
16
              Is it correct that there have not been any
17
     limits established for the level of infrasound allowed
18
    for this project?
19
              THE WITNESS: As far as I know, that's correct.
20
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: If there have not been any
21
    limits established for infrasound, how can you determine
22
    that infrasound would not cause health issues from this
23
    project?
2.4
              THE WITNESS: I am taking the material that I
25
    have provided, and that's just a snapshot of the
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1
    material, and based on the information provided from
2
    those reviews of peer-reviewed literature, I'm testifying
 3
    to the Commission that that information, that data, does
    not indicate that there's an adverse health effect from
 4
 5
    wind turbines in general at the levels that the various
 6
    studies have done.
7
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: If you would turn to
8
    Exhibit 4 from your Rebuttal Testimony, and I think
    that's been labeled Exhibit A5-4. And page 20.
10
              THE WITNESS: That's the Amsterdam study?
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: It's entitled Health
11
    Effects Related To Wind Turbine Sound.
12
1.3
              THE WITNESS: Yes. Gotcha.
14
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: And I don't think in your
15
    Rebuttal Testimony that you ultimately quoted from this
16
     study, but since you included it as an attachment, I'm
17
     going to ask you a question from it.
18
              THE WITNESS: You said page 20?
19
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Correct.
20
              THE WITNESS: I'm there.
21
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Under Conclusions could
22
    you read the first sentence of the Conclusion.
23
              THE WITNESS: "Noise annoyance is a main
    health" --
2.4
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: We're not on the same --
25
```

1 we're not on the same page. Page 20, upper left-hand corner. 2 3 7. Conclusions. THE WITNESS: 4 Gotcha. 5 COMMISSIONER NELSON: If you could read the 6 first sentence, please. 7 THE WITNESS: "Available scientific research 8 does not provide a definitive answer to the question whether wind turbine sound can cause health effects which 10 are different from those from other sound sources." 11 COMMISSIONER NELSON: So if the science hasn't 12 ultimately answered the question that we're all wrestling 13 with here today, how can we as a Commission proceed with 14 this project without risking making a very large mistake 15 that may have health implications down the road for the 16 good folks down there? THE WITNESS: Well, number one is the last part 17 18 of that sentence is really important. "For those other sound sources." 19 So it's combining -- for me that conclusion is 20 21 drawing on all the information we have about sound. Not 22 just about infrasound. Not specific for infrasound. 23 And, number two is this is just one study. 24 one review out of the many that I have had. And, as I 25 testified, I won't always agree with everything, but in

```
general what I'm saying is the literature does not
1
2
     indicate there's a specific adverse health effect
 3
    associated with wind turbines.
              So my opinion would be or my suggestion would be
 4
 5
    to make the decision based on the literature that's
    before us now. The answer -- you can't -- as was asked
 6
7
     over here, the science will never be complete.
8
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Yeah. And I heard that
    earlier testimony. And I'd love to perry that with you,
10
    but in the interest of time I'm going to let that go.
11
              One other, if you would look at Exhibit 1 from
12
    your Rebuttal Testimony, and that's titled Low Frequency
13
    Noise, Including Infrasound: Report On The Measurement
14
    Project.
15
              THE WITNESS:
                            That's A4-1?
16
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
                                    A5-1.
17
              THE WITNESS: A5-1.
18
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: From your Rebuttal
19
     Testimony. And I'm looking at page 10.
20
              THE WITNESS:
                            That's the German study?
21
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
                                    I believe so, yes.
22
              THE WITNESS: And that is our page 10.
23
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
2.4
              THE WITNESS: Got it. I'm there.
25
              COMMISSIONER NELSON: And in the lower left
```

corner, the bullet point. And they're talking about 1 2 doing some actual measuring of infrasound. And this 3 bullet point says that, "At a distance of 700 meters from 4 the wind turbines it was observed by means of 5 measurements that when the turbine is switched on the 6 measured infrasound level did not increase or only 7 increased to a limited extent. The infrasound was generated mainly by the wind and not by the turbines." 9 And so what -- here's what I'm really wrestling 10 with: Whether we as a Commission are ultimately going to 11 be able to decide in this proceeding whether or not infrasound is harmful or not from wind turbines. I don't 12 1.3 know if we're going to be able to determine that. 14 But what I'm taking from this bullet point is 15 that if you're at least 700 meters out, it's 16 immeasurable. It's not there. Is that a correct 17 interpretation of what this is saying? 18 THE WITNESS: In my opinion, it is. 19 MR. ALMOND: Can I object to that question? 20 Lacks a foundation to answer that. I just want that out 21 there. But I understand you're the one asking it. 22 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Well, yeah. 23 looking for really an honest answer here. 2.4 But, I mean, yeah. We don't know the parameters 25 under which this measurement was done, but that's what

it's saying.

1.3

And I will be asking your witnesses the very same question. Because I need to understand how far does this stuff go? And that's the genesis of my question.

THE WITNESS: And I appreciate the genesis of your question.

And the point being that it is what it is, number one, is at 700 meters they couldn't identify it. That doesn't mean at 650 they couldn't identify it either. So that's one of the things that you have to continue to deal with in the science world. You have to take the information as it's presented.

So I find comfort in that at 700 meters, but does that mean that you should set it at 700 meters? No. You can be comfortable at 700 meters, but if there's data that shows that it's 600 or 500 and the same thing is occurring, then you can have comfort with those levels as well.

So your question is very, very important.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: And I understand -- and I agree with everything that you've said, and I've gone through that thought process in my mind: Is there some lesser distance. But they didn't test that, other than I think they tested it at 300 meters.

And so, based on their tests, somewhere between

300 and 700 it dissipated. 2 THE WITNESS: Exactly. In this situation. But, 3 you know, this is --One of the other things that this study does is 4 5 it also talks about the infrasound that's all around us. 6 And one of the things is -- that concerns me is setting a 7 level for infrasound might restrict this room. Might 8 restrict my home. 9 So it's a delicate process. As you know better 10 than me, it's not an easy process. But I think that you 11 have use the science that's before us. It's always --12 science is never complete. And I'd love to have that 13 discussion with you, but we -- we try. 14 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. No further 15 questions. 16 MR. DE HUECK: Chair Fiegen. 17 (Discussion off the record.) 18 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: I'm going to go back to the 19 question about the Germany dBA and that going to -- was it 35 to 37 or 33/37? 20 21 THE WITNESS: I don't remember the range. 22 Around 35 in Germany. 23 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. And then you also 24 stated that you have been part of -- I don't know exactly 25 how you'd clarify that, part of something that were 55 to

35. So I don't know if they were evidentiary hearings, wind dockets and developments, if you were talking about --

1.3

Could you clarify the range that you talked about from 55 to 35?

THE WITNESS: Be glad to. Thank you for the question. I'd like to clarify that.

It's not at evidentiary hearings. It's what was in the literature in various countries and at various times. And that's one of the other things besides just looking at the literature like in 2013 when we wrote that paper. Every year more information becomes available.

Numbers change over time.

So 55 was -- at that point, as I recall -- because I was kind of startled by it because I hadn't seen a 55 before. That was early on in not necessarily wind turbines but road traffic in general, railroad traffic and that sort of thing, and where adverse health effects were clearly associated with it.

So it was not about siting of wind turbines.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So the only thing about the 35 dBA is from Germany? Otherwise, you didn't see it anywhere on wind? That is the only place that when you reviewed your literature -- is that the only publication that you saw 35 dBA or 33 or 37? I can't remember

exactly. 1 2 THE WITNESS: No. There are other countries 3 that have numbers in the range of 35 to 40. But one --4 and I can't testify to which and that sort of thing. Just in my reading I recall that. 6 My problem is the fact you always have to go 7 back and look at it and see what they're saying with that 8 35, whether it's 10 minutes, eight hours, a yearly average. You've got to look at it in terms of what that 10 number -- how that number is generated. 11 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Very true. 12 In science, as you know, there are so many 1.3 factors. 14 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. 15 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: And you always have to 16 figure out what the factors are in the evaluation or the 17 peer review or whatever the case. 18 So as a Commissioner, we are certainly looking 19 at sound. And how can I make a decision that the 20 industry quidelines of 45 dBA is the number when we've 2.1 looked at a -- actually a lot of the literature you 22 reviewed, according to what I'm hearing from you, is 23 certainly a range. There's some under. 2.4 THE WITNESS: That is correct. 25 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. DE HUECK: Any redirect?

MS. AGRIMONTI: Yes. Thank you.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. AGRIMONTI:

Q. Dr. Roberts, you had a number of questions about infrasound, and you noted that there is infrasound all around us.

Can you please describe the sources of infrasound that is in our environment?

A. Well, when you go into literature, first of all, they talk about volcanos and surf, and I don't think there's either one of them in South Dakota so we won't talk about those.

become sensitized to measuring for sound levels.

Refrigerators, air ducts, air handling units are one of the things. Many motors have low frequency -- generate low frequency sound.

But I've got a sound meter on my phone, and I've

have regulations about infrasound, we're going to have to consider the other sources. Our lungs, our heart, our diaphragm, my GI tract all make low frequency sounds. My joints make low frequency sounds as well.

So that's one of the other things. If we begin to

Q. When you were answering questions with Commissioner Nelson you noted that wind turbines were not

- 1 associated -- sorry. The literature showed that there
- 2 | were no health effects caused by wind turbines in
- 3 general. I wanted to follow up and ask if that includes
- 4 infrasound?
- 5 A. When they study wind turbines they study the full
- 6 gamut of whatever sound profile that wind turbine is
- 7 | generating or that model is generating. So that would
- 8 include infrasound as well.
- 9 Q. You also testified in response to Mr. Almond about
- 10 | the fact that science can't prove the negative. Can you
- 11 explain a little bit more about that?
- 12 A. Well, part of it is the fact that science is never
- done. But unless you -- in science to prove the positive
- 14 | you have a whole series of studies that show a positive
- 15 response or -- that it's more likely or not that X causes
- 16 Y.
- 17 We're never comfortable, unless we do the whole
- 18 population, that we can truly say negative. Just like we
- 19 | can't say truly positive based on one study.
- 20 But the other thing is the fact that once a group of
- 21 | studies have gotten out there that there is no
- 22 | association, people are not going to do anymore research
- 23 on that unless something else stimulates them.
- So we say in science that you can't prove the
- 25 negative.

- 1 Q. Is irritation a health effect?
- 2 A. No. Well, irritation when your shoe rubs your heel
- 3 | and causes a blister, that is a health effect. But me
- 4 being irritated because of a late flight or whatever,
- 5 | that is -- or a particular process, that is a normal
- 6 emotional response.
- 7 Q. Okay. Mr. Almond also asked you about some of your
- 8 exhibits, and I'd like you to turn to Exhibit A5-1,
- 9 page 12.
- 10 A. Okay. I'm there.
- 11 Q. Are you there?
- I don't believe that you had the opportunity to
- 13 review the conclusion. Can you please read the
- 14 | conclusion from that study.
- 15 A. The entire one?
- 16 Q. Just the first paragraph.
- 17 A. "Infrasound is caused by a large number of different
- 18 | natural and technical sources. It is an everyday part of
- 19 our environment that can be found everywhere. Wind
- 20 turbines make no considerable contribution to it. The
- 21 | infrasound levels generated by them lie clearly below the
- 22 | limits of human perception. There is no scientifically
- 23 | proven evidence of adverse effects in this level range."
- Q. Thank you. Then I'd like you to move to
- 25 Exhibit A5-2 and page 4.

- 1 A. I'm there.
- 2 Q. All right. I'd like you to read the last sentence
- 3 of the Finding section on that page.
- 4 A. At the bottom of the page, or up at the top?
- 5 | Q. At the bottom of the page under Findings From The
- 6 | Literature Review On Health Effects. The last paragraph.
- 7 Yeah. It's a one-sentence paragraph.
- 8 A. "No clear association is seen between infrasound or
- 9 the low frequency noise of wind turbine noise and human
- 10 health."
- 11 Q. And this was the Japanese literature?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 Q. And what was the panel that reviewed that
- 14 | information or -- let me rephrase that.
- Tell me about the authors of that study and why you
- 16 included it in your references.
- 17 A. The Japanese Minister of Environment set an
- 18 expert committee in 2013 to review the published reports
- 19 | and evaluate basically wind turbine noise. And this was
- 20 the -- one of the presentations. This particular
- 21 | presentation was 2017.
- 22 Q. All right. Then finally Exhibit A4-3, page 10.
- 23 Actually I'll start on page 9. Would you agree that
- 24 | the conclusions of this literature start on page 9?
- 25 A. This French study?

- 1 | Q. It's Exhibit A4-3, page 9.
- 2 A. I'm there.
- 3 | Q. All right. And is this the beginning of the
- 4 | conclusion connection of the article? Or what is the
- 5 | proper term to describe this document?
- 6 A. This is, again, a panel review organized by the
- 7 | French Director of what's called risk prevention and also
- 8 | the director of health. Basically the Public Health
- 9 Department.
- 10 Q. All right. The next page, page 10, it lists a
- 11 | number of bullet points that are summaries of what they
- 12 | found in the literature; is that right?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. And the fourth bullet point says, "The connection
- 15 | between potential physiological effects and the
- 16 occurrence of a health effect has not been documented."
- 17 Is that consistent with your conclusion?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- 19 Q. And then later down it says, "Due to its weak
- 20 | scientific basis, vibroacoustic disease cannot explain
- 21 | the reported symptoms."
- 22 Do you also agree with that?
- 23 A. I do.
- 24 Q. What is grey literature?
- 25 A. Grey literature is literature that's basically

- 1 generated through the government process. The government
- 2 | empanels a group of individuals. The government could be
- 3 a State Health Department. It could be a State
- 4 Department of Environmental Health. It could be a
- 5 legislative committee.
- And so they invite a group of scientists together to
- 7 | review the literature and provide them with insight and
- 8 | basically distill down what the science is around a
- 9 particular topic.
- 10 Q. Please turn to Exhibit I-35. This is the --
- 11 A. Got it.
- 12 | Q. The article that you authored.
- Can you please tell me what the purpose of I-35 was
- 14 | when you wrote it?
- 15 A. This was -- I had gone into the literature and done
- 16 | a review of the literature that was available at about
- 17 | two thousand -- late 2012, I think, at that point and to
- 18 assess what the literature said about wind turbines and
- 19 health risk.
- 20 Q. How does what is in the article, I-35, relate to the
- 21 | literature you referenced in your testimony?
- 22 A. Well, the references that I have used in the
- 23 | testimony by and large have been published after this so
- 24 I have continued to follow the literature after I put
- 25 this article together.

So what I have presented is actually -- in the exhibit is the up-to-date literature. So I did not include my paper partly out of the fact that the -- there are more current reviews that have been done since I did mine.

Q. All right. And then on page I have 8 of 17 of that document, at that time about five lines down you noted that, "The adverse physical effects have yet to be fully characterized."

Actually let me start at the beginning of the sentence. "But the association of a particular pathway between low frequency sound specifically generated from wind turbine's annoyance and adverse physical health effects has yet to be fully characterized."

Do you see that?

A. I do.

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- Q. Do you continue to believe that's the case?
- A. Well, I think it's one of those things where it continues to be an attempt to address it, but at this
- 20 | time that's my opinion. My opinion stays the same.
- 21 | Q. And then I'd like to go back to the literature that
- 22 you did reference in your testimony. There were some
- 23 questions about whether it was peer reviewed and you
- 24 | noted that several of them were but for the most part you
- 25 | were not aware of the peer-review process for the

government publications.

Do you recall that?

A. I do.

2

3

4

- Q. Please tell us why you found the literature that you cited to be persuasive and informative of your opinion.
- 6 A. One of the things is these are independent panels.
- 7 | So each goes about it in a different way. And they're
- 8 using some of the same literature. So it's really a
- 9 different set of scientists looking at the literature. A
- 10 different country.
- So it's one step up from one published paper. It's
- 12 | an assimilation, if you will, of the research that they
- 13 | found -- that they deemed through their process to be the
- 14 most important for them to review and summarize for their
- 15 government.
- 16 Q. And then finally will you please summarize the
- 17 various bases of sources of information and experience
- 18 | that you relied upon to form your opinion.
- 19 A. My years of experience at the State Health
- 20 Department dealing with health concerns and community
- 21 | concerns, cluster investigations, my training as a
- 22 | physician, my training as an epidemiologist, and my
- 23 general experience in addressing these sorts of health
- 24 questions.
- It's based on the literature, to the best of my

- ability, to pull it together to help answer this
- 2 question.

5

- MS. AGRIMONTI: That's all I have. Thank you.
- 4 MR. DE HUECK: Recross, Mr. Almond.

RECROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. ALMOND:

- 7 Q. Dr. Roberts, you started off on redirect here
- 8 talking about how infrasound comes from several different
- 9 sources in the environment.
- 10 Is all infrasound equal from a health perspective?
- 11 A. I would say so.
- 12 Q. So the infrasound generated by your heart is no
- different than the infrasound generated by a wind turbine
- 14 | is your position from a health perspective?
- 15 A. At the same volumes I think that they would be
- 16 treated similar.
- 17 | O. And what about a constant infrasound --
- 18 A. As far as physiological response. Emotional
- 19 response might be different.
- 20 Q. And staying with physiological responses, what about
- 21 | a constant infrasound versus a nonconstant infrasound?
- 22 Are those going to elicit the same physiological
- 23 responses?
- 24 A. No. Again, they would -- at the same volume you
- 25 | might attach different significance to it based on your

- concerns. I'll just stop there.
- 2 Q. What are the physiological responses to infrasound?
- 3 A. The physiological responses at high levels would be
- 4 some of the things that we talked about, aura and that
- 5 | sort of thing. That's again at high pressure levels
- 6 because we don't hear those lower levels below probably
- 7 | 16 or 20, something like that.
- 8 But it could be increased heart rate. It could be
- 9 increased breathing. But some times you can't separate
- 10 | those from the emotional response to a sound, if it
- 11 scares you.
- 12 Q. Are you aware of any peer-reviewed studies that
- 13 | found that there's a physiological response to a low
- 14 | volume -- or low frequency infrasound in the inner ear?
- 15 A. There have been some work on that where they're
- 16 looking at brain imaging to see how it's processed. But
- 17 | that's very early, and as far as I can tell, it has not
- 18 been interpreted one way or the other.
- 19 Q. So are you aware of any studies focusing on the
- 20 | inner ear and the physiological response that it imposes
- 21 on the inner ear -- strike that. Let me ask it in a
- 22 different way.
- 23 Are you aware of any peer-reviewed studies that say
- 24 | that infrasound at low frequencies have a physiological
- 25 response on the inner ear?

- 1 A. I've seen people who have had opinions, have stated
- 2 opinions of that. I've seen studies by -- in guinea pigs
- 3 | by Salt that are attempting to evaluate that, but I'm not
- 4 aware that it's confirmed.
- 5 | Q. And those studies that you've seen, are those peer
- 6 reviewed?
- 7 A. Some of the -- I'm not sure the opinions are always
- 8 peer reviewed. Sometimes they'll be editorial.
- 9 The Salt studies have been peer reviewed.
- 10 Q. Those have concluded that infrasound at low
- 11 | frequencies elicit a physiological response in the inner
- 12 | ear; correct?
- 13 A. Well, number one is those are opinions in
- 14 | peer-reviewed articles. So there's data, and then
- 15 | there's opinions. That's his opinion.
- 16 And I'd have to look at it and see. I can't
- 17 | remember. But most of his work is done on guinea pigs.
- 18 O. You were asked whether or not irritation is an
- 19 | adverse health effect, and I think the example you gave
- 20 was rubbing your heel on the back of your shoe is
- 21 | irritable.
- The blister that forms is the adverse health
- 23 effect?
- 24 A. I was actually trying to be more specific as far as
- 25 | medically. Irritation can be abrasion of the skin, or it

- can be an emotional irritation. So I'm just separating
- 2 | those two. I'm not trying to be funny.
- 3 | Q. And I'm just trying to understand the analogy you
- 4 were using. So maybe explain the analogy for me.
- 5 A. Well, I was just separating out that I wanted to
- 6 talk specifically about the emotional aspects of
- 7 | irritation, not the physical aspects that would come from
- 8 friction of your skin or something like that.
- 9 Q. Okay. Different topic, going back to infrasound.
- 10 Studies have concluded that physiological effects
- 11 have been found in animals for levels of infrasound in
- 12 | low frequency noise; right?
- 13 A. At high levels.
- 14 Q. Yeah. And no epidemiological studies to date have
- 15 actually examined the health effect of infrasounds and
- 16 | low frequency sounds produced by wind turbines;
- 17 | correct?
- 18 A. Actually they have in the sound booth studies that I
- 19 talked about. I think there are three or four of those.
- 20 | I haven't -- I want to go back and look at those.
- 21 But what they were doing is they were actually
- 22 | evaluating the aspect, the emotional aspect, what you
- 23 | emotionally assign to the wind turbine. If you didn't
- 24 like the wind turbine, if you were afraid of the wind
- 25 | turbine, that sort of thing, would you respond

differently to the sound?

2.4

Basically they showed -- it was either a video clip or a news article, either adverse -- talking adversely about wind turbines or -- against wind turbines or for wind turbines. And if they pre-infected, if you will, with the information against wind turbines, they were more likely to report symptoms than the other way.

So there have been studies of infrasound, recorded infrasound of wind turbines.

- Q. My question was were those epidemiological studies?
- A. They're political studies, and so -- epidemiological studies are usually looking at populations using data that's already been collected. And clinical studies are where you actually give somebody a medication or you expose them to something. So they're two different types

But the clinical studies do contribute to the epidemiology that we know.

