

From: Erik Johnson [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 11:47 AM

To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Comments on Docket EL18-026

PUC Commissioners and Staff – I’m sure you are aware that it is much easier to get people to come out and speak against something they’ve been told to fear than to get people to stick their neck out to speak in favor of something they support. It seems the opponents of Prevailing Wind Park have a goal to get at least one person from all 50 states to speak against our project! I’m sure it can be hard for the PUC to know how the greater community in the area where the wind farm will be built feels about it, so please consider the following:

There have already been four referenda on the Prevailing Wind Park project. Some time ago, [REDACTED] ran for the Bon Homme County commission seat from the Avon precinct as the anti-wind candidate, against [REDACTED], who is on the board of Prevailing Winds, LLC. [REDACTED] lost that election. [REDACTED] then tried to make last June’s Springfield precinct commission race about wind energy, strongly backing the opponent of [REDACTED], whom [REDACTED] characterizes as pro-wind. [REDACTED] was re-elected. In that same election, [REDACTED] himself ran for precinct committeeman for the Avon precinct, but was defeated by a 2-1 margin. But the most important “vote” was of the landowners in the project footprint, who voted their acres about 80% positive for development of the wind farm.

In your own experience, you saw over 300 people turn out for the hearing in August 2016 at Prevailing Winds’ first application for the state permit. In hindsight, we were probably too early with that application – people in our area had not had time to get used to the idea, and the few opponents had circulated a lot of misinformation about health effects and property values, and people didn’t know who to believe. Over the last two years, we have had a chance, through meetings with landowners and through “editorials” in the local papers, to explain to people why wind power is a good thing and to answer their questions. Last month, less than half as many people attended the hearing for sPower’s current application, and you were able to head home at a much more reasonable hour! You have also gone from 47 intervenors last time to 7 for this application.

On balance, the landowners in the project footprint want the project to proceed, and the greater community also does not want to see the project blocked. Please consider this while evaluating the permit application.

Sincerely,

Erik



Enk Johnson



Avon, SD 57315



From: George Meyer [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 12:49 PM

To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Docket EL18-026 Prevailing Winds Park, request for wind tower setback from cemeteries

August 02, 2018

To:

South Dakota Public Utility Commission

Capitol Building, 1st floor

500 E. Capitol Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501-5070

From:

George Meyer

[REDACTED]

Riverside, IL 60546

Bon Homme SD property owner, [REDACTED], Avon.

Re:

Docket EL18-026 Prevailing Winds Park

Setback distance of proposed wind towers from cemeteries

SD Public Utility Commission,

I am a property co-owner in the footprint of the wind tower project, Docket EL18-026, Prevailing Winds Park.

This property has been in our family for 130 years. Our homestead, which may get rebuilt, shows placement to the south to tower #35 of approximately 1800ft.

To our immediate south, tower #35 also appears to be approximately 1500ft from the Gramkow-Vesper Cemetery, [REDACTED], where some family relatives are buried.

What is the required zoning and setback to cemeteries?

I feel to honor those deceased, the proposed short distance, regardless of mandate, is far too little. As well, setback distance to adjoining property lines and dwellings is far too short, especially considering these are the largest towers in South Dakota. Permit for this project should, at the very least, vastly increase all setbacks, or the project should be denied altogether.

The vast majority of those with a financial interest in this project live elsewhere. Even they don't want to live at the foot of 50 story industrial machines, let alone those of us who could be forced to do so.

Thank you for your consideration,

George Meyer

From: PUC

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 2:53 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: EL18-026

Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for your message regarding the Prevailing Wind siting permit request, docket EL18-026.

Your message and my response will be posted in the open docket so my fellow commissioners and others may read them. Here is a link to the docket,

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2018/EL18-026.aspx>, and a link to the Siting Guide which helps explain the commission's processing of such dockets, <http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/sitinghandout.pdf>.

I appreciate you sharing your view.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.sd.gov

From: PUC

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 2:55 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: EL18-026

Mr. Meyer,

Thank you for your message regarding the Prevailing Wind siting permit request, docket EL18-026.

One of the analysts or the attorney working on this docket will follow up with you concerning cemetery setbacks.

Your message and my response will be posted in the open docket so my fellow commissioners and others may read them. Here is a link to the docket, <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2018/EL18-026.aspx>, and a link to the Siting Guide which helps explain the commission's processing of such dockets, <http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/sitinghandout.pdf>.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.sd.gov