- Q. So the answer to the original question of whether or not there have been epidemiological studies that have examined the health effects of infrasounds and low frequency sounds produced by wind turbines, there haven't been any?
- A. Given my answer, yes, they have.
- 25 O. There have been --

of studies.

- 1 A. Based my attempt to explain to you, I would answer
- 2 yes.
- 3 Q. Let's look at Exhibit A4-3. Page 10. You were
- 4 looking at that with Ms. Agrimonti. The last bullet
- 5 point there. Well, in the first --
- 6 It says, "No epidemiological studies to date have
- 7 examined the health effects of infrasounds and low
- 8 frequency sounds produced specifically by wind turbines."
- 9 Given that statement, was this French study just
- 10 unaware of the studies you just referenced or --
- 11 A. Either they were unaware of it, or they considered
- 12 | clinical studies not epidemiological studies.
- 13 Q. Do you consider clinical studies epidemiological
- 14 studies?
- 15 A. They can contribute to the epidemiology. That's
- 16 correct.
- MR. ALMOND: All right. Nothing further.
- MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss.
- 19 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 20 BY MR. FUERNISS:
- 21 Q. Yes. I just have one yes or no question.
- 22 Commissioner Fiegen brought up the 35 decibel level in
- 23 | some jurisdictions around the world.
- 24 Are you familiar with the ISO 1996-1971
- 25 recommendations for allowable community noise limits

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1
     where they suggest rural during the daytime 35 dBA,
2
     evening 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. 30 dBA, at night 11:00 p.m. to
 3
     7:00 a.m. 25 dBA?
 4
              I'm not familiar. I recognize that
         No.
5
     designation, but I have not looked at that specifically.
 6
     And what I would look for is is are they talking about
7
     an average over what period of time.
8
              MR. FUERNISS:
                             Thank you.
9
              MR. DE HUECK: Mrs. Jenkins.
10
              MS. JENKINS: No questions.
11
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour.
12
              MS. PAZOUR: No questions.
13
              MR. DE HUECK:
                             Staff.
14
              MS. REISS:
                         No questions. Thank you.
15
              MR. DE HUECK:
                             Thank you very much for your
16
     testimony. You may step down.
17
                      (The witness is excused.)
18
              MR. DE HUECK: With that, we'll be breaking.
19
              Let's be back at 2:30.
20
              MS. AGRIMONTI: And, Mr. de Hueck, I understood
21
     that we were going to be running late each day.
                                                       Is that
22
     still the plan?
23
              MR. DE HUECK: Yeah.
                                    That is still the plan.
24
     We haven't caucused about anything but 7 o'clock was on
25
     the table and at the rate we're going, it's looking like
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we're going to need every minute of it. 1 MS. AGRIMONTI: 2 Thank you. 3 (A lunch recess is taken.) 4 MR. DE HUECK: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome back. Docket EL17-028. 26. EL18-026, 5 6 Prevailing Wind Park Docket is back in session after a lunch recess. 7 8 We are in Prevailing Wind Park's direct case, and, Prevailing Wind Park, you may call your next witness 10 to be sworn in. 11 Oh, I had one announcement. If you have any 12 witnesses -- and it goes for everyone. Any witnesses who 13 have an airplane to catch or a deadline, could you let us 14 know a little more in advance? And that would be 15 appreciated. MS. SMITH: Certainly. We will do that. 16 And we 17 had talked with opposing counsel and with Staff. We just 18 failed to share it with you. We apologize for that. 19 the court reporter. We would call Karen Peters. 20 21 Karen Peters, 22 called as a witness, being first duly sworn in the above 23 cause, testified under oath as follows: 2.4 25

DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. SMITH:

- 3 | Q. Can you state your name for the record and get your
- 4 address as well?
- 5 A. It's Karen Peters. 29416 402nd Avenue, Wagner,
- 6 South Dakota.
- 7 Q. And can you explain your familiarity with the
- 8 project that's proposed here today?
- 9 A. We're early participants of the Prevailing Wind
- 10 Project.
- 11 Q. And can you talk about who you are, where you live?
- 12 Just introduce yourself to the Commissioners.
- 13 A. We are in the wind project and we own land,
- 14 approximately 240 acres, and our house is located there.
- 15 We have cow/calf pair organization as far as on our farm.
- 16 We rent out our farm to our nephew.
- MS. SMITH: And I'm going to ask, Hayley or
- 18 | Bridget, can you bring up the map so that we have it up
- 19 here. We're going to bring up a blow-up of the map of
- 20 the project.
- 21 | Q. And can you talk a little bit more about the
- 22 | property? You indicated you have cow/calf pairs. And
- 23 | how big a place do you have?
- 24 A. We have about 240 acres. We have a house in that
- 25 | area. And I garden off to the side. I do work full

- 1 | time. My husband's semiretired with a cow/calf
- 2 operation.
- 3 | Q. And how long have you been on your place?
- 4 A. He purchased the place in 1977, and I've been on the
- 5 | place with him for 22 years.
- 6 | Q. And why did you decide to participate in the
- 7 | Prevailing Winds Project?
- 8 A. We were familiar with the Beethoven Project. But
- 9 also due to the fact that my thought is wind is free so
- 10 | why not capture it.
- 11 We are a very technical world anymore, and we're
- 12 using more and more electricity so if we can generate the
- wind and produce electricity, why not do it.
- 14 Q. And you mentioned that you're an early participant.
- 15 | Have you also had interactions with Prevailing Wind Park
- 16 | since they purchased the project?
- 17 A. Yes. We have attended several of the meetings and
- 18 | just learned more about the project all the time.
- 19 Q. As a landowner in the project, do you have any
- 20 | concerns regarding the project? And, if so, have those
- 21 been addressed?
- 22 A. I'm not aware of any concerns that we've had at this
- 23 point.
- 24 Q. And do you have a wind turbine on your land?
- 25 A. No, we do not.

- Q. In your view how do you think the project will
- 2 affect the community?
- 3 A. My husband's a clerk at the township. And Beethoven
- 4 | is not too far away from us, and we have seen the revenue
- 5 that has been generated from the Beethoven Project to our
- 6 townships and to our county.
- 7 And as a result of that, our roads and our -- are
- 8 being maintained. We're replacing culverts. Where
- 9 several years ago we were looking from year to year what
- 10 | we could do and what we couldn't do.
- Also the education revenue that is generated in the
- 12 | community is very good. The Prevailing Winds hopefully
- 13 | will produce jobs in the area for people.
- 14 Q. And if you look in front of you, I've opened it
- 15 | hopefully to the right page. There is an Exhibit A20-2.
- Do you see that right there?
- 17 A. Yes, I do.
- 18 Q. Is that a map that shows your property and the
- 19 turbines around your property?
- 20 A. Yes, it does.
- 21 Q. And just for reference, again, that's in
- 22 Exhibit A20-2. It's responses to data requests.
- 23 And then --
- MS. SMITH: Hayley, do you mind bringing that
- 25 up?

- 1 Q. If you could for the Commissioners -- and I'll do my
- 2 | best to help because it's going to be pointing. But if
- 3 | you could show the Commissioners where your property is
- 4 | in the project area, that would be helpful.
- 5 A. We're right here in the project (indicating).
- 6 MS. SMITH: So Ms. Peters is pointing over to
- 7 the kind of middle western edge of the project.
- 8 Q. And do you happen to know your section/township?
- 9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)
- 10 Q. We're getting help from the audience, but we're
- 11 going to say it's Section 23.
- 12 A. 23.
- MS. SMITH: All right. I have no further
- 14 questions.
- MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Almond, cross-examination.
- 16 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. ALMOND:
- 18 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Peters.
- 19 A. Hello.
- 20 Q. When did you sign up for this project?
- 21 A. We were one of the first participants of it when we
- 22 | were signing up land. And I'm not good with dates or
- 23 | times so I can't tell you that.
- 24 Q. Who approached you and asked you to sign up?
- 25 A. Different people, part of the Prevailing Winds.

- 1 Q. Yeah. Who?
- 2 A. Ron --
- 3 Q. Is that Ron Hornstra?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Anyone else?
- 6 A. He's just the one that sticks in my mind.
- 7 Q. You can't remember anyone else who approached you?
- 8 A. Not names, no.
- 9 Q. How about Roland Jurgens?
- 10 A. I know --
- MS. SMITH: Objection. Asked and answered.
- MR. ALMOND: I'm attempting to refresh her
- 13 recollection here.
- MR. DE HUECK: Yep. Go ahead.
- 15 Q. Do you know Roland Jurgens?
- 16 A. I know Roland, but he didn't talk to us about it.
- 17 Q. Keith Thorstad?
- 18 A. Name doesn't sound familiar. Sorry.
- 19 Q. Did Mr. Hornstra -- when he asked you to sign up
- 20 your acres, did you sign up for the Beethoven Project and
- 21 | the Prevailing Winds Project at the same time?
- 22 A. No. We were not in the footprint for the Beethoven
- 23 Project.
- 24 Q. Okay. So you didn't sign up for the Beethoven
- 25 Project?

- 1 | A. Not that I'm aware of. My husband took care of a
- 2 | lot of things so I'm just being honest in saying I'm not
- 3 | familiar with that.
- 4 Q. And do you have an approximate year when you signed
- 5 | up for the Prevailing Winds Project?
- 6 A. I'm sorry. I don't.
- 7 Q. Were you involved when Mr. Hornstra came and asked
- 8 | you guys to sign up your land, or was your husband only
- 9 involved in that?
- 10 A. My husband and I were both involved with that.
- 11 Q. And you said you had 240 acres?
- 12 A. I believe that's what we have. We have another
- 13 | 20-acre piece off to the side.
- 14 Q. What's your husband's name?
- 15 A. Larry Peters.
- 16 Q. And I think I'm looking at the same map you pointed
- 17 | at, but it looks like there's three separate parcels of
- 18 | land all close to one another that you guys own?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And you guys signed up all three parcels?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Which parcel is your residence on? Is it the far
- 23 left one there?
- 24 A. If I could see roads, I would be able to identify it
- 25 better.

- 1 MS. SMITH: If I may, if you look at
- 2 Exhibit A20-2, if you have that one, it's the same three.
- 3 It's that one that's open.
- 4 Does that help you?
- 5 Q. Maybe I'll try asking it a different way. Of the
- 6 | three parcels that you own, do you guys live in the
- 7 | western most parcel?
- 8 A. Our house is located on the -- on the south. Yes.
- 9 So it would be the southern -- I don't know how to
- 10 describe it.
- I'm sorry. I don't know how to describe it. I just
- 12 know I live there.
- 13 Q. And when you were talking to Mr. Hornstra about
- 14 | signing up for this project were you hoping to get a
- 15 turbine or turbines?
- 16 A. Initially we were hoping, yes.
- 17 Q. How many turbines were you hoping to get?
- 18 A. If we got one, we would be very happy.
- 19 | Q. Was it represented to you the possibility of getting
- 20 more than one turbine?
- 21 A. No. No. There was actually no representation that
- 22 | we'd get any turbines.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to have you look at Exhibit I-16.
- 24 Were either you or your husband provided with a document
- 25 | that was similar to that?

- 1 A. I don't remember seeing that.
- 2 Q. Okay. That's the only question I have about that
- 3 exhibit so you can set that aside.
- 4 But if you could flip to I-17 in that book -- no.
- 5 | To your right. The book you were just looking at.
- 6 Does this look similar to the lease agreement that
- 7 | you and your husband signed up for this project?
- 8 A. Yes, it does.
- 9 Q. Okay. Do you have any family members in the project
- 10 | area aside from you and your husband?
- 11 A. I'm sorry?
- 12 Q. Do you have any family members in the project area?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. And aside from through the lease agreement that you
- 15 | signed, are you or your husband in any way set to get any
- 16 | sort of financial benefit from this project?
- 17 A. Well, the financial benefit that you get from it is
- 18 just being a part of the -- signing up for the program in
- 19 the land area.
- 20 Q. Right. So you guys aren't investors in any other
- 21 | sort of project or future agreements or deals or anything
- 22 like that that would allow you and your family to
- 23 | financially benefit from this project outside of that
- 24 lease agreement?
- 25 A. We are investors.

- 1 Q. And what do you mean by "investors"?
- 2 A. We purchased stock in it initially.
- 3 Q. In?
- 4 A. Prevailing Winds.
- 5 Q. And is the income of Prevailing Winds at all
- 6 | affiliated with whether or not this project goes forward?
- 7 A. Well, with any type of investment you're going to
- 8 | get a return on your investment hopefully. But it's --
- 9 it is what it is.
- 10 Q. My understanding is that the assets of Prevailing
- 11 Winds with respect to this project were sold to sPower
- 12 | and that Prevailing Winds no longer owns --
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. -- any of the assets.
- So my question is is -- does Prevailing Winds have
- 16 any ability to benefit financially from this project any
- 17 longer?
- 18 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 19 Q. So whether this project gets built or not, as an
- 20 | investor of Prevailing Winds, you guys have no financial
- 21 benefit to this project anymore.
- 22 A. I don't know if I can answer that honestly.
- 23 Q. That's fair.
- 24 Are you familiar with the other investors of
- 25 Prevailing Winds? Do you know who they are?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Do you know if some people are investors or not?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. I'm going to just read off a list of names, and if
- 5 | you could tell me whether or not they're an investor in
- 6 Prevailing Winds --
- 7 MS. SMITH: Objection. Asked and answered.
- MR. DE HUECK: I agree. She said she doesn't
- 9 know.
- MR. ALMOND: May I be allowed to try to refresh
- 11 her recollection?
- MR. DE HUECK: How long is your list?
- MR. ALMOND: It can go quickly.
- 14 Q. Doug Koupal?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Any idea if he's an investor?
- 17 A. Well, I don't know if he's an investor or not. I
- 18 just know him.
- 19 Q. Oh, do you know of any other investors in Prevailing
- 20 Winds?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. Not that I could recite names, no.
- Q. But if you heard the name, would you be able to tell
- 25 me?

- A. Possibly not.
 Q. Alfred Bartunek?
 A. I know the gentleman.
- 4 Q. So if you don't know if they're investors, just say
- 5 I don't know.
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. If you do know, say yes.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. If you know they're not, say no.
- 10 A. All right.
- 11 Q. Speed this up. Arlo Dewald?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Mildred Roth?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Keith Raysby?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Paul Erck?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Rodger Brandt?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Dennis Ded?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Dustin Powers?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Kurtz Farms?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Greg Hall?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Daryl Becvar?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. You're saying no. Are you saying no, they're not
- 7 | investors, or you just don't know?
- 8 A. No. I don't know.
- 9 Q. Okay. I asked you earlier if you had any family in
- 10 | the project, and you said no.
- What about your husband's family? Does he have any
- 12 | family that's in the project?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And is your husband's family set to receive a
- 15 turbine?
- 16 A. I believe so.
- 17 Q. And who's your husband's family that lives in the
- 18 project?
- 19 A. The Koupals.
- 20 Q. The Koupals. Do you know how many turbines the
- 21 | Koupals are set to receive?
- 22 A. Not for sure, no.
- 23 Q. And you don't know whether or not the Koupals are
- 24 | investors in Prevailing Winds; correct?
- 25 A. I do not know that. I don't discuss my financial

- l situation with anyone.
- 2 Q. Have you been discussing with other people in the
- 3 | community the possibility of moving from your residence?
- 4 A. Well, to be honest with you, my husband -- I'm
- 5 | retiring the end of the year, and my husband told me that
- 6 | if something happened to him, he didn't want me on the
- 7 farm.
- 8 We do have a couple young men where their families
- 9 | farm in the area, and they would like to come back and
- 10 farm. And so we have opened it up to them if they are
- 11 | interested. That is a possibility.
- 12 Q. Have you looked into where you're going to be moving
- 13 to? Have you thought that far ahead?
- 14 A. We've thought and we've checked out a few places but
- 15 | there's nothing concrete whatsoever.
- 16 Q. The places you've checked out, are they in the
- 17 project area?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Turning back to Exhibit I-17, that agreement,
- 20 | wouldn't you agree that you're contractually obligated to
- 21 | assist Prevailing Wind Park in getting any sort of permit
- 22 | that they're looking to get?
- 23 A. I'm not aware of that.
- MR. ALMOND: Nothing further.
- MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. FUERNISS:
- 3 Q. Hi, Karen.

- 4 A. Hello there.
- 5 Q. Oops. Sorry about that.
- 6 Do you have any idea as far as the actual dollar
- 7 | amounts that Choteau Creek Township benefits from the
- 8 Beethoven Wind Farm?
- 9 A. The Beethoven Project I believe has brought in
- 10 | anywhere from 11 to \$17,000.
- 11 Q. Annually? Would you say -- is that a year?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Do you have any idea what that would amount to, say,
- 14 as a per acre basis the way that we're taxed?
- 15 A. No, I do not.
- 16 Q. Okay. Would you agree that the township taxes have
- 17 | not been lowered because of that additional income? The
- 18 | money has been spent above and beyond what we're already
- 19 taxed.
- 20 A. I can't answer that honestly.
- 21 Q. Okay. Just a couple more questions.
- How long have you lived within, say, a mile of an
- 23 | operational wind farm?
- 24 A. Within a mile?
- 25 Q. Uh-huh.

- 1 A. We don't live within a mile.
- 2 Q. Okay. How long have you lived within two miles of
- 3 | an operational wind farm?
- 4 A. As the crow flies, we're within two miles.
- 5 Q. As the crow flies.
- 6 A. Right. If you were going to fly straight northeast,
- 7 | that's the first tower that we see.
- 8 Q. Uh-huh. And how far would you say that is from your
- 9 farm?
- 10 A. Are you talking driving distance?
- 11 Q. No. Just as the crow flies how far would you say it
- 12 is?
- 13 A. I would say approximately two miles.
- MR. FUERNISS: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins, go ahead.
- MS. JENKINS: No questions.
- MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour, do you have
- 18 questions?
- MS. PAZOUR: I have one, Karen.
- 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 21 BY MS. PAZOUR:
- Q. Your comment on where energy comes from, that's the
- 23 | reason why you signed up, to help increase the energy,
- 24 the electricity.
- But this new project, it doesn't sound like it's

coming to us. It's going outward. 2 That could be true. But with electricity our needs Α. 3 have only expanded in the United States. I mean, we're 4 looking at electric cars, electric tractors. 5 batteries that are being -- that are being used now and 6 stored for electricity. Look around. Telephones, computers. I mean, 7 8 there's not anything that's not electric anymore. why I'm looking at the technology and trying to help with 10 that technology. Because of the need increasing. 11 Q. Yep. I understand what you're saying. But what I'm 12 trying to say is, okay, if this project does get 13 accepted, wouldn't it be more beneficial to utilize the 14 energy that's coming in than bringing it from other 15 places? 16 I guess in the real world that would work, but we 17 don't get the electricity from the dam and how far away 18 is that from us? 19 MS. PAZOUR: Okay. 20 MR. DE HUECK: That will bring us to Commission 21 questions. 22 Commissioner Nelson. 23 Staff. Staff, I'm sorry. 2.4 MS. REISS: Thank you.

<u>CROSS-EXAMINATION</u>

2 BY MS. REISS:

- 3 | Q. Ms. Peters, Mr. Almond asked you a question about a
- 4 provision in the wind easement. Do you recall that?
- 5 A. Pardon?
- 6 Q. Mr. Almond asked you about a provision in the wind
- 7 easement.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. Do you recall that question?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. Did you review the wind easement before
- 12 | signing it?
- 13 A. Yes. But that's been quite a period of time.
- 14 Q. Okay. Were you satisfied that the wind easement
- 15 | adequately protects your interests?
- 16 A. I guess I'd have to honestly say yes; otherwise, I
- 17 | wouldn't have signed it.
- 18 Q. Did you have an attorney review the terms of the
- 19 easement before you signed it?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 MS. REISS: Okay. Nothing further.
- MR. DE HUECK: Commission questions.
- 23 Commissioner Nelson, none.
- 24 Chair Fiegen, any questions?
- 25 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: One of them just got asked

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1
    because I was going to ask you if you hired an
2
    attorney.
 3
              Help me understand the investor part. Because I
    don't really understand that process like an ethanol
 4
    plant that I'm more familiar with.
 6
              So you were an investor in the beginning because
7
    you went to a meeting maybe? Or they came out to sell
8
    you stock? Or how does that work?
              THE WITNESS: To be honest with you, my husband
10
    was more involved in that than I was because I work full
11
    time. We had discussed it as far as becoming investors
12
    in stock. And so that's about all I can tell you.
1.3
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. So then when you
14
    became an investor of Prevailing Winds, then it was
15
     sold -- was it last October?
16
              THE WITNESS: To spower.
17
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Yes. So then are you
18
     still -- do you still have stock or your stock has been
19
     sold and you are now --
20
              THE WITNESS: Right. We're -- we're out of it
21
    now.
           I mean, sPower owns it.
22
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So they bought your stock,
23
    and you've been compensated for the stock you bought?
2.4
              THE WITNESS:
                            Yes.
25
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you.
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1 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Smith, do you have any 2 redirect? 3 MS. SMITH: I do not. 4 MR. DE HUECK: Any recross? 5 Okay. With that, Ms. Peters, thank you very 6 much for your testimony. You may step down. 7 (The witness is excused.) 8 MR. DE HUECK: And, Prevailing Winds, you may 9 call your next witness to be sworn in. 10 MS. AGRIMONTI: We'd call Peter Pawlowski. 11 Peter Pawlowski, 12 called as a witness, being first duly sworn in the above 13 cause, testified under oath as follows: 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION 15 BY MS. AGRIMONTI: 16 Mr. Pawlowski, would you please introduce yourself 17 to the Commissioners and parties. 18 I am Peter Pawlowski, and I'm the head of 19 development, of wind development, for sPower. I also 20 apologize for my voice. I was at a college football game 21 on Saturday, and it's a little more hoarse than I thought 22 it would be today. 23 Please provide an overview of your education and 24 work history.

Sure. So I have an undergraduate degree in

- 1 | aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland.
- 2 | I've been in the energy industry almost 20 years, 14 of
- 3 that in wind. I've worked for a number of developers,
- 4 but for the last three years I've worked for sPower.
- 5 Q. What is your specific role in the Prevailing Wind
- 6 Park Project?
- 7 A. So as the head of wind development for sPower, I'm
- 8 responsible for everything associated with the
- 9 development of Prevailing Wind Park.
- 10 Q. And there have already been some questions today
- 11 about the relationship between Prevailing Winds and
- 12 Prevailing Wind Park.
- 13 Could you please explain.
- 14 A. Sure. So towards the end of last year, which I
- 15 | believe was October of 2017, sPower purchased, from
- 16 Prevailing Winds, Prevailing Wind Park, LLC, which held
- 17 | all of the assets of the project.
- 18 Q. You were here when Ms. Peters was talking about her
- 19 | investment role in Prevailing Winds, were you not?
- 20 A. Yes, I was.
- 21 Q. Is there any public information that you could
- 22 | provide to further clarify the role of an investor in
- 23 | Prevailing Winds, recognizing that that's not your
- 24 company?
- 25 A. So the limited information I can provide is that

- 1 | Prevailing Winds still exists, and sPower purchased the
- 2 | project from Prevailing Wind Park -- or purchased the
- 3 project, Prevailing Wind Park, from them.
- I don't know the specifics of their governing
- 5 documents or members or any of that information.
- 6 Q. Did you file Prefiled Direct Testimony identified
- 7 as -- oh, no. Sorry. You did not.
- 8 Did you file any Prefiled Direct Testimony? I've
- 9 given you the answer, so see if you get it right.
- 10 A. No, I have not.
- 11 Q. Are you adopting the prefiled testimony of Mr. Damon
- 12 that's A63 and Mr. Thorstad, Exhibit A8?
- 13 A. Yes, I am.
- 14 Q. All right. Is it true that Mr. Damon is no longer
- 15 | with the company, which is the purpose -- the rationale
- 16 | for adopting his testimony?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. All right. And I represented earlier today that we
- 19 were introducing the number of witnesses so you are
- 20 taking on Mr. Thorstad's testimony as well, Exhibit A8?
- 21 | A. Yes, I am.
- 22 Q. Did you file prefiled Supplemental Direct Testimony
- 23 | in this case?
- 24 A. Yes, I did.
- 25 Q. And do you recall that as Exhibits A6 and

- 1 attachments Exhibit A6-1 and A6-2?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 | Q. All right. Did you also file Rebuttal Testimony in
- 4 this case on the 26th of September?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Do you recall that as Exhibit A7?
- 7 A. Yes, I do.
- 8 Q. All right. Can you please briefly summarize the
- 9 | topics that you are covering in your testimony that's
- 10 been prefiled in this matter?
- 11 A. Sure. So the project's development in general and
- 12 | the exhibits associated with that in the Application, as
- 13 | well as the construction of the project.
- 14 Q. So if there are any commitments to be made on behalf
- of the project, that would come from you?
- 16 A. Yes. I'm the one who combined the project.
- 17 Q. Do you have any updates or corrections to your
- 18 | prefiled testimony?
- 19 A. Yes. I have three updates. One in which we agreed
- 20 | with Staff's sound requests. Another involving an update
- 21 | as to the start of construction of the project. And a
- 22 third related to the turbines for the project.
- 23 Q. Okay. Let me go back to number one with the
- 24 | conditions with Staff. Did you mean all of the
- 25 | conditions except for noise that we jointly offered with

- 1 Staff?
- 2 A. No. Sorry. All of the conditions -- all of the
- 3 conditions that Staff had and we agreed to.
- 4 Q. Okay. And that is Exhibit 32. Do you have that in
- 5 front of you?
- 6 A. I do not.
- 7 | Q. And then also 33. And I'll ask if you agree with my
- 8 representation that 32 are the jointly agreed-to
- 9 | conditions with Staff; is that right?
- 10 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 11 Q. And Exhibit 33 has two conditions on it, a proposed
- 12 | sound condition and then one regarding turbine
- 13 | flexibility that we'll get to here in a minute; is that
- 14 right?
- 15 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 16 | Q. All right. Let's talk about the conditions that are
- 17 | in Exhibit 32. Do you have any conditions that you would
- 18 like to highlight at this time?
- 19 A. Yes. So spower agreed with Staff to limit the
- 20 | shadow flicker on a residence not just to -- or sorry.
- 21 At a nonparticipating receptor to not just 30 hours a
- 22 | year but also 30 minutes a day. I know that there was
- 23 | some questions as to how that technology works.
- In short, we know when shadow flicker's going to
- 25 occur on the receptor, and so what we do is we

- 1 automatically program the turbine to shut down a few
- 2 | minutes prior to hitting the 30 minute a day and then to
- 3 | start up a couple minutes after shadow flicker would have
- 4 ended. And that's how the control system works.
- $5 \mid Q$. Is that a manual system, or is it automatically
- 6 programmed?
- 7 A. So it's programmed at the start of the wind farm
- 8 operation, but then it operates manually -- or sorry. It
- 9 operates automatically. So there's no human intervention
- 10 necessary to shut down the turbine to stop shadow
- 11 flicker.
- 12 Q. What is your update with respect to the project's
- 13 anticipated start date?
- 14 A. So the project anticipates starting construction in
- 15 | January after a federal environmental review related to
- 16 | our WAPA electrical interconnection.
- 17 Q. And what types of activities would you anticipate
- 18 | starting construction with?
- 19 A. So in January with the ground frozen prior to
- 20 | restrictions during the fall occurring, we would expect
- 21 | the construction of the 115-kilovolt transmission line,
- 22 as well as work on some of the project substation on
- 23 either end of that line.
- 24 There will be also improvements to roads that can be
- 25 done locally. Obviously, temperature and weather,

- 1 | seasonal issues, are challenging.
- 2 Q. The third item you wanted to talk about was turbine
- 3 | flexibility. Please explain what it is the Applicant
- 4 | would like with respect to turbine flexibility?
- 5 A. Sure. So for up to nine turbines we'd like to have
- 6 | the option, if necessary, to replace them with a
- 7 | 2.3-megawatt machine of the same manufacturer. And this
- 8 | would be necessary if it was required to qualify for the
- 9 | production tax credit or PTC.
- 10 Q. What is the size of the GE 2.3 turbine?
- 11 \mid A. So the GE 2.3 turbine, 2.3 megawatts, an 80 meter
- 12 hub height, and 116 meter rotor diameter.
- 13 Q. And how does that compare, larger or smaller, to the
- 14 turbine model proposed for the project?
- 15 A. So it's a smaller turbine model. The current
- 16 | turbine model sits at a hub height of 111.5 meters with
- 17 | 137 rotor diameter, and it's a 3.8 megawatt machine.
- 18 Q. When will Prevailing Wind Park be able to determine
- 19 whether the GE 2.3 turbine is needed for production tax
- 20 credit purposes?
- 21 A. On or before July of next year.
- 22 Q. How would the Commission address this proposed
- 23 turbine model change? Is that something that you've laid
- 24 out in Exhibit 33?
- 25 A. So yes. Under Exhibit 33 it lays out how we would

- 1 | address the change in turbine as well as submitting the
- 2 | necessary documentation to show that it complies with all
- 3 | the conditions of the permit.
- 4 Q. Those conditions would include noise, setbacks,
- 5 | cultural resources, wetland avoidance?
- 6 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 7 Q. Other than the updates that you've just noted, would
- 8 | your answers to the questions in your prefiled testimony
- 9 be the same as if I asked you them here today?
- 10 A. Yes.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. Pawlowski is available for
- 12 cross-examination.
- MS. EDWARDS: Did you move to admit A --
- MS. AGRIMONTI: A33 was part of the list of
- 15 exhibits that I believe were admitted earlier today.
- MS. EDWARDS: I was referring to the one that
- 17 | was objected to. I think it was A8.
- 18 MS. AGRIMONTI: Oh. Yeah. Thank you.
- 19 I would move admission of Exhibit A8 sponsored
- 20 by Mr. Pawlowski.
- Thank you, Ms. Edwards.
- MS. JENKINS: I'll object to that.
- MR. DE HUECK: And would you like to share what
- 24 you're objecting to?
- 25 MS. JENKINS: My concern is I thought that

- 1 Mr. Thorstad would be testifying, and I expected to be 2 able to cross-examine him.
- MR. DE HUECK: Your objection is noted for the record. I'm going to overrule the objection and allow
- 5 Mr. Pawlowski to adopt the testimony of Keith Thorstad.
- 6 MR. ALMOND: And I would just join in that 7 objection.
- 8 MR. DE HUECK: So noted.
- 9 MR. ALMOND: For the same reason, that
- 10 Mr. Thorstad is not here to be cross-examined for the testimony that he's submitted.
- Or did I say Mr. Pawlowski? I meant Thorstad.
- MR. DE HUECK: So, with that, A8 will be
- 14 admitted. And we'll begin cross-examination with
- 15 Mr. Almond. And you are free to cross-examine regarding
- 16 A8.
- MR. ALMOND: It's all cross-examination; right?
- MR. DE HUECK: Correct.
- 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 20 BY MR. ALMOND:
- 21 Q. First and probably most important question, what
- 22 football game were you at?
- 23 A. I was at the Virginia Tech-Notre Dame game at
- 24 Virginia Tech.
- 25 Q. Who were you rooting for?

- 1 A. I went to a state university so I was rooting for
- 2 Virginia Tech.
- 3 Q. Okay. This new turbine model, when did it first
- 4 become -- when were you first put on notice that you
- 5 | might be considering a different turbine model than the
- 6 GE 3.8 megawatt model?
- 7 A. I would say within the last couple of weeks.
- 8 Q. And was the potential to utilize the GE 2.3 megawatt
- 9 turbine model communicated on the docket on-line
- 10 | anywhere? Do you know?
- 11 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 12 Q. I want to jump into where Ms. Agrimonti was asking
- 13 | you about Prevailing Winds.
- 14 And I understand that sPower purchased the asset
- 15 | that is Prevailing Wind Park; is that correct?
- 16 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Were you involved in that purchase process?
- 18 A. Yes, I was.
- 19 Q. And who from Prevailing Winds did you have
- 20 interactions with?
- 21 A. So from Prevailing Winds I dealt quite a bit with
- 22 | the board members, and I made a presentation to the, I
- 23 guess, shareholders.
- Q. And, again, the question was who were those people,
- 25 to the best you can recall their names?

- 1 A. Sure. So in terms of board members, there was
- 2 | Ron Hornstra and Eric, and right now his last name is
- 3 | escaping my mind as well. And yeah. I believe Keith
- 4 Thorstad also sat on the board, but I could be mistaken
- 5 in that.
- 6 O. Is it Eric Johnson?
- 7 A. Oh, Eric Johnson. Yes. Thank you.
- 8 Q. And you said you also presented to shareholders of
- 9 the project?
- 10 A. Yes. And it was a large audience of shareholders.
- 11 Q. And, again, I'm going to do the same thing I did
- 12 | with Ms. Peters so just a yes or I don't know would be
- 13 sufficient.
- 14 A. Sure.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. de Hueck, I'm going to
- 16 object to this line of questioning. I do not see the
- 17 | relevance in who the investors are in the seller of the
- 18 | project that is now being brought forward by a different
- 19 Applicant. Therefore, I don't believe we should take the
- 20 time at a hearing to hear whether he remembers who was
- 21 | an investor or present at a meeting.
- MR. DE HUECK: He's testified that he was
- 23 | involved in this process. I'm going to allow Mr. Almond
- 24 | to run through his list quickly.
- 25 Q. Doug Koupal.

Α. I don't recall. 1 Dennis Brandt. 2 Q. I don't recall. 3 4 Alfred Bartunek. 5 I can't recall. Α. 6 Q. Arlo Dewald. 7 I don't recall. Α. 8 Q. Mildred Roth. I don't recall. Α. 10 Keith Raysby. Q. I don't recall. 11 12 Paul Erck. Q. I don't recall. 13 Α. 14 Rodger Brandt. Q. 15 I don't recall. 16 Dennis Powers. Q. 17 Α. I don't recall. 18 Greg Hall. Q. 19 I don't recall. 20 Daryl Becvar. Q. 21 I don't recall. Α. 22 Did sPower or Prevailing Wind Park negotiate with 23 any of the leaseholders? 24 Yes. We did. Α.

So explain that. Did you sign up new leases?

25

Did

- 1 you renegotiate leases that were already signed up?
- 2 A. Oh, sure. So we signed up additional leases.
- 3 | Q. How many additional leases did sPower sign up?
- 4 A. I don't recall off the top of my head. I would say
- 5 | it was probably 30 or 40 percent of the total project
- 6 | acreage and I would say the vast majority of the
- 7 | 115 kV line.
- 8 Q. I don't have the number in front of me. How many
- 9 lease agreements are there signed up for this project?
- 10 A. I don't know the number.
- 11 Q. Do you have any awareness or knowledge of other
- 12 | future projects that are being planned in the area?
- 13 A. Apologies. Is this in general or --
- 14 Q. Yes. In general.
- 15 A. I don't have any particular knowledge, no.
- 16 Q. Okay. And given you've adopted the testimony of
- 17 Keith Thorstad, has he ever mentioned to you the
- 18 | possibility of future projects in the area?
- 19 A. No, he has not.
- 20 Q. In your prefiled testimony you talked about the
- 21 | county permitting processes. And I want to talk about
- 22 the Bon Homme County permitting process.
- 23 What approval did you get for the project in
- Bon Homme County?
- 25 A. So for Bon Homme County we went before -- and I may

- 1 get the specific bodies crossed but the zoning board, and
- 2 | they voted for -- or sorry. They voted in -- and I also
- 3 | apologize if I get the three counties a little confused.
- 4 | But I believe Bon Homme affirmed that we complied with
- 5 | their ordinance -- sorry. We complied with their
- 6 permitted use under the statute.
- 7 Q. And can you refer to us in the docket where that --
- 8 evidence of that agreement exists?
- 9 And if you want to look to your counsels, I'm happy
- 10 | if they provide it.
- 11 MS. AGRIMONTI: I will represent that it is in
- 12 Mr. Pawlowski's testimony. We have requested minutes
- 13 | from that meeting, and we will submit them when they are
- 14 received.
- And just for clarification, it's the County
- 16 | Board of Commissioners, and it's the ordinance rather
- 17 than a statute.
- 18 Q. Would you agree with everything she just said?
- 19 A. Yes. I agree with everything she just said.
- 20 Q. So from Bon Homme County sPower received
- 21 | affirmation from the Board of County Commissioners that
- 22 | the project complies with their ordinances?
- 23 A. Yes. As I understand it.
- Q. What about Charles Mix County? And I'll represent
- 25 to you that's the county that doesn't have zoning

- 1 ordinances.
- 2 A. Yes. So Charles Mix County does not have any zoning
- 3 ordinances so the approval sPower received was a building
- 4 permit for each of the turbines and I believe some
- 5 portion of the collector system.
- 6 Q. Did the county offer any other approvals for the
- 7 project aside from building permits?
- 8 A. The county did not offer any approvals.
- 9 Q. And I understand as part of the process with Charles
- 10 Mix County you on behalf of sPower, I believe, completed
- 11 | an Affidavit and submitted it to Charles Mix County?
- 12 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 13 Q. Can you just explain why that was done?
- 14 A. The county didn't have zoning and wanted some
- 15 | assurances on setback and sound and shadow flicker, and
- 16 | so we signed an Affidavit binding the project to that
- 17 and, I believe, submitted it into the record for the
- 18 | Commission.
- 19 | O. And was that submitted on the date that's on the
- 20 Affidavit? Did you sign it the same day it was submitted
- 21 at the meeting?
- 22 A. Yes. That's correct.
- Q. I was going to ask you when the meeting was, but I'm
- 24 quessing you don't remember.
- 25 A. I don't remember the exact date. I'd have to look

- 1 | at the Affidavit.
- 2 Q. So if we want to know what date that meeting was, we
- 3 | could look at the Affidavit?
- 4 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 5 | Q. When was the first time sPower Prevailing Winds
- 6 | Project first went to the Charles Mix County Commission?
- 7 A. I'd be hard pressed to think of an exact date
- 8 because going to the Commission without any formal
- 9 hearing and sitting in and answering questions is
- 10 | something that occurs all the time for wind development.
- 11 But certainly towards the beginning of this year.
- 12 Q. The beginning of 2018?
- 13 A. At the very least. Certainly it more than likely
- 14 also occurred in 2017 as well prior to sPower purchasing
- 15 the project.
- 16 Q. How many meetings did you -- how many county
- 17 | commission meetings, actual meetings, did you personally
- 18 attend?
- 19 A. For Charles Mix?
- 20 Q. Yes. Sorry.
- 21 A. It had to be somewhere around seven or eight.
- 22 Q. And the meeting during which they considered your
- 23 | Affidavit, I guess, walk the Commission through what
- 24 happened at that meeting.
- 25 A. Sure. So the idea of offering up an Affidavit

actually occurred probably three meetings before I signed the Affidavit and submitted it to the Commission. It wasn't a formal hearing of the project. Owned -- sPower and myself as a representative executed the Affidavit and gave a copy to the County Commissioners as well as submitted it to the PUC.

And, you know, conversations took place between the Commissioners as to what they wanted to include, what they were looking for, what they thought were reasonable setbacks, as well as numerous public comment periods.

- Q. Was there a point in time during that meeting when you and Commissioner Keith Mushitz stepped out into the hallway to have a private conversation?
- 14 A. Yes. The Commissioner requested that I step out into the hall.
 - O. And tell us about that conversation.
 - A. The question was simply what was the closest receptor to the turbines. There was quite a bit of noise in the meeting. Once the conversation was over we reentered the room.

I asked my attorney that -- I was uncomfortable that I had met with the Commissioner outside of the room in a public hearing, although no action was being taken by the Commission on behalf of the project. And myself and then the Commissioner recounted our conversation in front of

- 1 everybody in the room.
- 2 Q. And what was the answer to his question?
- 3 A. I don't -- so I think it was roughly 1,700 feet was
- 4 the answer.
- $5 \mid Q$. And by receptor what was he talking about?
- 6 A. So receptor just is for any of the noise receptors
- 7 that we have. That was what the reference was. The
- 8 noise and shadow flicker receptors.
- 9 Q. And that 1,700-foot distance for that receptor, do
- 10 you know whether that was a participating or
- 11 | nonparticipating receptor?
- 12 A. Oh. Sorry. So that was a nonparticipating
- 13 receptor.
- 14 Q. Did you guys discuss anything else in the hallway?
- 15 A. No, we did not.
- 16 Q. When was the last time you spoke with Commissioner
- 17 Mushitz?
- 18 A. That same day.
- 19 Q. Following county -- or Charles Mix County's receipt
- 20 of your Affidavit, did the turbine layout change at all?
- 21 A. Yes. As was stipulated by previous testimony, a
- 22 turbine was eliminated, and two turbines were moved.
- 23 Q. Which two turbines were moved?
- 24 A. I don't recall.
- Q. Do you know if Bridget Canty submitted prefiled

- 1 | testimony describing the relocation, minor shifts, of a
- 2 | couple of turbines?
- 3 A. I don't know the specifics of her testimony.
- $4 \mid Q$. Do you know approximately where the two turbines
- 5 | were located at in the project that were relocated?
- 6 A. I do not.
- 7 Q. When were they relocated?
- 8 A. I don't know. Sometime recently.
- 9 Q. Who decides whether to locate or relocate turbines?
- 10 A. So sPower does. And depending on what the reason is
- 11 | for relocation, that person makes the call on whether or
- 12 | not it needs to be relocated.
- 13 My understanding was that because the turbines being
- 14 moved was a very small amount and well within the
- discretion we're asking the Commission under the
- 16 Application to be able to move the turbines, for whatever
- 17 | technical reasons the turbines were moved. And I did not
- 18 | intervene or provide any input into it.
- 19 Q. Did you provide any sort of approval for moving of
- 20 them?

side.

- 21 A. No, I did not.
- 22 Q. I'm sorry. What was your title for this project?
- 23 A. So I'm vice president of wind development for
- 24 | sPower. So I oversee all of the development on the wind
- 25

- 1 Q. A little bit about the project area. They had an
- 2 attachment or another map up, but --
- MR. ALMOND: Can we just throw yours back up,
- 4 please.
- 5 Thanks, Mollie.
- 6 Q. How many acres are in the project area?
- 7 A. I don't know the exact amount of acres off the top
- 8 of my head.
- 9 Q. More than 50,000; correct?
- 10 A. That sounds about right.
- 11 Q. How many turbines are you guys proposing to build?
- 12 A. A maximum of 61.
- 13 Q. Can you repeat that answer, please.
- 14 A. A maximum of 61 turbines.
- 15 Q. And the setbacks from nonparticipant residences.
- 16 We're dealing with two different ones here; right? A
- 17 | thousand foot and 2,000 foot, depending on the county?
- 18 A. It does vary by county. If I recall, I think
- 19 | it's -- yeah. That sounds about right. I'd have to
- 20 review the specifics, but that sounds about right.
- 21 MS. AGRIMONTI: I would ask if Mr. Almond wants
- 22 to talk about a specific setback, that it be designated
- as the type of setback and county in which we're
- 24 discussing.
- 25 Q. Approximately how many acres do you need to site a

turbine?

- 2 A. Each turbine takes up less than an acre. You
- 3 generally also include the access road associated with
- 4 it.
- Q. But to account for setbacks and stuff, is there any
- 6 estimated number of acres you need to site a turbine?
- 7 MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. Vague. I don't know
- 8 | what setbacks he's talking about.
- 9 MR. DE HUECK: Did you hear Ms. Agrimonti?
- 10 MR. ALMOND: I heard the objection. I guess the
- 11 question is whether or not he thinks the question is
- 12 vague or whether he thinks he can answer the question.
- MR. DE HUECK: And can you just ask a better
- 14 question?
- MR. ALMOND: Yeah. Sure.
- 16 Q. When a developer like sPower is looking for a wind
- 17 development project or looking to develop a project, do
- 18 | they have a number of acres per turbine that they're
- 19 | looking at in order to develop their project?
- 20 A. No. That number varies greatly depending on what
- 21 | the physical project actually looks like.
- 22 Q. Yeah. So does anyone from -- is there a number, I
- 23 | guess? Is there any number that you look at to see if
- 24 | you have -- you know, you've got a project area that's
- 25 | 50,000 acres. Are you able to look at that and estimate,

- 1 | I wonder how many turbines we can put in 50,000 acres?
- 2 Or is there nothing in the industry that has that type of
- 3 formula or number?
- 4 A. A lot of information goes into what we can put in
- 5 terms of number of turbines. The local setback
- 6 requirements, noise, shadow flicker. Is the project --
- 7 | what's the shape of the project area we have? Are we
- 8 | along a ridge line? There's a lot of factors that go
- 9 into this.
- 10 Q. Right. So you don't have a general number of acres
- 11 for a turbine?
- 12 A. I do not.
- 13 Q. Okay. Take a look at Exhibit I-16. It's in the
- 14 binder to your right on top.
- 15 A. I have it open.
- 16 Q. Now I anticipate when Mr. Hubner testifies later in
- 17 | this matter he's going to say that when he was approached
- 18 about signing up for this project that document was
- 19 provided to him, and it was represented to him that he
- 20 | could have the possibility of having 12 turbines on
- 21 1,985 acres.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. Relevance. This is
- 23 | a lease that was not executed, offered by a party that is
- 24 | not in this proceeding. Relevance.
- MR. DE HUECK: I believe that's what the exhibit

- 1 states on it.
- 2 Go ahead, Mr. Almond.
- 3 | Q. So if we take 61 turbines and if 12 of them can fit
- 4 on 1,985 acres, by my math that's about 20 percent of the
- 5 turbines can fit on 1,985 acres. You want to check the
- 6 math?
- 7 A. I'm sorry. Is there a question?
- 8 Q. Yeah. Would you agree that's what the math works
- 9 out to be?
- 10 A. No. I would not.
- 11 Q. Okay. So 12 divided by 61 is what? Approximately
- 12 | 20 percent; correct?
- 13 A. So I'd like to point out that on the document
- 14 before me it specifies that the size of the machine is a
- 15 2-megawatt machine. And sPower's proposed a 3.8-megawatt
- 16 | machine with a rotor diameter of 137 meters. I can't --
- I don't know the rotor diameter that was specified
- 18 for this 2-megawatt machine, so I don't know what the
- 19 | spacing of it looked like. So there's not enough
- 20 information here to draw any conclusions.
- 21 | Q. And that's a good point. Would you agree that that
- 22 type of information should be shared with people when
- 23 | they're signing up for lease agreements?
- 24 A. When people sign up for lease agreements there's a
- 25 | lot of conversations that are had, and generally we

- 1 | always try to answer all of their questions, including a
- 2 | range of turbines. But it's not always written down.
- 3 And certainly rotor diameter is a nuance that some people
- 4 | want to know and others don't.
- $5 \mid Q$. And consistent with your prior testimony, about
- 6 | 70 percent of this project was signed up through
- 7 | Prevailing Winds; correct?
- 8 A. I think I said 40 percent was signed up by sPower.
- 9 | So I'd say it's closer to 60 percent, not 70 percent.
- 10 Q. Okay. So 60 percent of the project area or acres
- 11 | signed up were signed up by Prevailing Winds; right?
- 12 A. Yes. The previous developer.
- 13 Q. Okay. And you have no knowledge of what
- 14 representations were made by Prevailing Winds to the
- 15 | people signing up, do you?
- 16 A. Certainly as a part of our due diligence in the
- 17 project, we needed to understand what was said to the
- 18 | landowners, what promises had been made, and to
- 19 understand what obligations sPower was stepping into. So
- 20 I feel comfortable that what was done and said all seemed
- 21 reasonable.
- 22 Q. Walk me through that due diligence because I need to
- 23 know that.
- 24 A. Sure. So as with anything, we review the
- 25 documentation, often ask to speak to landowners and

- 1 understand interactions with the community just to get a
- 2 sense.
- 3 | Q. Did you speak with anyone from Prevailing Winds
- 4 | about them signing up people?
- 5 A. Yes. They were involved in the transaction.
- 6 | Certainly the previous developer -- so we spoke with them
- 7 about it.
- 8 Q. So as this due diligence process, you guys conversed
- 9 with those individuals who were going around and getting
- 10 | people signed up on behalf of Prevailing Winds?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 | O. And who are those individuals?
- 13 A. So that would be Eric Johnson and Ron Hornstra.
- 14 Q. As part of your guys' due diligence process, did you
- 15 | speak with any other individuals other than Eric Johnson
- 16 and Ron Hornstra?
- 17 A. Roland Jurgens and Keith Thorstad.
- 18 Q. Aside from those four individuals as part of your
- 19 guys' due diligence process, did you speak with anyone
- 20 else?
- 21 A. At the previous developer? Not that I can remember.
- 22 | Not to say that there wasn't a conversation that I don't
- 23 remember.
- 24 Q. And this due diligence process you discussed, you
- 25 | said you had reached out to landowners to find out how

- 1 | the negotiations took place with them. Which landowners
- 2 | did you guys reach out to?
- 3 A. I don't recall.
- 4 Q. How many landowners?
- 5 A. I don't know that number off the top of my head.
- 6 Q. Okay. In your prefiled testimony you make the
- 7 | assertion that a two-mile setback for nonparticipants
- 8 | would eliminate the ability to develop a wind farm in the
- 9 project area.
- 10 Do you remember making that assertion?
- 11 A. Can you direct me to where that is in my testimony,
- 12 please.
- 13 Q. I can't. But does that sound like something you'd
- 14 say?
- 15 A. I believe --
- 16 Q. I believe it was in your Rebuttal.
- 17 A. I'd need to see the document. Please provide it.
- 18 Q. Go to your Rebuttal, please.
- 19 A. Can you direct me to which exhibit that is?
- MS. AGRIMONTI: A6.
- MR. ALMOND: I think it's A7.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: A7. Sorry. A7 is the Rebuttal.
- 23 Q. A7, page 3.
- 24 And I'll strike the question actually, and I'll just
- 25 | ask a general question.

Would a two-mile setback for nonparticipants be viable for this project?

- A. I haven't done and looked at the analysis.
- Q. What about a mile and a half? Have you done that analysis?
- A. Actually I want to restate before. So there was analysis done that was shared at the county showing the different setbacks and what it would eliminate. I don't
- 9 have that on me.

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- Q. And I've seen that analysis, and it talks about which turbines where they're currently placed would be eliminated by certain setbacks; right?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. And my question is has there been an analysis conducted about whether or not turbines in the layout could be adjusted to comply with, for example, a mile setback?
- 18 A. I'd like to make a correction there.

So the analysis that was done is it took
nonparticipating receptor, and it created circles around
it. So one mile, half-mile, two miles. So that analysis
was agnostic to the actual layout, although it did show
what turbines would be eliminated.

Q. And you said it was -- what were the different distances showing the setbacks?

- 1 A. I don't recall exactly, but they were on mile
- 2 distances. I also don't recall if it was done
- 3 | specific -- I believe it was done by sPower.
- 4 | Q. So sPower provided the counties a document showing
- 5 what setbacks?
- 6 A. Sorry. Apologies. sPower did not provide the
- 7 | counties with the setback. The setback was done by an
- 8 employee of the State of South Dakota. sPower provided
- 9 | the GIS files that were used to create that. So turbine
- 10 locations, receptors, those types of files.
- 11 Q. So this South Dakota state employee, who is that?
- 12 A. Brian McGinnis.
- 13 Q. So Mr. McGinnis created a map showing different
- 14 | setbacks around each receptor?
- 15 A. To my recollection, yes.
- 16 Q. And which county did he do that for?
- 17 A. It was for -- it was for Charles Mix. I don't
- 18 recall if it included the other two counties or not.
- 19 Q. So you don't recall if this analysis showing how
- 20 larger setbacks might influence the project was done for
- 21 | the entire project?
- 22 A. That's what I stated.
- 23 Q. Okay. So back to the original question. I mean,
- 24 has sPower performed any sort of analysis attempting to
- 25 | apply a one-mile setback for nonparticipants?

- 1 A. No. sPower took the setbacks that were specified in
- 2 | each of the jurisdictions that we were in and applied
- 3 those setbacks.
- 4 | Q. So you didn't try to use a three-quarter-mile
- 5 setback?
- 6 A. Correct. We did not -- we applied the setbacks for
- 7 | the counties that we were in.
- 8 Q. So you don't know whether or not this project could
- 9 be approved with a larger setback for nonparticipants.
- 10 Is that an accurate statement?
- 11 A. sPower has designed the project around what the
- 12 | counties had for setbacks and moved forward with that in
- 13 | the layout and has provided that information in our
- 14 | Application.
- 15 Q. I understand that. So but, again, if the Commission
- 16 | were to adopt a three-quarter-mile setback, you don't
- 17 | know whether or not that would affect this project's --
- 18 | well, this project by where the turns are currently, yes,
- 19 but could the project be designed to account for larger
- 20 setbacks for nonparticipants?
- 21 | A. I don't have the information to answer that
- 22 question.
- Q. And that analysis wasn't performed because the only
- 24 | analysis that was performed was using the setbacks that
- 25 | existed for the respective counties; right?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. Do you know the number of occupied residences within
- 3 | the project area?
- 4 A. I don't -- I don't know the exact number, but my
- 5 understanding --
- 6 Q. I'll help you.
- 7 A. Okay. Well, I was --
- 8 Q. Let's go to A14-1.
- 9 A. Okay. I'm there.
- 10 Q. And if you'd familiarize yourself with that
- 11 | document. I think you can answer my questions. I think
- 12 | just the first page probably goes through it.
- 13 (Witness examines document.)
- 14 A. I've familiarized myself with the document.
- 15 Q. Now how many occupied residences are there in the
- 16 | project area or within a half-mile of the project area?
- 17 A. Apologies. I was looking for the project area, and
- 18 | the half-mile threw me off.
- 19 It looks like, according to this exhibit, there was
- 20 a little over 160.
- 21 Q. Let me help you out here.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Yeah. I don't want this
- 23 information to be misrepresented either. It's an
- 24 exhibit for Ms. Canty, and he is asking Mr. Pawlowski
- 25 about it.

And the number's 146, 137 in the Application and then 9 for the verification process. I don't think that's in dispute.

MR. ALMOND: So 146 occupied residences within the project area or a half-mile of the project area; right?

MS. AGRIMONTI: Yeah. Or assumed documented, yes. I can't tell you for sure there was somebody living in the building, that Burns & Mac went out and made judgment calls.

Q. For the purposes of the project, sPower assumed

146 occupied residences either within the project area or
a half-mile of the project area.

Are you with me?

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- A. This is -- I mean, this is outside of my testimony.
- Q. Well, it sounds like your attorney's willing to
 agree to 146 assumed occupied residences in that -- in or
 around the project area.

Now in response to a data request that we sent over, we asked the number of landowners that would have a turbine on their property, and the response was 35. Does that sound right to you?

- A. Can you direct me to that document, please.
- Q. Do you know how many landowners are going to receive a turbine?

- MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. The witness has
 asked very kindly for the document and not be tested on
 his memory, and I think it's appropriate to have it
 placed in front of him.
- 5 MR. DE HUECK: Yeah. Agreed.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. Almond, if you could identify which request you are identifying.
- MR. ALMOND: Yeah. Turn to I-26 for me, please.
 - Q. If you'd turn to Data Request 1-14. The question was, "Assuming all turbines are built, how many participating landowners will have a turbine located on
- And it looks like you provided the information, and the answer was 35 landowners; right?
- 15 A. That's correct.

their property?"

10

11

- 16 Q. In providing that answer what did you look at?
- 17 A. In order to get that answer we utilized the --
- 18 | basically the information in our GIS system and database
- 19 | in order to pull which landowners the turbines fell on.
- 20 Q. Now go to Exhibit I-29 for me.
- 21 A. I've got it open.
- Q. Do you see Data Request 4-2? It asks to "Provide
- 23 the names of the 35 landowners who will have a turbine on
- 24 | the property. In doing so, identify the county in which
- 25 | the landowner owns the land where the turbine will be

- l placed."
- 2 And the response was, "See Attachment 4-2"?
- 3 A. It was not my response, but I do see the response.
- 4 Q. Can you look over your shoulder at the map up there.
- 5 Does it say Attachment 4-2 in the top right-hand corner?
- 6 A. Yes, it does.
- 7 | Q. So if we look at that map, we should be able to
- 8 | identify the different landowners who are going to
- 9 receive a turbine; is that correct?
- 10 A. According to someone else's testimony in this
- 11 document, yes.
- 12 Q. Can we rely on Bridget Canty's testimony?
- 13 A. Yes. I'm just pointing out that this is not my
- 14 testimony.
- 15 Q. Of the stated 35 landowners who will receive a
- 16 | turbine, how many reside within the project area or
- 17 | within a half-mile of the project area?
- 18 A. I don't know the answer to that question.
- 19 Q. Is spower able to get the answer to that question?
- 20 A. Where people live is a matter of public record so I
- 21 | would assume it's with -- it's possible.
- 22 Q. So we can look at Attachment 4-2 over your right
- 23 | shoulder there, look at all the landowners, and then
- 24 | figure out whether or not those individuals reside in or
- 25 | around the project area; right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Going back to Exhibit I-29, 4-3. I know it's
- 3 | not your responses. It's a response from Jessica Sauzna
- 4 [phonetic]. Who's Jessica Sauzna?
- 5 A. Sorry. Hold on just -- Jessica's an employee of
- 6 sPower on the land team.
- 7 Q. Okay. And I understand she gave this answer, but I
- 8 assume you can rely on Jessica; right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And the question was asked how many lease agreements
- 11 | were executed for the project.
- Jessica provided that answer of 136 full-rights
- 13 | agreements, five no-turbine lease, and three setback
- 14 waivers.
- And for the benefit of the Commission can you
- 16 explain kind of those three different agreements?
- 17 A. Sure. So a full-rights agreement is a lease that
- 18 allows for landowners who wants to participate in the
- 19 | fullest capacity possible for the wind farm, which would
- 20 | include access roads, underground collector system, wind
- 21 | turbines, project substation, all of the infrastructure
- 22 that's core to the project.
- MR. ALMOND: No further questions.
- MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. FUERNISS:

1

2

- Q. Mr. Pawlowski, nice to see you again.
- Would you say from your knowledge of the project area that there would, in fact, be potential for more
- 6 | wind energy development in that area?
- 7 A. First off, it's good to see you again as well.
- 8 So there's always a potential for wind energy
- 9 development, depending on wind resource and other factors
- 10 and what we consider the area. So the State of South
- 11 Dakota certainly, and in those areas there is a wind
- 12 resource that could be utilized.
- 13 Q. But you don't know at this time if there would be
- 14 | more plans for further development?
- 15 A. Yeah. I don't know. Other factors that go in are
- 16 | the transmission capacity. I know sPower doesn't have
- 17 | any plans for further wind energy development in the
- 18 area.
- 19 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 20 How much were you yourself involved in the
- 21 development of the Application that was submitted to the
- 22 PUC? Did you just oversee all the other people that put
- 23 things together to go into that or --
- 24 A. So yeah. I mostly oversaw the people that put stuff
- 25 | together and weighed in as they requested my thoughts or

- any large decisions affecting the project.
- Q. I find it interesting in the Application in
- 3 | Section 6.3, Consequences of Delay.
- 4 Now in light of some of the testimony that we heard
- 5 | earlier today as far as consensus or nonconsensus, if you
- 6 | will, on effects of shadow flicker and noise levels and
- 7 so forth, could there not potentially be benefits to
- 8 delay to the larger public?
- 9 A. I can't speak to that. What I can say is that we
- 10 | have submitted an Application and all the information for
- 11 | the project, and that's up to the Commission to make the
- 12 decision.
- 13 Q. All right.
- Maybe this is a stupid question, but why in the
- 15 | first place do you do all these studies and measurements
- 16 | first for shadow flicker and for sound levels?
- 17 A. So the measurements are required under zoning in at
- 18 | least one of the counties. And so as a part of meeting
- 19 the requirements that are set forth by the local
- 20 jurisdictions, we perform the studies that comply,
- 21 | whether it's on a county or state or federal or municipal
- level.
- 23 Q. I realize that you probably were not permanently
- 24 | involved in going out and signing up any land. You said
- 25 | something about a land team. I take it that's what they

- 1 do, go out and negotiate leases with people and so
- 2 forth?
- 3 A. That's correct. But I don't want to leave you with
- 4 | the impression that I haven't met any of the landowners.
- 5 Q. Yeah.
- 6 A. I mean, I have tagged along for various meetings.
- 7 Q. So would you say that when you or the land team go
- 8 out and approach somebody, say, in rural Charles Mix
- 9 County, before you approach them do you think they have
- 10 much knowledge in general of wind farms or electricity
- 11 generation or any of these things that we're discussing,
- 12 potential hazards, potential effects, potential benefits?
- 13 Anything like that?
- 14 Have you discovered that the local folks are, in
- 15 fact, knowledgeable about these things before you
- 16 approach them?
- 17 A. So I would say obviously the level of understanding
- 18 varies. But given the number of local co-ops and
- 19 participation of folks and working with large equipment,
- 20 | that the knowledge base seems pretty good.
- 21 But, obviously, you know, we're there to help
- 22 educate them on what the project is and to give them the
- 23 | information that they need to make a decision.
- MR. FUERNISS: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins.

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2 BY MS. JENKINS: 3 Q. Could you tell me, in your conversations with 4 Keith Thorstad or Roland Jurgens has it ever been 5 mentioned that they tried to sign up more easements around the project area? 6 7 Sorry. A quick clarification. Do you mean for the Α. 8 project or for another project? For another project. 10 So no. Α. 11 For this project? 12 Α. Yes. 13 MS. JENKINS: Thank you. 14 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour. 15 MS. PAZOUR: No comment. MR. DE HUECK: Staff. 16 17 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. And I do have quite a 18 bit so just a heads up. 19 (A short recess is taken.) MR. DE HUECK: We're back in session. 20 21 Mr. Pawlowski is on the stand, and it is Staff's turn to 22 cross-examine him. 23 CROSS-EXAMINATION 24 BY MS. EDWARDS: 25 Thank you, Mr. Pawlowski. Who is your employer?

- 1 A. I'm employed by sPower.
- 2 Q. Okay. And turning to the testimony that you adopted
- 3 of Mr. Damon, page 1.
- 4 A. Do you know the exhibit to that?
- $5 \mid Q$. You can probably answer the question without
- 6 | looking. He lists his employer as sPower Development
- 7 Company, LLC. Are those one in the same?
- 8 A. So, no, they're not. Let me provide better clarity.
- 9 So I'm employed by Sustainable Power Group doing
- 10 | business as sPower. Sustainable Power Group owns sPower
- 11 Development Company, LLC. Mr. Damon incorrectly stated
- 12 his employer. He was employed by the same person as
- 13 myself.
- 14 Q. Okay. So sPower that you're employed with will own
- 15 Prevailing Winds?
- 16 A. SPower, which employs me, has a subsidiary called
- 17 | sPower Development Company, LLC, and that entity owns
- 18 Prevailing Wind Park, LLC.
- 19 Q. Okay. I think I follow you. Thank you for the
- 20 clarification.
- 21 Turning to Mr. Damon's testimony, and I'll get the
- 22 | number for you, I believe it's A6-3.
- 23 A. I have that open.
- Q. When the tax benefits were calculated do you know
- 25 | what capacity factor was assumed?

- 1 A. I would assume it's somewhere around 48 percent net
- 2 | capacity factor. I would need to -- I'm trying to find
- 3 the exact number.
- 4 Q. So assuming 48 percent capacity factor, is that, in
- 5 | your experience, reasonable for a wind farm or common for
- 6 a wind farm?
- 7 A. Yes. Wind farms can generally range from the low
- 8 | 30s to the low 50s, depending on what the wind resource
- 9 is, the age of the technology, and the location.
- 10 Q. So if a capacity factor ended up being lower in
- 11 | reality, assuming the project was built, how would that
- 12 | in general affect the tax benefits?
- 13 A. So my understanding is -- so my understanding is
- 14 | that the State of South Dakota has two different taxing
- 15 mechanisms. One is a capacity tax, and the other is a
- 16 | production tax. So a portion of that tax that would go
- 17 | towards production would decrease.
- 18 Q. Thank you.
- 19 Turning to the calculated tax benefits to the
- 20 school, do you take into account local effort when you
- 21 | calculate the tax benefits?
- 22 A. So my understanding -- and, again, if I have the
- 23 | state law wrong, please correct me -- is that for the
- 24 first five years local efforts are not taken into
- 25 | consideration, and then slowly from years six to 10 the

- 1 | local effort is taken into account. And so it decreases
- 2 | the money allocated from the State to the local
- 3 communities based on what they're getting off of the wind
- 4 farm.
- 5 And I'm sorry. I was describing the way the -- my
- 6 understanding of how the tax works. With respect to the
- 7 | amount of money paid, the project benefits, I assume
- 8 you're looking on page 15 of 16. Is that correct?
- 9 Q. On page 15.
- 10 A. Yeah. 15 and 16.
- 11 Q. I don't know that I had a 16.
- 12 A. Oh, sorry. Yeah. There's two page numbers.
- 13 There's a page 15 of 16 and 16 of 16 are also referred to
- 14 \mid as page 14 and page 15.
- 15 Q. Correct. Thank you. I have nothing further on that
- 16 line of questioning.
- 17 In your Rebuttal Testimony you discuss the county
- 18 | level permitting status for the project; correct?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. And, for the record, what was the setback
- 21 requirement for Bon Homme County?
- 22 A. I believe Bon Homme -- sorry. When you asked for
- 23 setbacks do you want me to give you the whole list of
- 24 | setbacks, or is there a particular setback you want me to
- 25 run through?

- 1 Q. Number of feet from nonparticipating residence.
- 2 A. 1,000 feet, to my recollection.
- 3 Q. And was that a not less than 1,000 feet?
- 4 A. I believe so.
- 5 Q. So would it be correct that a, say, 2,000-foot
- 6 setback would be not less than 1,000 feet?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. And, therefore, would be consistent with the county
- 9 ordinance?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. On page 3 of your Supplemental Testimony --
- 12 A. Sorry. What exhibit is that?
- 13 MS. SMITH: A7.
- 14 Q. Supplemental is A6.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: That's correct.
- 16 Q. Do you have that in front of you?
- 17 A. I have Exhibit A7, which is my Rebuttal Testimony
- 18 from September 26 of this year.
- 19 Q. Okay. I think -- I believe I am looking at A6,
- 20 which is your Supplemental Testimony. Not rebuttal. And
- 21 | then at about line 75.
- 22 A. Sorry. Is that -- that's just A6, no dash after it?
- 23 Q. Correct.
- 24 A. I've got that in front of me.
- 25 Q. Okay. So can you turn to line 75?

- 1 | A. Okay.
- 2 Q. In that question you were asked about concerns from
- 3 | members of the public over height of the proposed
- 4 turbines. Do you recall that?
- 5 A. I do.
- 6 | Q. And your response was essentially that the project
- 7 is legally sufficient; correct?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Do you have anything to add to that at this point
- 10 beyond what's legally sufficient to address those
- 11 concerns?
- 12 A. Sure. So what's not stated in here with respect to
- 13 the height is that the project is committed to installing
- 14 | an ADLS system, pending the FAA allowing us to turn it
- 15 on. But we are installing an ADLS system, which sends a
- 16 | signal to the FAA lights at night to stay off unless the
- 17 | radar system, which is approved by the FAA, detects
- 18 | an air draft within certain parameters. Then that signal
- 19 | stops, and the FAA -- the lights will turn on on the top
- 20 of the turbines.
- 21 Q. Thank you.

past?

- Now turning to the discussion of shadow flicker.
- 23 Has this shadow flicker control equipment we've discussed
- 24 today been used on any projects you've worked on in the
- 25

- 1 A. So for sPower, no. For projects I've worked on
- 2 | prior to sPower, I honestly can't recall. But I would --
- 3 | I would venture to say probably not.
- 4 Q. And pursuant to your testimony today, it's not a
- 5 | manual shutoff; correct?
- 6 A. Correct. The system is programmed to turn off at
- 7 | certain times. So in order for the machine not to be
- 8 turned off, there would have to be manual intervention.
- 9 Q. So how does a turbine know if it's getting close to
- 10 | that 30 hour or 30-minute threshold?
- 11 A. So the turbine itself doesn't actually know. What
- 12 | we have is the modeling. So the position of the sun is
- 13 | well known, and so as was alluded to in previous
- 14 testimony, we actually know when and on what day homes --
- 15 or sorry -- receptors will have shadow flicker.
- And so we can go in and program those dates and
- 17 times for the machine to shut off so that we don't exceed
- 18 those limits.
- 19 Q. And when you referred to that earlier testimony from
- 20 | today, that was Mr. Anderson's correct?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. And were you here when he testified about an
- 23 assumption on sunlight?
- 24 A. Yes, I am. Or was.
- 25 Q. So if it's based off that assumption, what's the

- 1 failsafe for if the assumption understated the amount of 2 sunlight?
- So we would need to be conservative in how we program the system to function such that instead of a 4
- 5 machine starting to shut down exactly when we hit the
- 6 30-minute mark, that it starts shutting down earlier than
- 7 that to make sure that we're not exceeding that amount of
- 8 time.

- Also the programming for the machine is designed
- 10 based on, you know, what we're assuming the sun's
- 11 position is. And so when we're actually programming the
- machine we're not looking -- we're assuming that there is 12
- 13 no blockage of light.
- 14 Will the shadow flicker equipment be installed on
- 15 all of the turbines or just some of them?
- 16 So all of the turbines it's a software feature.
- 17 there's no physical equipment. It's computer programming
- 18 on a part of the control system which operates the
- machines. 19
- 20 Okay. And when you look at shadow flicker and how
- 21 to mitigate that, do you take into consideration the
- 22 sensitivity of a receptor?
- 23 We apply the same methodology to the receptors that
- 24 we've committed to. So once the receptor's identified
- 25 it's not treated any differently from any other receptor.

- 1 | Q. So say a bedroom would be the same as a machine
- 2 shed?
- 3 A. If the machine shed is occupied as a receptor, yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. Could you please refer to Staff Exhibit S4.
- 5 And there should be a white binder up there that has all
- 6 of the Staff exhibits handy.
- 7 A. What I have is labeled A, B, C, and it has the
- 8 number 1 in it.
- 9 I have it in front of me.
- 10 Q. Thank you. Could you please turn to page No. 2 of
- 11 | that exhibit? It should be Applicant's Response to Data
- 12 Request 4-2.
- 13 A. I have that page in front of me.
- 14 Q. The respondents to that question are listed as
- 15 Mr. Howell and Mr. Anderson; correct?
- 16 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Are you the appropriate company witness to make a
- 18 | commitment based off of those responses?
- 19 A. Yes. I can make a commitment for the project.
- 20 Q. Judging by that response, it appears that the sound
- 21 | levels at those residences range between 28 and 36 dBA.
- 22 Is that your understanding?
- 23 A. Yes. That's what I see on here.
- Q. So could you commit at this time to the project
- 25 being built pursuant to those representations?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. And why not?
- 3 A. The project meets and was designed around a
- 4 | 45 decibel requirement, and that's what the project is
- 5 | committed to in all but one county.
- 6 Q. So isn't it a bit misleading then to put that as a
- 7 data request response for these participants?
- 8 A. This is the -- so no. This is the sound level that
- 9 the model shows at those locations.
- 10 Q. What could you commit to with respect to these
- 11 locations?
- 12 A. So we've committed to, in our Application, 45 dBA.
- 13 Q. Were you present for Dr. Roberts's testimony this
- 14 morning?
- 15 A. Yes, I was.
- 16 | Q. And he stated that he knows of no basis for the
- 17 | 30 hours per year shadow flicker requirement; correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Turning to Staff Data Request 6-1. Let me find that
- 20 for you.
- 21 A. I'm sorry. Can you say that one more time, please.
- 22 Q. Staff's Data Request 6-1. It should be in S5.
- 23 A. S5 is not in the book I have. It ends at S4.
- 24 (Counsel hands document to the witness.)
- Q. Are you familiar with this document?

- 1 A. I don't believe so. I would need a minute to look
- 2 through it further.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 (Witness examines document.)
- 5 A. No. This document doesn't contain any testimony
- from myself, and I don't believe I've reviewed this prior
- 7 to the hearing.
- 8 Q. Were you the respondent to Staff Data Request 6-1?
- 9 MS. SMITH: Ms. Edwards, may I ask, is that a
- 10 | set of all the responses in one? I'm wondering if he's
- 11 | not turned to the right page that you're on.
- 12 A. Oh, page 23. I do know this one.
- 13 Q. Forgive me.
- Were you the respondent to that data request
- 15 question?
- 16 A. Yes, I was.
- 17 Q. Can you please read the last sentence of your
- 18 response to 6-1.
- 19 A. "In addition, the project will comply with all
- 20 | applicable shadow flicker requirements and commitments."
- 21 Q. Could you read the entire thing. I'm sorry. The
- 22 entire answer.
- 23 A. Sure. "Based on studies and documentation addressed
- 24 by testimony in Prevailing Wind Park, a shadow flicker
- 25 requirement of less than 30 minutes per day or 30 hours

- 1 | per year is not necessary to avoid adverse impacts on
- 2 | land use or health. See E.g., the testimony submitted by
- 3 | Aaron Anderson and Dr. Mark Roberts. In addition, the
- 4 project will comply with all applicable shadow flicker
- 5 requirements and commitments."
- 6 Q. So in your answer you said refer to the testimony
- 7 | submitted by Aaron Anderson and Dr. Mark Roberts. Do you
- 8 know which testimony you were referring to?
- 9 A. Off the top of my head right now, no.
- 10 Q. How about the last sentence when you said the
- 11 | project would comply with commitments? If you can't
- 12 | comply with the commitments in your data request answers,
- which commitments are you complying with?
- 14 A. So there was the -- the data request was not a
- 15 request for a commitment. The data request was for
- 16 information as to what our model shows at the receptor
- 17 locations.
- 18 I've made two commitments. One, agreeing with Staff
- 19 on 30 hours a year and 30 minutes per day. And I've also
- 20 | made a commitment in my Affidavit to Charles Mix County
- 21 to the same standard.
- 22 Q. Okay. And turning to the nine turbines you spoke
- 23 about earlier, when did you become aware that the project
- 24 | might utilize different turbines?
- 25 A. Within the last couple of weeks.

- Q. Thank you.
- 2 And then turning to Exhibit A33. Is it your
- 3 understanding then that Staff has not made any agreements
- 4 or commitments with respect to A33?
- 5 A. Please give me one second to pull it up.
- 6 So my understanding is that's what I was reading
- 7 | from for the beginning of my testimony. So if you can
- 8 | just give me a second to locate it to make sure I'm
- 9 referencing the correct document.
- I have it in front of me now. Would you mind please
- 11 asking the question again.
- 12 Q. Is it your understanding with respect to A33 that
- 13 Staff has made no commitments or representations with
- 14 respect to this exhibit?
- 15 A. As far as I'm aware, that's correct.
- 16 Q. Thank you. When sPower purchased the project were
- 17 | there any representations made in the purchase agreement
- 18 about whether turbines would be placed on certain
- 19 parcels?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 | Q. So you maintained the ability to be flexible in your
- 22 | siting at that time?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. No further questions.
- 25 MR. DE HUECK: Commission questions starting

with Commissioner Nelson. 1 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. The Affidavit 2 3 that has been referenced that you filed with Charles Mix 4 County, the commitments that you made in there regarding 5 setbacks and noise, et cetera, do these commitments apply to the other two counties also? 6 7 THE WITNESS: No. Those commitments are to 8 Charles Mix. COMMISSIONER NELSON: And why would you not 10 offer the same protection to the other counties for their 11 residents? 12 THE WITNESS: The other counties did not 13 request them and had setback ordinance and requirements. 14 Charles Mix did not have any. 15 COMMISSIONER NELSON: What is the setback 16 ordinance and requirement in Hutchinson County? 17 THE WITNESS: Hutchinson County, I believe, is 18 1,000 feet. 19 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I was curious about the 20 line of questioning that Ms. Edwards had with you 21 regarding the modeled noise levels at various receptors. 22 And she asked you what I thought was a pertinent 23 question, whether you would guarantee those, and you 24 adamantly refused and instead fell back on 45 dBA level.

That tells me that you are not confident in your

1 | model, the accuracy of your model. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: No. That's not the case at all.

The request was for us, or sPower, to specifically agree to a dBA level for a limited number of people within the project area.

If you take note, the Charles Mix agreement is for a 43 dBA level, and that's for the entire county. So to make a commitment -- I didn't feel it was proper to make a commitment to specific landowners but rather we make a commitment to the jurisdiction in which we operate in.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: And understanding that you operate -- I mean, you're under state jurisdiction as you're sitting in front of us here so we may come up with some different deal before this deal is done.

This issue of switching out nine turbines in order to maintain your ability to access the PTC, I'm not understanding that. Help me understand what that's all about.

THE WITNESS: Sure. So there's two methodologies for qualifying for the PTC under Treasury rules. One of those is -- for this project is through the construction of a main power transformer and doing that work for the project.

The other way to qualify is to have spent

5 percent of the total project cost on the project. Both of these items had to occur prior to the end of the year in 2016.

And so the project has a transformer, which we expect to qualify. However, the nine turbines would represent the -- of the 5 percent of the cost of the project.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. Thank you.

I want to delve just a little bit deeper into this issue of the shadow flicker control mechanism that's on your turbines. And I appreciate your explanation of that.

But as I'm understanding it, I mean -- I guess the question is does that use the same model as the model used to estimate the shadow flicker?

THE WITNESS: So I don't know the exact answer to that. What I would say is that we would look to revise the model to make sure that it did not inadvertently create assumption of cloud cover when there could not be any. And so, therefore, the model we would use actually would be conservative.

I would have to delve in more to the exact determination of sky cover that was used in that model to answer for the turbines, but for the model that we would use we would assume zero sky cover at any point during

the day. 1 2 COMMISSIONER NELSON: So no cloud cover, 365 3 during the daytime; correct? 4 THE WITNESS: That's correct. 5 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. Well, it probably 6 doesn't get anymore conservative than that so if that is, 7 in fact, the way it operates, I appreciate that. You indicated that you're responsible for 8 9 development in general. And I've got a couple of really 10 kind of general questions, and I'm assuming you're the 11 best witness for those kind of questions. Is that 12 accurate? 13 THE WITNESS: Yes. 14 COMMISSIONER NELSON: He says with hesitation, 15 understandably. In the state statute that we're all here about 16 17 that gives us the -- gives the Applicant the burden of 18 proof in order to obtain a permit -- and I'm looking at 19 49-41B-22, Subpart 2, and that says, "The facility will 20 not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment, 2.1 nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants 22 or expected inhabitants in the siting area." 23 I want to ask you a couple of questions about 24 that. 25 It appears -- this Commission, frankly, has been dealing with this project longer than you've been involved in this project. This project or attempted predecessors. And it appears to me, and I don't know if there's anybody that's really going to disagree with this, but that this project has already caused serious injury to the social condition of the inhabitants in the area.

Seeing that this may be disqualified already on that basis alone, can you address that?

THE WITNESS: Well, I guess I don't -- I don't under -- I guess I don't understand the statement.

Certainly there are Intervenors all the time for projects, and so I guess I -- I don't see that in the project.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: And so what you are testifying is you've not observed any of the social disruption that we think is happening in that area; is that correct?

THE WITNESS: I just want to be clear. So what I have observed is that there are people who are unhappy about the project, and they are, you know, of similar numbers that I've seen in other projects and other interventions in projects. And so I haven't witnessed social disruption.

But ultimately that decision is left up to the

Commission, and we've put together an Application with all of our information for you to make a decision.

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COMMISSIONER NELSON: Let me talk just a little bit about the other parameter of that particular statute, and that's the economic condition.

There's been a -- and maybe I'll ask you first. Have you spent any time reading through the various comments that were either made at the public input meeting or that we have received as a Commission?

THE WITNESS: So I was present at the public meeting and gave the presentation and sat through all of the comments so I'm familiar with them.

I have perused the website and read through comments. I can't represent that at this point I've read all of them.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. I think based on all of that you'll have a good flavor for where I'm going. There's an individual by the name of Jerome Powers that runs a hunting business. And a number of his clients sent in comments saying if these go up, we don't want to come to the area. He's very concerned about the economic impact that this is going to have on his hunting business, whatever that business is.

And while we don't have any of that formal testimony as part of this proceeding yet -- maybe it will

1 come. I don't know -- how are we to wrestle with that 2 issue? If this, in fact, does have a negative impact on 3 his business, on his economic ability to do his business, 4 5 why would that not be a disqualifier? 6 THE WITNESS: So to my knowledge, building wind 7 turbines does not adversely impact the ability to hunt or 8 have gaming operations in the area. 9 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Are you an expert in the 10 area of hunting and hunting lodges? 11 THE WITNESS: No. Absolutely not. I'm just 12 saying, to my knowledge, based on the wind farms that 1.3 exist, there doesn't appear -- I have not seen any study 14 or any data supporting the fact that there's an impact. 15 But I'm not an expert. 16 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I think the last 17 question -- and you heard it from me very early this 18 morning and I think it was Mr. Anderson punted to you on 19 this -- the issue of shadow flicker and 30 hours. 20 I mean, why is 30 hours acceptable and 31 is 2.1 not? 22 THE WITNESS: So I don't know the answer for What I do know is that -- and I believe it's 23 Hutchinson County. It may be Bon Homme. But one of the 24 25 two the most stringent shadow flicker requirement they

1 can impose under their ordinances is a maximum of 2 30 hours a year. And I believe they have the discretion of also requiring no more than 30 minutes a day. 3 4 And that is a common standard that you see. Wе 5 applied that standard to the project. 6 COMMISSIONER NELSON: So nobody really knows the 7 magic of 30. Is that what you're telling me? 8 THE WITNESS: I don't know it. And there was 9 testimony given today, but all I can say is that we 10 followed what the ordinance had and applied what was the 11 most stringent condition. 12 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And I appreciate that. 13 suspect we're going to have some testimony that's going 14 to tell us that 30 is not the right number, and so, 15 obviously, I'm trying to figure out how do we document 16 that 30 is? And so I gave you the opportunity. 17 I think that's all the questions I've got. 18 MR. DE HUECK: Chairman Fiegen. 19 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Thank you. 20 I think I'm going to spend most of my time on 21 the prefiled testimony of James Damon because you are 22 adopting that testimony, I believe, and can answer these 23 questions for us; correct? 2.4 THE WITNESS: Correct. 25 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. I'm probably going to

1 go all over the board so just forgive me. I have notes 2 everywhere. And, you know, I was just --I was so confused about these nine turbines, and 3 I think Commissioner Nelson had you clarify that. 4 5 all -- it's all about a loophole of securing your federal 6 financial support. 7 THE WITNESS: So it provides a second avenue. 8 So in our view the project qualifies, but having the 9 flexibility to also use the secondary methodology is 10 something that we would like to preserve. 11 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. And those turbines, 12 you were talking -- you know, sometimes I don't write down fast enough because I know Reece was asking you 1.3 14 questions on his board over there. And I thought these 15 nine turbines, they were less --16 3.8 megawatts is the one you're looking at. 17 And then these nine are --18 THE WITNESS: 2.3 megawatts. 19 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: 2.3. Okay. 20 And what Reece was talking about over there was 21 the original land agreements were looking at that 22 2 megawatt or something; right? 23 THE WITNESS: So for clarification, there was a 24 sheet that the Intervenors have introduced, and it was an 25 exhibit that showed the calculation of turbines and

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    payouts at the top. It noted the assumption of a
2
     2 megawatt machine.
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              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: All right. I still need to
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    put the puzzle pieces together here because on Damon's
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    page 8 -- where is the 2,000-foot setback? Which county
 6
    is that? And is that a setback of a nonparticipating
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    resident?
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              It's been talked about today. I don't see it in
9
    Damon's stuff on page 8.
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              There's been conversation today about a
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     2,000-foot setback. Nobody really clarified if it was a
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    resident or -- I mean, nonparticipating or participating.
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    Do you remember that line of questioning, and can you
14
    help me understand?
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              THE WITNESS:
                            I do. And I'm relatively certain
16
    that this is where it comes from.
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              But in the Affidavit submitted to Charles Mix
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     County it specified 2,000 feet from a nonparticipating
     landowner.
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              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. So that was after
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    Damon's prefiled testimony.
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                            That's correct.
              THE WITNESS:
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              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Damon also talks on page 12
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    a little bit about telecommunications.
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              Did you work with the telephone company, and do
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you have any issues with copper or anything there in that area?

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THE WITNESS: So our understanding is that there is fiberoptics in the area, which will be relatively easy to bring into the facility.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So the local telephone company has no issues.

THE WITNESS: I can't testify to that. I can just say the service that the project needs to operate is available in the area.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. So Damon talked about microfitting, and you guys have asked for 500 feet. As you may know -- I don't know if you know this so you can just clarify if you do -- the Commission continues to secure more information every time we have an evidentiary hearing.

These evidentiary hearings are new for this Commission. The dynamics have changed in South Dakota. And evidentiary hearings are now becoming the norm. So we have changed our microfitting feet on two dockets so far. Are you aware of that, and 500 feet is not part of the other two agreements?

THE WITNESS: I'm aware that the Commission has put set limits on other projects for micrositing the wind turbines. And I'm fairly certain and know that it's less

than 500 feet. 1 2 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you. 3 Also on page 12 of his testimony he talks a 4 little bit about safety. The Commission certainly is 5 very interested in safety. And are you providing a 6 safety manual to the Commission on now the two turbines 7 that you have selected? 8 THE WITNESS: So we've provided the Commission with a safety manual for the 3.8 megawatt machine and can 10 also submit a manual for the 2.3 megawatt machine. 11 MS. AGRIMONTI: May I interject, Chair? apologize. We do have the safety manual and the 12 13 operations manual available for the 3.8 machine. What General Electric has advised us is that we 14 15 can submit it to the Commission as confidential 16 information, but they would restrict access for attorneys 17 eyes only for parties. We need to have a discussion on 18 that. 19 Nobody so far has asked us to do that, but we do 20 have it available and can provide it to the Commission. 2.1 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: I have to ask my advisor a 22 quick question if I can ask you this. So just wait one 23 second. 2.4 (Pause.) 25 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: The attorneys are over

1 there, the advisors here. So here we go. My attorneys will have to gavel me if I can't ask this.

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So will you get us information on the safety -and if it's confidential, that's fine. The safety information for the feet of ice throw and the safety issues on that?

MS. AGRIMONTI: Sorry to interject again. There is a public document regarding ice throw and blade throw setback considerations that's already been placed in the record. It is in responses to Intervenors' Data Request Set No. 4. I'm not sure I have the document number, but I'll get it for you, the exhibit.

I may have to come back to it, but I will get There is a public document and, as I mentioned, it. there are the confidential documents that if the Chair is requesting them, we will submit.

> CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Great. Thank you.

Also now I can't remember where this testimony was so -- there is so much paper. And my memory is not as good as it used to be, and I blame my two boys for that. And now my husband, of course.

(Discussion off the record.)

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Someone testified that in order to avoid struggles or an issue with your PPA, was it like the fourth quarter everything had to be built in 2019 or the PPA was null and void?

I'm sorry. I can't remember exactly who testified on that, but I thought it was in some of your information that one of the three of you testified on.

THE WITNESS: Sure. So we're required to deliver power at the end of 2019.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: And so you know we have lots of rights in South Dakota. So if that doesn't happen by the end of 2019 and you don't deliver that power, then the PPA is null and void? Is that what the testimony that I read -- when I read it I'm going like, that's how I understood it, how it was written.

THE WITNESS: I would need to see the testimony specifically, but there are various commercial remedies and items that I'm hesitant to get into because of the confidentiality restrictions in the PPA.

So I guess that's kind of where I'll leave my statement.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Those are my questions until Commissioner Hanson and all my advisors are done asking questions. I might come back.

MS. AGRIMONTI: I will note that the exhibit I was trying to find was I-28, which includes setbacks and is a public document from General Electric.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Good afternoon,

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Mr. Pawlowski. 1 2 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon. 3 COMMISSIONER HANSON: I understand you're 4 adopting the Thorstad and Damon and your own testimony. 5 Is there anyone else's? 6 THE WITNESS: No. That's the only testimony. 7 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Anyone else's you'd like 8 to? THE WITNESS: No. 10 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Okay. Are there any 11 changes you want to make to any of those? 12 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: You sound like an attorney. 1.3 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Well, we always give you a 14 chance to change them before we ask the questions. You 15 hesitate. THE WITNESS: There's nothing that comes to mind 16 17 off the top of my head, but if there's an error in the 18 testimony, I'll correct it. 19 COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right. Forgive me ahead of time. I haven't had a chance to -- we've 20 21 received eight or nine e-mails today with information and 22 additional filings. And, of course, we received 23 Exhibit A32, the permit conditions that were jointly 24 proposed and agreed to. 25 So if I miss something on there, if we miss

something on there, please forgive us for it because some of us haven't had a chance to read through all of this information today while we're going through the evidentiary hearing.

I'm going to also start with Mr. Loren -- Damon. Mr. Damon's testimony. And you don't have to turn to the page, however, on page 10 of his testimony he talks about practicable. And that's a very uncomfortable word.

THE WITNESS: Sorry. I didn't hear it.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Practicable. Well, I'll read the sentence or at least a portion of it.

"Wetland impacts are avoided to the greatest extent practicable and all other applicable regulations and requirements are met." That means that you're going to meet some requirements, but we'll see whether you can meet the other ones.

That word has created some -- well, that qualification has created some discomfort for us in the past. So when you're putting your regulations together or your suggestions, rather, we appreciate you avoiding words of that nature, adjectives.

On page 11 you refer -- or excuse me. Well, it's your testimony now. You refer to, "During this time a maintenance crew will be on-site 24 hours a day."

In the past when we've worked with wind farms

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on -- well, pipeline companies, et cetera, on-site has
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     given different meaning, and I'm curious what is on-site?
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              THE WITNESS: Sure. It would be helpful if I
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     could look at the exact wording. Do we know which
 5
     exhibit?
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              COMMISSIONER HANSON: It's on page 11 of
7
    Mr. Damon's.
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              THE WITNESS: Sure. Do you know the page
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     number?
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              COMMISSIONER HANSON:
                                    No, I do not.
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              MS. AGRIMONTI: A6-2. How about A6-3.
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              THE WITNESS: So in specification on the
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     maintenance crew and what it means -- so I would first
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     identify the fact that the wind facility is monitored
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     from three separate locations; one on-site at the
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     operation and maintenance building, one in Salt Lake
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     City, Utah where our remote operations center is, and
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     then another, because this is a GE project, will be at
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     GE's operation in, I believe, Schenectady, New York.
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              We will have the ability to dispatch somebody
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     24 hours a day, but I would not say that the maintenance
22
     building is going to be occupied 24 hours a day but
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     rather there is somebody on call that can respond to
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     issues.
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              However, the turbines are monitored 24 hours a
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day by sPower by people in our remote operations center in Salt Lake City.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you. You covered that very well with the exception of -- and you covered everything I was curious about with the exception of I'm assuming that that individual or individuals who would be occupying the O&M facility, they're not going to be housing there 24/7, of course, but how close to that facility do you anticipate that they will be housing?

THE WITNESS: So depending on whether it's an issue with the turbines or a high-voltage issue with the substation, we have people on call that are able to respond. And, again, depending on the situation, certainly within two hours, sometimes -- depending on what the issue is, it can be within 30 to 45 minutes. It depends on what the item is.

If it is the functioning of a turbine, the turbine is shut down until somebody can go out and address whatever it is, if it's visual inspection. So but, again, it depends on what the issue is that's being experienced on-site.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you.

On page 14 of Mr. Damon's testimony he refers to -- on line 398. And I don't know if your -- THE WITNESS: I have it.

1 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Is it structured that way 2 for you? 3 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is. COMMISSIONER HANSON: Okay. The first line 4 5 states, "Prevailing Wind estimates that \$220,000 of food, 6 supplies, and fuel would be purchased locally by the 7 project and project staff annually (or 20.4 million over 8 the life of the project)." The life of the project, however, is for 10 30 years, and 220,000 times 30 would be 6,600,000, not 11 20,400,000. So I was confused by that. Can you help me 12 with that? 1.3 THE WITNESS: Sure. When I look -- and it's 14 an obvious math error, I would -- I would have to sit 15 down and look at the exact numbers of where it came out. 16 There is -- well, for one -- I'd have to sit down and 17 look at the math and how it got there. But I agree with 18 you. 19 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Okay. If you'd get back 20 to us on that, I appreciate it. All of the figures on 21 the next page work out to a 30-year basis. They're all 22 correct. So that threw me off a bit. Appreciate you 23 getting back to us on that. 2.4 Jumping to -- let's see if I have the right testimony. Mr. Thorstad's testimony, prefiled, excuse 25

me, I'm curious if each individual turbine will contain emergency power supplies to allow remote operation of the control systems.

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I believe it did, but it doesn't specifically say that, that I can find anywhere. But I believe from the discussion so far at least I'd reach that conclusion, but I haven't heard positively that it does.

THE WITNESS: So, yes, that's correct.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you.

On the directional drilling through the wetland areas, will that be done with conduit and then have the wiring go through the conduit?

I'm referring to on page 3, "Will the collection system be installed underground?" And it explains that there will be some directional drilling.

THE WITNESS: I would not expect us to install conduit unless there was some other feature that required it. But it would be just insulated cable drilled through and pulled.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: These will be in wetland areas and in streams? You will still go through the process without conduit?

THE WITNESS: So my expectation would be that it would be deep enough in the ground that the conduit wouldn't be necessary. However, if during

construction -- the decision could also be made that 1 conduit is necessary for some or all of them. 2 3 I'd also like to point out that I do not know 4 the requirements in the State of South Dakota so it could 5 be possible a conduit is required. But, obviously, it's 6 in our best interest, and we want to build the best 7 project possible for reliability in operations. 8 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you. 9 On page 4 I see you're not using guy-wires for 10 I appreciate that for the avian purposes. met towers. 11 You state that the towers will be lit. 12 towers would be lighted and painted as necessary to 13 provide -- they will -- what color will they be? Do you 14 know? 15 The light. Not the tower itself but the --16 THE WITNESS: Or sure. 17 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Are they the typical red light? 18 19 THE WITNESS: Yes. It's a red light. Also 20 please understand that the met tower is tied into the 21 ADLS system, which suppresses the turbine lights as 22 well. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Are you familiar that --24 there's a theory at least, and I don't know how strong it 25 is, that with whooping cranes that they are attracted to

a red light? 1 2 THE WITNESS: I am not familiar with that, no. 3 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Ms. Canty, I believe? Ιs that who will be testifying on -- she's here; right? 4 Ι see her in the back so I'll ask her. She'll have an 5 6 opportunity to check that out. On page 5 discussing the personnel, it refers to 7 8 245 jobs during construction at peak demand. Do you know how many job hours are involved here? 10 Because if someone works for -- you know, you 11 have 40 people who work for a month and you say, wow, 12 40 jobs are being produced, it's not the same as a year's 1.3 worth of work there so --14 THE WITNESS: So I -- we do have that data and 15 what the expectation is during construction. I do not 16 have that at my fingertips but can certainly provide it. COMMISSIONER HANSON: I'd like that if you 17 18 would. Thank you. 19 I'm going to jump to your testimony. I already 20 asked some of these questions so I'm going -- I had 2.1 intended to ask the same question of different 22 individuals just to see if you were consistent, and 23 you've been consistent so far so I won't ask you the same 24 questions. 25 There was some disagreement -- and, again,

forgive me if this has already been set forth in the 1 2 Exhibit A32. There was some disagreement regarding the 3 decommissioning of wind turbines. And I believe you came up with a -- well, I won't describe your position in 4 5 comparison to the one that Darren Kearney of staff was 6 relating, but is that part of the agreement? Have you 7 folks reached an agreement on what the decommissioning --8 the escrow account would be for decommissioning and how that would be structured? 10 THE WITNESS: Yes. We agreed to the 11 structuring. Or as far as I know from last Friday, we 12 agreed to what it was at that point. 1.3 COMMISSIONER HANSON: All right. Thank you. 14 And thank you for your testimony. Those are all the 15 questions I have. 16 MR. DE HUECK: Redirect. 17 MS. AGRIMONTI: Possibly may be able to avoid 18 redirect depending on --MR. DE HUECK: I'm sorry. Commissioner Fiegen 19 20 has an additional question. 21 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: I just need to go back to 22 Commissioner Hanson's question on on-site. Damian [sic] in his prefiled testimony on 23 24 page 11 -- and he's the one that talks about the 25 maintenance crew will be on-site. And that's what

Commissioner Hanson talked about 24 hours. And then

Commissioner Hanson talked about what does on-site -- and

can you clarify that.

But when I look at this, I mean, he certainly states that it's from the O&M maintenance building. Is that what it looks like to you?

THE WITNESS: That's how I read the testimony, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: But that's not how it's going to be. Is that what you said to Commissioner Hanson?

THE WITNESS: Correct. So with respect to the O&M building, while it is a staging area and a location that we -- and it's the operation and maintenance staff.

While that is a staging area, even during the day often the folks who are operating and maintaining the facility are not in the building but rather are on-site at turbines, in turbines, at nacelles, at a substation doing work, as opposed to a single location.

The single location monitoring is really handled out of Salt Lake, although they have the ability to log in and see any of the computers they want -- or I'm sorry. Any of the turbines they want from their computer. But the maintenance is occurring at the machines.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So I made an assumption that the next paragraph that talks about eight to 10 full-time jobs -- are those full-time jobs in the project area, or are they in a different state?

THE WITNESS: No. So those -- those jobs are people who their address for work is the O&M building. That is where they go every day. That is where they change. That's where they get their tools. They are people locally or that live locally and going there for work.

That does not take into account anybody that is associated with the facility that is remote.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So then why does it take two hours to respond to an issue? Why would they be two hours away? Wouldn't you keep someone --

I mean, it's just like pipeline safety. And I know it's different. It's a different issue. But there could be fires or whatever the case could be.

THE WITNESS: So we wouldn't look to keep somebody two hours away. And when I spoke to the response I meant to the location of the response time.

So depending on what the issue is, we would have a different response time by when we wanted somebody from O&M to get there. Obviously, as soon as possible is always preferred, but the question is, you know, what's

the severity of the issue, and what's the response time that's needed?

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: And my very last question and I know Ms. Edwards talked a little bit about it but it's Mr. Damon's response on the school district's \$371,000 annually in taxes paid.

Is that the whole 30 years of that area school's, or is this misstated and it's really -- it goes to the state, to the state school aid formula in a graduated way from year five to year 10 and then after year 10 it's all in the state aid school formula?

THE WITNESS: So all of the money goes to the school, and then there is a graduated, as it's offset. But that money is going to the school, but as the local contribution starts to be taken into consideration for what the state's funding there is graduation. However, that money is still going into the schools.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Yeah. I guess technically, but probably not with the local people. It's not above and beyond what they're -- so, technically, you could --

You know, there's all legal issues and statements, but I don't think your local citizens might necessarily always agree with a legal response because that above and beyond money that sometimes is stated isn't there anymore after year 10.

1 THE WITNESS: That's correct. And that's my understanding as well. 2 3 And certainly I've been conscious in the 4 community of talking about it in the graduated way. 5 of course, that conversation with people locally is 6 different than providing on-the-record testimony, which 7 has to be precise. 8 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. 9 MR. DE HUECK: Further cross-examination, 10 Commissioner Hanson. 11 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Don't sound so excited. Ι 12 just have one additional question. 1.3 Would Prairie Winds be willing to shut down 14 operations during the whooping crane migration? 15 THE WITNESS: Sorry? 16 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Prevailing Winds. Excuse 17 me. Or Beethoven, Crocker. 18 THE WITNESS: We've not made any commitments to 19 that, and the conversations that have been had with U.S. 20 Fish & Wildlife Service I'm probably not the best person 2.1 to speak to those. It falls outside of my testimony --22 outside of my expertise. 23 I have not been a direct party to them, but we 24 do have others testifying who I believe could provide the 25 information you're looking for.

1 COMMISSIONER HANSON: But that person would be subject to your thoughts and appraisal. 2 3 THE WITNESS: Correct. So pending that 4 testimony, I mean, right now, no. I would not make that commitment to shut down during whooping crane migration. 6 But, obviously, there will be additional testimony and conversations so it's something that I'd be 7 8 happy to revisit. And it would also require additional analysis on my part. 10 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Would you agree that every 11 block in the foundation has to be cemented in in order 12 for the permit to be approved? 1.3 THE WITNESS: Yes. So we would -- we would make 14 this commitment -- as I said, I'm not inclined to make 15 I understand you would want to know this commitment now. 16 whether or not we would make that commitment prior to the 17 issuance of the permit. 18 But, you know, as with the additional 19 information I'm going to provide, that can be a part of 20 it. 21 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you. 22 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I was not planning to go 23 down this road at all, but I've got to follow up on 2.4 Commissioner Hanson's question. 25 My understanding is that normal operating

procedure for wind farms is that if a whooping crane is 1 2 spotted in the area, that the farm shuts down. Is that 3 your normal operating procedure? 4 THE WITNESS: So I'm not aware of that as an 5 operating condition. I would say that the migration 6 question was a little different. 7 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Absolutely. I'm asking a 8 more targeted question. THE WITNESS: Yeah. So I don't know what the 9 10 normal operating procedure is from U.S. Fish & Wildlife 11 that sPower has committed to and what's done. But we do 12 follow the recommendations and the guidelines of U.S. 1.3 Fish & Wildlife Service and work with them on the 14 operation of the facility. 15 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And which of your 16 witnesses would be able to speak to that? 17 THE WITNESS: Bridget Canty would be the one to 18 speak to that. 19 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. 20 MR. DE HUECK: I'm going to ask you if you want 21 to redirect, but I think you had something you wanted to 22 say. 23 MS. AGRIMONTI: Thank you. I can do it by 24 redirect, but I don't believe what I have to say is 25 controversial.

I believe the Chair was asking some questions about turbine flexibility, and Mr. Damon's testimony had the 500 feet from the application. The Applicant has since agreed to a 250-foot flexibility, and that's in the Condition No. 23.

Also Mr. Pawlowski was asked about a setback requirement, and he couldn't recall if it was Hutchinson or Bon Homme. I'll represent as a matter of law Hutchinson doesn't have any setbacks so it must be Bon Homme.

MR. DE HUECK: Now any redirect?

MS. AGRIMONTI: Not unless somebody objects to what I just said.

MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Almond, recross based on Commission questions?

RECROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. ALMOND:

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- Q. I don't remember who asked the question, but did you testify earlier that your land team was still out signing up easements for this project?
- 21 MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. That is outside the 22 scope of the Commissioner questions.
- MR. DE HUECK: I believe she's correct. That didn't come up during Commission questions.
- 25 Q. So sPower hired Burns & McDonnell; right?

- 1 A. Burns & McDonnell.
- 2 Q. Specifically, Chris Howell to go do a sound
- 3 | analysis; right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Or noise analysis. And Aaron Anderson who did a
- 6 | flicker analysis; right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Again, I'm going to object. I
- 9 do not recall the Commissioners asking any questions
- 10 about the --
- 11 MR. ALMOND: This will go into the line of
- 12 questioning that Commissioner Nelson started off with.
- MR. DE HUECK: Which was what?
- 14 Yeah. Just ask your question.
- 15 Q. Yeah. So Commissioner Nelson asked about committing
- 16 to the sound flicker levels and noise levels predicted by
- 17 Mr. Howell and Mr. Anderson. And earlier we heard
- 18 Mr. Anderson testify that he predicted the worst-case
- 19 | scenarios for the project when it comes to shadow
- 20 flicker.
- 21 If you look at Mr. Howell's report, he has the same
- 22 | language actually, provided the worst-case predicted
- 23 | sound pressure levels for the given receptors.
- 24 So if both of those individuals predicted the
- 25 | worst-case levels for all of the receptors, why aren't

you willing to commit to those values for the sound 2 analysis or the flicker analysis at each receptor? 3 So, as was asked and as I answered to the 4 Commissioner, we agreed to a decibel level of 43 for the 5 county of Charles Mix, and we've applied the Bon Homme 6 standard to Hutchinson County as well. And so we've made 7 commitments to the county and the regulatory body, not for individual receptors. And you're representing to the Commission through 10 your two experts, Mr. Howell and Anderson, that this 11 project as built worst-case scenario are those values in

What we're representing is what's in the report and what's been provided. And that's -- that's what the report showed.

Our commitment is to 45 decibels in Bon Homme and Hutchinson and 43 in Charles Mix for nonparticipating receptors.

> MR. ALMOND: I have no further questions.

MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss?

their two reports at each receptor?

MR. FUERNISS: I guess I have a little bit of a question. I think Commissioner Fiegen brought this up about the original land agreements.

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RECROSS-EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. FUERNISS:
- Q. Do you recall how much land -- what the amount of acreage was before sPower became involved, what had
- 5 | already been leased?
- I think you said a percentage, something like that,

 but do you know what the amount of land might have
- 8 been?

- 9 A. I don't know the acreage off the top of my head. I
- 10 think I represented that about 60 percent of the project,
- 11 excluding the 115-kilovolt line, was under lease.
- 12 Q. Okay. Would you have any idea where in that map
- 13 that original 60 percent or so may have been? Was it
- 14 more in one area of the project footprint than another?
- 15 A. I do not have that information.
- 16 Q. Would you know anything about a map that is in
- 17 | Exhibit I-18?
- MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. de Hueck, I've let a few
- 19 questions go by. Again, I believe this is outside the
- 20 | scope of the Commissioner questions.
- 21 MR. DE HUECK: Well, I recall Kristie asking
- 22 about the percentages. And so I'm going to allow him
- 23 | to -- I think he's still trying to flesh it out.
- Let's just look at the map and let him ask his
- 25 question.

1 MS. AGRIMONTI: Could I have the exhibit 2 restated again, please. 3 I believe it's I-18. MR. FUERNISS: 4 MS. AGRIMONTI: Thank you. 5 I have the map in front of me. I'm sorry. What was 6 the question? 7 Well, I'm just trying to establish what -- when sPower came onto the project what lands were already leased? And what was it and whereabouts those lands may 10 have been? 11 Does this map help us in any way there? 12 No. This map doesn't appear to indicate what lands 1.3 are leased. 14 Can you tell me what this map does indicate? 15 It appears to show the outline of the project. 16 it has some areas designated, and while on this print 17 it's orange, I'm going to assume it's red. And my 18 assumption is those would be landowners that definitely 19 do not want to participate in the project. 20 However, that is speculation on my part and is -- so 21 I'll leave it at that. 22 MR. FUERNISS: Thank you. 23 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins, any 24 cross-examination based on Commissioner questions? 25 MS. JENKINS: I have no questions.

1 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour. MS. PAZOUR: None at this moment. 2 3 And Staff. MR. DE HUECK: 4 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. 5 RECROSS-EXAMINATION 6 BY MS. EDWARDS: 7 I believe it was Commissioner Nelson that asked about the change in turbines, and you stated that that change was to preserve a tax methodology? 10 That's correct. There's two tax methodologies. Wе 11 intend for the project to qualify under the one that 12 it -- that we've always planned on it. However, we wanted to keep a second avenue open. 1.3 14 Okay. And I'm aware of the two different tax 15 methodologies from the IRS standpoint. 16 Which are those -- which one are you relying on now, 17 and which one do you intend to preserve and how? 18 Sure. So relying on now is the construction of the Α. 19 main power transformer for the project. And preserve 20 would be a 5 percent of capital cost on the project 21 having been spent prior to the end of 2016. 22 And then turning to a discussion you had with

Commissioner Hanson regarding underground conduit, do you

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Α.

recall that discussion?

I do.

Q. You had made some commitments in a data request, and I'm feeling less confident about those commitments now.

Can you commit at this time to the Commission today that if you -- if this project damages any field tile when laying that underground conduit, you will repair and replace the field tile?

A. Yes. That is our commitment to the landowners that we have all the rights and we would make that commitment to the Commission. However, if for whatever reason the landowner insists that we do something slightly different, I would not want to force us to do something on their land.

But that is our commitment to the landowners, and we're happy to make that Commission to the Commission.

- Q. You keep saying "landowner." So what if you damage the tile which causes indirect damages on the neighboring property's land? Say flooding. Is there a plan to remediate that?
- A. We would not -- we would not cause damage to another landowner's land. That's something that we would remediate and we would commit to the Commission to remediate.

And I apologize. I was thinking of it specifically in the context of landowners that we have leases. But, of course, we remediate if we're causing issues on other

landowners' nonparticipating land. 1 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. 2 3 No further questions. MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Pawlowski, thank you for your 4 5 testimony. You may step down and, Prevailing Wind, you 6 may call your next witness. 7 (The witness is excused.) 8 (Discussion off the record.) 9 MR. DE HUECK: Prevailing Winds, go ahead and 10 call your next witness. 11 MS. AGRIMONTI: Prevailing Wind would call 12 Mike MaRous. 13 Michael MaRous, 14 called as a witness, being first duly sworn in the above 15 cause, testified under oath as follows: MS. AGRIMONTI: My apologies. I had a different 16 17 order and I thought I was at the right page and I'm there 18 now. 19 DIRECT EXAMINATION 20 BY MS. AGRIMONTI: 21 Mr. MaRous, could you please introduce yourself to 22 the Commission. 23 My name is Michael MaRous. I am a real estate 24 appraiser. I hold the MAI and the CRE designation --25 MR. DE HUECK: Can I ask you to turn on your

mic. I can totally hear you, but we've got to have you
mic'd.

THE WITNESS: Sorry. There was a light on, but it was red. Thank you.

Should I start over.

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MR. DE HUECK: Sure.

A. My name is Michael MaRous. I'm president of MaRous & Company. I am a real estate appraiser and have been for over 40 years. I've held the MAI designation for over 35 years and have sat on many national committees.

Been president of the Chicago Chapter. I'm also on the National Board of the Counselors of Real Estate. I'm a licensed real estate appraiser, general certified, in the State of South Dakota.

I have appraised over 15,000 properties, probably \$15 billion worth of value and have done probably well over 100 impact studies in my career.

I graduated from University of Illinois
Champaign-Urbana with a degree in finance and
specialization in urban land economics. And I have
testified before this Commission before.

- Q. On what occasions did you testify before this Commission?
- 25 A. The Crocker and the Dakota Range proposed wind farm

- 1 projects.
- 2 Q. In this matter did you file Prefiled Supplemental
- 3 Direct Testimony in August of this year?
- 4 A. I did.
- 5 Q. Is that Exhibit A15 and Exhibits A15-1 through 7?
- 6 Do you have those before you?
- 7 A. I have to move some books.
- I do.
- 9 Q. And did you also file Rebuttal Testimony that was
- 10 revised and submitted yesterday as A16-R?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you please provide a brief summary of the topics
- 13 | covered in your testimony?
- 14 A. Basically I reviewed the project submission. I
- 15 | inspected the area and the footprint. I looked at
- 16 existing facilities in the project, did extensive
- 17 research into valuation, economics, value trends,
- 18 character of the area, and also southeast South Dakota.
- 19 Also interviewed many market participants, both
- 20 | auctioneers, landowners, in the area. Did review and in
- 21 | my report did analysis of peer-reviewed articles looking
- 22 | at value impacts based on proposed -- or actual wind
- 23 | farms. Also did extensive match pair analysis both in
- 24 | South Dakota and some adjoining states.
- 25 As part of this, basically to get the feel of

on-the-ground activity, did research and conducted surveys with the assessors in eight counties that have over 25-unit wind farms to research to see if they had gotten complaints, if they had had hearings and reviews and had real estate tax reductions because of the proximity of turbines.

Also did that -- some more survey in Minnesota,

Iowa, and Illinois, probably covering, you know, several
million acres of land, and there's been no granted tax
appeals in that. And, obviously, took into consideration
any of the issues, objector concerns, et cetera. But I
am not a doctor. But did review and rely on some of
these other expert studies.

And then in the Rebuttal, the Rebuttal just went to the issues initially. The property value guarantees and some of the issues with that consideration.

- Q. And what was your ultimate conclusion with respect to the project's potential impact on property values?
- A. It was really a -- in my opinion, a relatively straightforward conclusion that there would be no negative impact on property values based on the proposed project.
- Q. Do you have any additions or corrections to your prefiled testimony?
- 25 A. I don't believe so.

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Q. If I asked you the same questions that are written
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2
     in your prefiled testimony, would your answers be the
     same?
 3
 4
    A. Yes.
5
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Mr. MaRous is available for
 6
    cross-examination.
7
              MR. ALMOND: No questions from Intervenors.
8
              MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss, do you have any
9
     questions?
10
              MR. FUERNISS: I have no questions.
11
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins.
12
              MS. JENKINS: No questions.
13
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour.
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              MS. PAZOUR: No questions.
15
              MR. DE HUECK: And Staff.
16
              MS. EDWARDS: No questions.
17
              MR. DE HUECK: Commission questions.
18
    Commissioner Nelson does have a question.
19
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Do you go first?
20
              MR. DE HUECK: Well, I can start with Chairman
21
     Fiegen.
              Do you have questions?
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              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: I do.
23
              MR. DE HUECK: Okay.
24
              CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So you talked about your
     extensive research.
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1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

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CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Do you believe that extensive research on the impact of land values in South Dakota in wind parks may take more time than is given?

Although Mr. Lawrence doesn't sound like he is going to testify, and I would ask him this question because he stated it before, that it's going to take some time to really do an extensive research on land values.

So you've indicated that you did an extensive research. So are you confident in your explanation that there is no adverse -- or does there need to really be more research?

And I can't ask David because he's not going to be here.

THE WITNESS: So the answer is, since you brought up Mr. Lawrence, who I highly respect, he did bring up comments in regard to my report and some additional raw research that he had done.

Based on that, in light of just what you said, it's an ongoing process, and we're trying to understand everything that's going on and the impacts, that he had basically 10 leads on potential transactions.

It turns out that there were two transactions, both of large ag pieces. One was a 480-acre farm in

Jerauld that was just ag land and was about 3 miles east of a wind farm, and there was another 330-acre parcel that was actually on Avon and Jerauld in part of a wind farm.

It was interesting. There's three turbines on it. And the first property sold for \$3,300 an acre in the end of 2017. The second property, which is pasture, you know, which doesn't generate a lot of rent and generally doesn't reflect a lot of value, sold for about \$2,800. And I did go look at those properties and in --going through further verification.

But the answer is I think what you heard

Dr. Roberts -- you know, it's ongoing investigation. And
that's really, Commissioner, one of the reasons that we
went to Iowa to look at where they've had a longer
history, low density, real productive ag, and how it's
impacted. And I think there were 28 assessors that I
talked to in 28 counties, and they were all incredibly
positive about the impact on value.

Now that ties in with hogs. It ties in with corn. Soybeans. It was just, you know, an additional piece of the puzzle.

So while there are people that have, you know, negative feelings -- and, you know, again that kind of goes to architectural and anything else. And I know

there are people that don't like them, but all indications because of everything analyzed, considered, the economic impacts, it's all positive as far as value.

1.3

But will things change? Can I predict the future? Of course not. But I can tell you based on what I've seen and the strong indications we have and the positive economics of it -- and really in this one really we were able to talk to quite a few different land participants.

And it's basically based on, you know, proximity to services, paved roads, proximity to employment centers, such as Mitchell, such as, you know, Sioux Falls that's -- and modern facilities that's driving the value.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So you stated that you did interviews. Were those face-to-face interviews in Bon Homme, Charles Mix? Or are you talking about the eight counties?

You talked about you did interviews. You talked to market auctioneers. You talked to land appraisers.

Is that all in the Bon Homme area? The Charles Mix area?

I just didn't hear the qualifications of where those people -- where they were found.

THE WITNESS: It's basically the answer is I talked to them. I did not have face to face. I talked to them on the phone, verified --

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: From where?

THE WITNESS: I've got the list in the report, but it kind of went down from Deuel all the way down through Avon, basically not quite over to Sioux Falls, west of Bon Homme.

And a lot of these auctioneers and brokers, they handle large geographic areas, and they were stating the same things. The interesting issue in the subject footprint area because of the, you know, personal and emotional controversy, there were a couple that gave me opinions but did not -- you know, they wanted confidentiality as part of their name because they have relationships and business contacts and they did not want to report and I held it out.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: How many days did you spend face to face in the footprint?

THE WITNESS: I was -- well, I've been to the footprint three times. I was there looking at it for another project because I was interested, you know, basically to see Beethoven, and while I was there I ended up a little bit north. I didn't know that this project was going forward, but I ended up in it.

And then I was there in May. You know, I drove 70 miles in the footprint. And then I was there yesterday for a short time period.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So do you know what the building permits are for a quarter of land in those counties?

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So a farmer might have a quarter of land. Can they have four building permits where they can sell off acreages? Tell me how you evaluated the value of those building permits.

THE WITNESS: That's a very good question because it really ties in to basically the counties, and it ties in to access. But the reality is it ties in to market demand. And in the last few years and particularly going back to about 2008 when there was the real estate recession, there's been very little new construction so there hasn't been demand. There hasn't been evidences of the subdivision of these parcels.

What's happened more is in the family farm where, you know, a child or a relative, you know, wants a 3- to 10-acre tract and then they subdivide it off. But there's really no indication of that happening on an active basis.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Did you listen to -- or did you read because I don't think you were at our public hearing.

Did you read the public hearing that we had, the public input hearing, or did you read any of the comments

about people coming back here and moving here, retiring here? Did you read any of that or see any of that?

THE WITNESS: I actually read, but I didn't do it word for word. I read it just to get the feel for it. What was interesting about that in my -- you know, again, I've seen it all throughout South Dakota is there are people that are coming back for retirement, but what's happening when there's some illness, a death, a divorce, a lot of times -- and I think you heard earlier with the lady saying, you know, that they were looking, you know, possibly at moving because of, you know, the age situation.

The other critical item that we look at with any project, you know, is where are the best and the brightest going? Are they staying, or are they not coming back even to visit? And that was resounding with the market participants where Avon has strong schools but there still needs to be economic opportunity for employment and that's really driving what you're going at.

And, you know, the retirees, you know, there's a longevity potential issue with that, unfortunately, and I'm one of them. I look at the reality, and I hear from my wife.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: We're going to go back to a

couple of questions I asked you about before, and I don't 1 2 know if you've answered those. 3 Building permits, the counties that this is 4 built in, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, and Hutchinson, what 5 are the building permits per quarter? 6 THE WITNESS: There's been virtually none. 7 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. I'm sorry. 8 THE WITNESS: But from a legal standpoint --9 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: You know what, I'm asking 10 the wrong question. Maybe I don't know the definition of 11 it. 12 So if I owned a quarter of land, I a lot of 1.3 times have access to sell four acreages possibly in a 14 quarter of land. Tell me what that term is. If it's not 15 a building permit, what is that called? THE WITNESS: Well, it's subdivision. It's a 16 17 building permit for a subdivision. 18 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Yeah. It's called -- like 19 in Minnehaha County, this is the county I'm aware of. If 20 I own a quarter of land in Minnehaha County, I have the 21 right to sell off four -- maybe four additional or 22 whatever. 23 MR. HUBNER: Housing eligibilities. 24 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Housing eligibilities. I am 25 so sorry. I have the wrong name. Building permits is

the wrong name. It's housing eligibilities.

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So did you look at what Bon Homme, Charles Mix, and Hutchinson, what the housing eligibilities for a quarter of land are?

THE WITNESS: On a gross basis, I did not. But to caution that, when you do that you have to provide access. And the shape can impact. When you say a pure quarter that's a little different but is it a buried quarter or is it a corner and how would you do that subdivision?

But the answer is, no, I did not.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: So in South Dakota I know that in agriculture a lot of times farmers will sell off one of their housing eligibilities. And they have access to sell off a certain number according to the county.

The value of those housing eligibilities in a wind park, did you investigate and in your research look at the change in value of those housing eligibilities in a wind park or a wind development?

THE WITNESS: The rough answer is generally I did, but I didn't see any subdivision, recent subdivision of any lots not only in the various footprints but proximate to. So there was no market activity of that so there was no data.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. I'm going to hold off

1 and see if I have anymore questions. Thank you. THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 2 3 MR. DE HUECK: Commissioner Hanson, do you have 4 any questions? 5 COMMISSIONER HANSON: No. Getting to know your 6 way around South Dakota pretty well, aren't you? 7 THE WITNESS: I am. 8 COMMISSIONER HANSON: You update -- and 9 appraisals have a great value for a six-month period. So 10 no doubt you used some of the previous information on 11 this one or not? I did. 12 THE WITNESS: 1.3 COMMISSIONER HANSON: And I know it's probably 14 slim pickings -- I'm just thinking that it probably is --15 for finding comparables for what you're looking for here. 16 Is that true, or were you able to find some good 17 comparables? 18 THE WITNESS: There were not good comparables. 19 It was slim pickings. 20 What's interesting, though, is the market is 21 relatively tight. Virtually nothing on the market. 22 There's demand, but the demand is closer to the towns on 23 paved roads with modern improvements that, you know, have 24 modern kitchens, that have modern layouts, that have 25 modern mechanicals. And so there's demand for that.

1 And maybe at some point there will be enough where there's some of that division of some of these 2 agricultural pieces for some new housing. 3 COMMISSIONER HANSON: So you went -- instead of 4 5 a market value you used -- your appraisals were primarily 6 based upon income approach? 7 THE WITNESS: Well, I looked at the income, yes, 8 with the transactions but, again, went to the major brokers, major auctioneers to see what was happening in 10 their market and how their potential buyers were 11 reacting, you know, particularly when they're looking at 12 properties, you know, proximate to Beethoven, as 13 example. And then, again, I went back to the Brookings 14 comparables, which were very good. 15 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Good. That would be 16 better than the income approach. Appreciate you doing 17 that. Thank you. 18 THE WITNESS: Yes. 19 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: I have one more question. 20 MR. DE HUECK: Go ahead. 21 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Just wait one second. 22 So I think you talked about the best and the 23 brightest and, you know, trying to keep them in our home 24 state. You also, I think, heard possibly in testimony

maybe of Peter, I believe, that there is fiber here.

And I can't find my research that I'm looking at, and I don't know if there's fiber to the premises here or not. But that would mean that it would allow people the opportunity possibly to work from home and that there's been research done that possibly 22 percent of Americans are now working from home full time or at least part of their job is working from home.

2.4

So the best and the brightest certainly -- I mean, economic development and living back home certainly could happen if there's fiber to the home.

THE WITNESS: Absolutely. But it's not only fiber. It's shopping. It's hospitals. It's medical support. It's entertainment uses. It's restaurants. It's diversity.

I mean, that's why, you know, Des Moines, as an example, West Des Moines, why there's been -- you know, the 18-hour city. And, you know, there's the -- the pull and tug and in South Dakota you've got very nice open spaces. You've got great hunting. You've got great services. You've got a lot going on. But you're not going to appeal to everybody. And the fiber does help, but it doesn't solve all the problems.

CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. DE HUECK: Redirect.

MS. AGRIMONTI: I have no redirect.

- 1 MR. DE HUECK: Cross-examination based on
- 2 | Commissioner Fiegen's questioning?
- 3 MR. ALMOND: Nothing.
- 4 MR. FUERNISS: I'm going to let my curiosity get
- 5 | the better of me here.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. FUERNISS:

- 8 Q. You answered the question of Commissioner Fiegen's
- 9 about how you had looked at land value and so forth, and
- 10 I think you said from Deuel, meaning Deuel County, down
- 11 to Avon.

- 12 Is that how I understood that?
- 13 A. Going north to south. And really south of Avon too.
- 14 Probably 15 miles south of Avon.
- 15 Q. My curiosity here is you realize that that area of
- 16 | the state is part of what's called the Prairie Coteau?
- 17 A. I do.
- 18 Q. Okay. And the western part of this project that's
- 19 in Charles Mix County is on the Missouri Coteau.
- 20 A. I do know that.
- 21 Q. Okay. Would you say that then looking from Deuel
- 22 | County south into Bon Homme County that would be
- 23 | comparable to the west of that as well?
- 24 A. Well, there's comparability, just based on the ag
- 25 and the grazing type character. A lot of the Deuel is

1 | very rough, has a lot of sloping terrain.

You know, it's proximate to Brookings, but, again, you know, here you've kind of got Mitchell. You've got Sioux Falls. I mean, there's similar characteristics, but they're obviously not identical. But investors — there's similar characteristics for investors, and then it goes down to land rent and price.

- Q. Okay. Because we often in Charles Mix County have the feeling like we're the -- more like West River
- 10 South Dakota actually than East River because we are on
- 11 that Missouri Coteau, and I was just wondering, you know,
- 12 | if that comparison was valid.
- 13 A. I think it is.
- 14 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 15 A. Yes.

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MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. JENKINS:

- 19 Q. I just would like to ask in real estate they talk
- 20 about location, location. How would you define
- 21 that?
- Or what I should say is what would make -- you're
- 23 | telling us that everybody wants to live near the city,
- 24 but what about the people that want to live away from the
- 25 traffic, away from a lot of people and that?

1 Wouldn't property in the country be considered that 2 way for a lot of people? 3 A. Well, that's multiple questions, but the answer is yes. There is a certain part of the market that wants a 4 5 more open, more rural type community, but they still need services. 6 7 They still need medical. They still like -- most of 8 them like paved roads. And unless they're independently wealthy, they still need to work. So it becomes to 10 practical. 11 And then the other issue, if they're married, they 12 both have to have similar interests, or one's going to 13 win out. 14 MS. JENKINS: Thank you. 15 MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour. 16 MS. PAZOUR: Nothing. 17 MR. DE HUECK: Thank you. Staff. 18 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. 19 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION 21 BY MS. EDWARDS: 22 Q. You testified that you went to a few projects in 23 Iowa, did you say, in response to Commissioner Fiegen's 24 question? 25 I looked at the history of Iowa, and I've been

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involved with a couple of projects in Iowa and have done
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2
     research on the Iowa and have talked to the 18 assessors.
 3
     Yes.
 4
         Do you know, were any of those projects of the same
 5
     height -- the towers of the same height these are?
 6
         They're coming. I don't know if any have been
7
     built. They've been built on the East Coast and in
8
     Michigan.
                There's a couple planned in Illinois, and
     there's a couple Ida County, they're planned there, but
10
     I'm not aware of any that are up.
11
              MS. EDWARDS: No further questions.
12
              MR. DE HUECK: With that, thank you for your
13
     testimony, and you may step down.
14
              THE WITNESS:
                            Thank you.
15
                     (The witness is excused.)
              MR. DE HUECK: We will take a break. I have
16
17
     6 o'clock here so let's come back at, say, 6:15.
18
                     (A short recess is taken.)
19
              MR. DE HUECK: We'll call the meeting back to
20
           Prevailing Winds, you are free to call your next
     order.
21
     witness.
22
              MS. SMITH:
                          Thank you. We will call
23
     Daniel Pardo.
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DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. SMITH:

- 3 | Q. Mr. Pardo, can you introduce yourself for the
- 4 | Commission. And you'll need to push the green button so
- 5 your light turns on.
- 6 A. Yes. Thank you. My name is Daniel Pardo. I work
- 7 | for DNV GL, the consulting company that was engaged by
- 8 | the Prevailing Wind Park Project to provide the
- 9 decommissioning assessment.
- 10 I have a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering
- 11 | and a master's degree in wind energy and 14 years of
- 12 | practical experience in wind energy.
- 13 Q. And did you file Supplemental Direct Testimony in
- 14 | this matter on August 10, 2018?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And is that testimony found in Exhibits All and
- 17 | A11-1 through A11-2?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And can you provide a brief summary of the topics
- 20 | that are covered in your testimony?
- 21 A. Sure. So the testimony addresses the estimate that
- 22 | we have done for what the decommissioning costs for this
- 23 | specific project will be upon the conditions of today's
- 24 market and the information provided by Prevailing Wind
- 25 Park.

- 1 | Q. And are you aware that the proposed hub height of
- 2 | the turbine model has increased by 1.5 meters since you
- 3 | conducted your analysis?
- 4 A. Yes. I'm aware.
- 5 | Q. And does that change affect your decommissioning
- 6 cost estimate for the project?
- 7 A. It does at a small scale. It will affect on the
- 8 resale value or, sorry, the scrap value of the
- 9 components. Because there will be more steel for resale
- 10 apart from --
- But, again, I think it's a minor percentage. And
- 12 | apart from that, it wouldn't have any other impact.
- 13 Q. So if I'm understanding correctly, if it did have an
- 14 | impact, it would be to decrease the cost when you're
- 15 | taking into account salvage value?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. But, otherwise, it would not affect your analysis?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And do you have any additions or corrections to
- 20 | anything besides what we've just talked about?
- 21 | A. No, I don't.
- 22 Q. And are the assumptions that are included in your
- 23 cost estimate for this project, are they conservative
- 24 estimates?
- 25 A. Yeah. We have made some conservative assumptions,

- and these are explained in the document.
- Q. And can you give some examples of those conservative
- 3 assumptions for your analysis?
- 4 A. Sure. One of them is that all project roads will be
- 5 decommissioned. In reality and what we think might
- 6 happen --
- 7 Yeah. I guess I should say what we think might
- 8 happen is that some of the roads or the landowners will
- 9 request those roads to be left for their own use.
- 10 However, this study assumes all roads will be
- 11 decommissioned.
- 12 Another conservative assumption is that all
- 13 | collection system cabling will be removed. From the
- 14 information we received from Prevailing Wind Park this
- 15 | collection system will be buried below the 4 feet
- 16 required grade, and they might decide to leave it in
- 17 place in the future.
- But, again, the study assumes the cost for removing
- 19 | it will be there and the project bear it. We also make
- 20 | some conservative assumptions on the resale scenario.
- 21 | For instance, that on the -- a percentage of the major
- 22 | components which have been replaced in the last five
- 23 | years in the turbines will be for sale on a secondhand
- 24 market.
- 25 We also assume that medium grade components like

- 1 small motors and older power electronics will not be for sale -- or for resale, which is, again, something that we 2 3 consider can or could happen in 30 years down the road, but we have decided not to include those potential 4
- 5 revenues for the project.

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- And as far as the accuracy of your analysis, can you explain -- I know it's addressed in your testimony, but can you explain the reasons that you feel your cost estimate is accurate?
- 10 Yes. So DNV GL for the decommissioning assessment 11 we're discussing here has made the assumption that the 12 decommissioning process resembles significantly the 13 construction process in a reverse order. And taking that 14 into account and the fact that DNV GL participates as an 15 independent engineer in approximately 75 percent of the
- 17 that gives us a good understanding of the construction 18 process.

And we are confident on the method we have used. So we think that the numbers on the estimates we've given here are the best and most accurate representation we can give of the decommissioning of this particular wind farm.

financing operations for wind farms in the United States,

Q. All right. And if I asked you the questions in your testimony, would you have the same answers that were

- 1 given in writing?
- 2 A. Yes.

8

- 3 MS. SMITH: I have no further questions and
- 4 offer Mr. Pardo for cross-examination.
- 5 MR. ALMOND: No questions.
- 6 MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss.
- 7 MR. FUERNISS: Just one question.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. FUERNISS:

- 10 Q. If someone was to say the decommissioning cost might
- 11 be more on the order of \$350,000 per turbine, how would
- 12 | they have possibly come up with a number like that?
- 13 A. I would have to say there would be -- there will
- 14 | need to be a discussion on what the assumptions on that
- 15 | calculation would be to be able to answer it.
- 16 Q. Well, I mean, that's an extreme difference, wouldn't
- 17 | you say, from what you're estimating some \$50,000? Is
- 18 | that the number that I saw?
- 19 A. I agree it's a big difference.
- 20 Q. Yeah. Well, I'm just wondering how someone else
- 21 | could have possibly come up with such a huge number or
- 22 | they possibly weren't taking into account the resale
- 23 | value of anything possibly or scrap metal or anything
- 24 like that?
- 25 A. I guess there can be many possibilities, but I

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1
     wouldn't be able to speak to a study which we haven't
2
     reviewed or authored.
 3
              MR. FUERNISS: Thank you.
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins.
 4
 5
              MS. JENKINS: No questions.
 6
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour.
 7
              MS. PAZOUR: No questions.
              MR. DE HUECK:
                             Staff.
              MS. EDWARDS: No questions.
10
              MR. DE HUECK: Commission questions.
11
              Commissioner Hanson.
12
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Good evening.
13
              Would you say your analysis incorporated very
14
     much the same work that you did on the decommissioning
15
     cost analysis for Dakota Range Wind Project?
16
              THE WITNESS: Yes. So the methodology is the
17
     same one. And what we've changed is the project-specific
18
     variables, and, as you can probably tell, some of the
19
     values for the scrap material. But apart from that, it's
20
     very similar.
21
              COMMISSIONER HANSON:
                                    Okay. Correct.
                                                      That's
22
     why I was wondering where you came up with the slight
23
     differences.
2.4
              I appreciate that. Thank you.
25
              THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
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1 COMMISSIONER HANSON: No further questions. 2 MR. DE HUECK: Commissioner Fiegen. 3 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Do you know the cost it would be if you decommissioned the entire foundation? 4 5 THE WITNESS: I don't know that. It can be 6 calculated, though. 7 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. And does your 8 decommissioning plan, does that go down 4 feet? 9 THE WITNESS: Correct. 10 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. So are there any 11 studies that the 4 feet won't affect cropland or drainage in the future for agriculture if it's decommissioned to 12 13 only 4 feet? 14 THE WITNESS: The study that we were engaged to 15 do did not cover that subject. 16 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: The last question I have is 17 on page 3 it talks about these are 2018 dollars. So the 18 \$51,000 is 2018 dollars and not calculated --19 THE WITNESS: That's correct. 2018 dollars. 20 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: But it appears that Staff 21 and you have an agreement that you'll look at that year 22 10, and there will be a report every year after that to 23 look -- oh, you probably don't make that agreement. It's 24 probably Prevailing Wind. 25 So are you aware of an agreement that has been

2 decommissioning? 3 THE WITNESS: I'm aware there has been an I know that -- I've been informed about the 4 5 general terms of it. I don't know the specifics. 6 CHAIRWOMAN FIEGEN: Okay. Thank you. 7 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. MR. DE HUECK: Redirect. MS. SMITH: I don't have any. 10 MR. DE HUECK: Cross-examination based on 11 Commission questions. 12 Mr. Almond. 1.3 MR. ALMOND: None based off Commission 14 questions. 15 MR. DE HUECK: Mr. Fuerniss. 16 RECROSS-EXAMINATION 17 BY MR. FUERNISS: 18 This is probably beyond the scope of your expertise 19 as well, but Commissioner Fiegen brought up the 4 feet 20 off the top of the foundation and, as I understand it, 21 these foundations are probably 65 feet in diameter. 22 As a farmer I find it difficult to imagine growing a 23 profitable crop above a 65-foot circle of concrete on 24 only 4 feet of soil. Can you address that in any way, 25 leaving that huge amount of concrete there?

made between Staff and Prevailing Wind on

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I'm sorry. That was not included within the scope
1
     Α.
2
     of the assessment that we prepared here.
 3
              MR. FUERNISS:
                             Thank you.
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Jenkins.
 4
 5
              MS. JENKINS: No questions.
 6
              MR. DE HUECK: Ms. Pazour.
7
              MS. PAZOUR: No questions.
8
              MR. DE HUECK:
                             And Staff.
 9
              MS. REISS: No. And thank you for remembering
10
     us.
11
              MR. DE HUECK: With that, your testimony is
12
     concluded. Thank you very much.
1.3
              THE WITNESS: Thank you so much.
14
                     (The witness is excused.)
15
              MR. DE HUECK: Prevailing Winds, you may call
16
     your next witness.
17
              MS. AGRIMONTI: The witness I intended to call
18
     next was Dr. Ellenbogen. His setup will probably take a
19
     little bit longer than others, and I understand there's
20
     quite a bit of cross-examination anticipated by
     Mr. Almond.
21
22
              I don't know if this is a good time to end for
23
     the day or if you'd like us to get him partially up on
24
     the stand and see how far we can go.
25
              MR. DE HUECK: I think we should begin and get
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- 1 him at least sworn in and get your direct examination out
- 2 of the way.
- MS. AGRIMONTI: All right then. We would call
- 4 | Jeff Ellenbogen, that's Dr. Jeff Ellenbogen, a
- 5 | neurologist.

9

- 6 DR. JEFF ELLENBOGEN,
- 7 called as a witness, being first duly sworn in the above
- 8 cause, testified under oath as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

- 10 BY MS. AGRIMONTI:
- 11 Q. Dr. Ellenbogen, please introduce yourself to the
- 12 Commissioners.
- 13 A. Good evening. My name is Jeff Ellenbogen. I'm a
- 14 | practicing physician in the state of Maryland,
- 15 | board-certified neurologist and a board-certified sleep
- 16 | specialist.
- 17 Q. Please provide an overview of your education and
- 18 your work history.
- 19 A. Sure. Education first. I went to college here in
- 20 | the Midwest, the University of Michigan, and then to
- 21 | medical school in Boston where I grew up at Tufts Medical
- 22 | School. Then I did an internship residency in neurology
- 23 and a fellowship in clinical electrophysiology, all of
- 24 | that at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.
- 25 | Then I did a postdoctoral fellowship and a master's

- 1 degree in medical science both at Harvard Medical School.
- Oh, and my work -- sorry. It was a two-part
- 3 | question. Since then I was a neurologist at Mass.
- 4 | General Hospital in Boston and assistant professor of
- 5 | neurology there. I was the Director of Sleep Medicine,
- 6 their division, for about six years, and then I moved to
- 7 Johns Hopkins where I was similarly a neurologist and
- 8 | sleep medicine system professor running a research lab
- 9 looking at the interface of sound and sleep. And I am
- 10 | currently the director of the Sound Sleep Project.
- 11 Q. And what is the Sound Sleep Project?
- 12 A. The Sound Sleep Project is an effort to take
- 13 | academic information, match it with industry in order to
- 14 foster and promote health, wellness, and medical
- 15 | well-being of people with sleep-related disorders.
- 16 Q. Did you file Prefiled Direct Testimony in this case?
- 17 A. Prefiled Direct Testimony I did not.
- 18 Q. And did you file Rebuttal Testimony in September of
- 19 this year?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 | Q. And do you have that before you as A18 and A18-1?
- 22 A. Pardon me a moment.
- 23 Yes.
- Q. And then also could you please turn to A4-7 in that
- 25 same binder.

- 1 A. I don't think it's in this one. It must be in
- 2 another.
- 3 A4-7.
- 4 Q. Yes. Are you there?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I note on page 2 it identifies expert independent
- 7 | panel members, and the first name there is Jeffrey
- 8 | Ellenbogen M.D. Is that you?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Please provide a brief summary of the topics covered
- 11 in your testimony.
- 12 A. I was asked to cover a couple of different topics,
- 13 | the first being my general impression of the project
- 14 | itself with respect to health. I was asked to provide
- 15 | testimony regarding my involvement for the panel in
- 16 Massachusetts that developed this Massachusetts study
- 17 | that's been referred to today.
- And I've also been asked to testify regarding
- 19 | independent medical evaluations that I conducted in the
- 20 state of Michigan some years ago regarding people who had
- 21 registered complaints regarding their health from wind
- 22 turbines that they were living in proximity to.
- 23 Q. One of the things in your testimony you talked about
- 24 was the potential for misattribution of causes of
- 25 | illnesses.

Can you tell me more about what you found in your independent medical examinations with respect to that?

A. Yes. I'd be glad to, and I think this is a very important topic.

1.3

First of all, what I did, and then some editorial regarding it. I went to the state of Michigan. I was asked to go there to evaluate four people who raised concerns regarding their health and its causality or presumed causality from turbines that they were living near.

And so I was able to conduct a thorough history, physical examination, and review of their medical records. And I'll share an example, if I may, because I think it's instructive. We could go over all of them, but I think this is a good exemplary case.

It was a 60 year old farmer who raised concern that the wind turbines that he was living near were causing him to have imbalance. And to make a very long story short, it was clear from the history and more importantly from my neurological examination that he had a fairly serious neuropathy, a disorder in which he was unable to conduct sensory information from his legs to his brain. Really common problem.

It was undoubtedly due to his very heavy alcohol use and to his almost certain diabetes. Blood sugar is

fairly toxic to the nerves.

And here's where the misattribution comes in. I felt that here was this very sincere man who had a very genuine problem, and he had spent the better part of a year or more through channels of litigation and focusing entirely on wind turbines and why he was losing his balance as a result of them. I felt he lost a lot of time in diagnosing and treating and -- or at least stopping the inciting event that was causing his neuropathy.

I felt like it was a major disservice to him and his health that he had read about the serious nature of wind turbines causing severe health problems and he attributed one of them which he had read about from imbalance to his medical problem.

- Q. Would your prefiled testimony be the same if I asked you the same questions here today?
- 18 A. Yes.

1.3

- Q. All right. I'd also like to ask you some questions about Mr. Fuerniss who has provided some testimony in this case.
- 22 Are you aware of Mr. Fuerniss's claim that he suffers from vertigo?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And do you have training in diagnosing individuals

- l with vertigo?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 | Q. What kind of experience do you have?
- 4 A. I'm a neurologist, and a major part of our training
- 5 has to do with the vestibular cochlear nerve that's
- 6 interfaced with the brain, cerebellum, so forth, and that
- 7 is the mechanism for which balance is considered to be a
- 8 problem.
- 9 With respect to the neurologic, there are lots of
- 10 causes, and maybe we'll have time to go over them. But I
- 11 have years of training that includes focusing on the
- 12 | neurologic elements of vertigo and distinguishing them
- 13 | from nonneurologic causes.
- 14 Q. And if you were looking for authoritative medical
- 15 references to use to identify symptoms of vertigo or
- 16 other diseases, where would you look?
- 17 A. Oh, there are lots of places, both online and text.
- 18 UpToDate is a terrific kind of general reference. Adams
- 19 and Victor is a terrific neurological text that has a
- 20 | traditional -- a really thoughtful approach to vertigo.
- 21 Lots of choices.
- 22 Q. What are the symptoms of vertigo?
- 23 A. I believe the first step is deciding whether a
- 24 person has vertigo at all. And, you know, at the risk of
- 25 | time -- I tend to be long winded so I will try not to be.

But the very first step is when someone says I have vertigo, you know, really trying to understand what do they have? Because a lot of people use that term, but they actually mean lightheadedness, which is a much more common problem. So that is a big branch in sort of the diagnostic clinical tree is deciding whether a person has lightheadedness, which could be cardiovascular, it could be electrolyte imbalances, and so forth, versus true vertigo, which is a misperception of motion, which has a whole list of considerations by itself.

- Q. Can you name a few cause of vertigo?
- 12 A. Sure.

1.3

(Discussion off the record.)

A. I'm answering the question about some of the neurological cause of vertigo. Just to give some examples briefly, and we can go into more detail if you'd like. Vascular causes, including stroke. Infectious causes, including labyrinthitis, an inflammatory problem of the inner ear. Tumors of the peripheral eighth nerve, cerebellum. This must be --

THE WITNESS: You're incredible if you're typing that. You're a medical version of --

A. Connect tumors. Trauma is another one. Toxins, very common. Most notably alcohol, but others. Alcohol can also not be a toxin, but it can be toxic.

- 1 Medications.
- 2 Electrolyte imbalances like sodium glucose,
- 3 | especially with diabetes. And a host of neurological
- 4 problems, benign positional vertigo, which is very
- 5 | common, migraine headaches, multiple sclerosis. I could
- 6 go on, but those are the big ones.
- 7 Q. I didn't hear you identify wind turbines as a
- 8 | potential cause. Do you have an opinion as to whether
- 9 | wind turbines are a potential cause of vertigo?
- 10 A. I have no reason to believe that wind turbines would
- 11 cause vertigo.
- 12 Q. Can you review the medical records identified as
- 13 Fuerniss Exhibits 1 and 2? Those should also be
- 14 available to you.
- 15 A. I don't know where they would be available, but I do
- 16 recall reviewing them.
- 17 | Q. I'll get you copies.
- 18 A. In front of me I have Exhibit IF-1. Does that make
- 19 sense?
- 20 Q. And IF-2?
- 21 A. IF-2.
- 22 Q. What did you learn from reviewing these two
- 23 documents?
- 24 A. I learned some things. It's incredibly sparse
- 25 | information, but I could glean something from it.

First of all, I just start from the top coming down. It's really only vital signs and a new prescription. And then a follow up afterward that includes a change of the medication. That's all the information that's available. It's not a history. It's not an examination. There are no tests whatsoever. So I couldn't render an opinion based on this. It's just way too sparse.

But I noticed a few things. The person -- I apologize with respect to his privacy, you know, sort of filleting his personal life here, but he was -- he's obese, has otherwise normal vital signs.

And when he was asked to take -- or was prescribed a new medication, Meclozine, which is a drug that's sometimes used for motion sickness -- that's its principal use actually. It's a fairly healthy dose, good-sized dose, and it was prescribed for one month.

And he was also continuing his aspirin, which I could think of a lot of reasons -- I forgot to mention on my list of possible causes of vertigo is migraine headaches, and he could have chronic headache problems. Preventing stroke. Aspirin, a baby aspirin, as he's on, certainly vascular risk factors like obesity. So lots of reasons that he could have vertigo just from the sparse information.

And then the only other thing is the history.

Vertigo, nausea, and neck pain. So neck pain made me
worried. Maybe he had a recent trauma that could cause

Q. Thank you.

vertigo as well.

1.3

Mr. Fuerniss has represented that he believes that the infrasound and low frequency noise from existing turbines may contribute to these issues, as per Navy nauseautic [phonetic] studies.

I have no basis or reason to believe that wind

What is your response to that?

- turbines would cause vertigo at all. I would appreciate the opportunity to evaluate him thoroughly and know what he has had done because I worry that he is joining a long list of people who have focused their health and well-being on wind turbine causation, unsubstantiated claims, and as a consequence have done, you know, unnecessary harm to their own health by at the very least causing delay of proper diagnosis and treatment of the real underlying problem.
- Q. Okay. Lastly, Dr. Ellenbogen, Dr. Punch asserts that wind turbine noise is a significant disruptor of sleep. And we've had a number of questions, and I know that you were here today, about sleep disruption.

Do you agree with that statement?

A. I do not. I have looked at the literature both in

my participation for the Massachusetts study and in the
more recent literature, including a very large study from
Canada that is the only objective study of sleep in
existence regarding its interface with wind turbines that
showed no effect of sleep from wind turbines, either

Could they, if they got very loud, cause some sleep disruption? Sure. But at the levels that we're talking about here, I see no basis for that at all.

- Q. Did the Health Canada Study evaluate any particular dBA level?
- A. They went up to 46 dBA.

objectively or subjectively.

MS. AGRIMONTI: Thank you. I have no further questions, and Dr. Ellenbogen is available for cross.

MR. DE HUECK: With that, I think we'll -- yep. I think this is a natural break for us, and we're going to go ahead and recess until tomorrow.

MR. ALMOND: Before we recess, I have a procedural issue I'd like to discuss. It's the issue of the owner manuals Ms. Agrimonti was talking about earlier, the GE owner manuals.

I would like to see those. I think if the Commission were to do an order finding them confidential for attorneys eyes only, I'd be able to look at them. Is that fair?

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1
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Yeah. Mr. Almond, that was the
2
    circumstances under which GE said we could disclose them.
 3
     So we would need a protective order that included an
     attorneys eyes only provision.
 4
 5
              MR. DE HUECK: If you would like to, just like
 6
    we did last time, prepare that, I'll sign it.
7
              MS. AGRIMONTI: Yep. We can do that.
8
              MR. ALMOND: I think the Commission can probably
9
    make an oral order right now.
10
              MS. AGRIMONTI: That would be fine as well.
                                                            So
11
     the request would be that -- and I have two documents
12
    that I would submit, a safety manual and operating
13
    manual, would be treated as confidential in the PUC's
14
    docket, considered trade secret.
15
              It would be disclosed to Mr. Almond for his
16
    review only and not for that of his clients.
17
              MR. DE HUECK: Do we need a vote on this?
18
    would --
19
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Your ruling.
20
              MR. DE HUECK: I'm going to rule, yes, please
21
    submit that. Let Mr. Almond view it. And we will keep
22
     it confidential for lawyer eyes only.
              MS. AGRIMONTI: All right. I will submit it on
23
24
    that basis.
25
              MR. DE HUECK:
                             Thank you.
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1
              So, with that, we will recess until tomorrow
 2
     morning.
 3
                     (Discussion off the record.)
 4
              MR. DE HUECK: We'll recess for tonight. We'll
 5
     reconvene at 8:30 tomorrow morning, and Mr. Ellenbogen
 6
     will take the stand and be subject to cross-examination.
 7
              See everyone tomorrow at 8:30.
 8
               (The hearing is in recess at 6:45 p.m.)
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1	STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
2	:SS CERTIFICATE
3	COUNTY OF SULLY)
4	
5	I, CHERI MCCOMSEY WITTLER, a Registered
6	Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter and
7	Notary Public in and for the State of South Dakota:
8	DO HEREBY CERTIFY that as the duly-appointed
9	shorthand reporter, I took in shorthand the proceedings
LO	had in the above-entitled matter on the 9th day of
L1	October, 2018, and that the attached is a true and
L2	correct transcription of the proceedings so taken.
L3	Dated at Onida, South Dakota this 31st day of
L 4	October, 2018.
L5	
L6	
L7	/s/ Cheri McComsey Wittler
L8	Cheri McComsey Wittler, Notary Public and
L9	Registered Professional Reporter Certified Realtime Reporter
20	Certified Realtime Reporter
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