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THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY EL09-028  
PRAIRIEWINDS SD1, INC., A SUBSIDIARY  
OF BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.,  
FOR A WIND ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE  
PRAIRIEWINDS SD1 WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED  
FACILITIES

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Transcript of Proceedings

March 1, 2010

6:30 p.m.

American Legion, White Lake, South Dakota

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dusty Johnson, Chairman  
Steve Kolbeck, Vice Chairman  
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

COMMISSION STAFF

John J. Smith  
Greg Rislov  
Brian Rounds  
Tim Binder  
Karen E. Cremer  
Stacy Splittstoesser

1 MR. JOHNSON: Ladies and gentlemen, good  
2 evening. Thanks for coming out. A great  
3 crowd. Obviously a project a lot of people are  
4 interested in.

5 My name is Dusty Johnson and I'm with the  
6 Public Utilities Commission. The other two  
7 commissioners on your PUC are Gary Hanson and  
8 Steve Kolbeck, and we're happy to be here to  
9 night.

10 Ultimately it's going to be our job, by  
11 the time this process is done, to determine  
12 whether or not this project should move  
13 forward, and if so, what it should look like.

14 What are we here for tonight? I suspect  
15 you all know, but the official title of it, the  
16 legal title of the docket that's pending is "In  
17 the Matter of the Application by PrairieWinds  
18 SD1, a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power  
19 Cooperative, for a Wind Energy Facility Permit  
20 for the PrairieWinds SD1 Wind Farm and  
21 Associated Facilities."

22 The bottom line is this would be a  
23 151-megawatt wind farm and that comes with a  
24 lot of associated facilities, some high-voltage  
25 transmission lines, some roads, some other

1 pieces of infrastructure, and the purpose of  
2 tonight is really two-fold.

3 First off, we want to hear from the  
4 applicant. This is an applicant's opportunity  
5 to inform us and you about some of the  
6 specifics of the project.

7 And then secondly, and, frankly, way more  
8 important, is that we get an opportunity to  
9 hear from you what kind of things you think we  
10 should be keeping in mind as we move forward on  
11 this process. You can ask questions or you can  
12 make comment, and we're happy to hear either of  
13 those.

14 There's a lot of detail -- a lot of work  
15 that goes into a project like this, and so if  
16 you've got questions, of course you can get  
17 them answered tonight, but if you want to  
18 review the application, that's where you get a  
19 lot of good information.

20 That application has been filed at the  
21 Aurora, Brule and Jerauld county courthouses at  
22 the county auditor's. You can also access it  
23 on the internet and an increasing large number  
24 of people do that.

25 Our Web site is PUC.SD.GOV, and if you

1 want to figure out how to get it, why don't you  
2 grab any of us who work at the Public Utilities  
3 Commission and we'll walk you through the  
4 navigation of how to find it.

5 It's not that tough, but it would be worth  
6 asking us to make sure you get pointed in the  
7 right direction.

8 So when we have a proceeding like this,  
9 it's a little bit like a court case in that you  
10 have maybe a number of people who are following  
11 it, but probably not all that many people who  
12 are legal parties, who are interveners in the  
13 case, and right now we've only got two legal  
14 parties to the case.

15 We've got the applicant and we've also got  
16 the Public Utilities Commission staff, and  
17 we'll introduce those folks a bit more here  
18 before too long.

19 But if you want to be a formal legal  
20 intervener, that would give you the right to  
21 introduce evidence, that would give you the  
22 right to request discovery from commission  
23 staff or from the applicant, give you the right  
24 to cross-examine witnesses, you can do that.  
25 Your deadline to request that kind of highly

1 formal legal status would be March 10th, and we  
2 have applications for intervention, and grab  
3 any member of Public Utilities Commission staff  
4 if you would like to become an intervener.

5 If your only interest in this proceeding  
6 is to make your voice heard to the  
7 commissioners or to the applicant, you do not  
8 need to become an intervener. You can make  
9 your voice heard tonight or, frankly, after  
10 tonight by sending us an e-mail or calling us  
11 on the telephone or sending us a letter in the  
12 mail.

13 Now, for the applicant to earn a permit,  
14 they need to prove four things, and those four  
15 things are laid out in state law. It's not the  
16 kind of thing that we make up, and I'll just  
17 read you those four things to you.

18 They have to prove -- they have to show  
19 that their energy facility, number one, will  
20 comply with all applicable laws and rules;  
21 number two, that the facility will not pose a  
22 threat of serious injury to the environment or  
23 to the social and economic condition of  
24 inhabitants or the expected inhabitants of the  
25 sighting area; number three, that the facility

1 will not substantially impair the health,  
2 safety or welfare of the inhabitants; and  
3 finally, number four, that the facility will  
4 not unduly interfere with the orderly  
5 development of the region, and we give special  
6 consideration to the views of local governments  
7 in the area.

8 Now, based on those factors, the  
9 commission has got three options. We can say,  
10 yes, we can say no, or we can say yes with  
11 certain conditions, and those are the options  
12 available.

13 And at this time, I'm going to go ahead  
14 and introduce the staff members that we've got  
15 assigned to this docket. It's their job to  
16 thoroughly analyze this. These sighting cases  
17 are very complex, very thorough. They can take  
18 six months or up to a year, depending on the  
19 type of -- the type of sighting case.

20 So what I'm going to do is -- they've all  
21 got really interesting resumes. I'm not going  
22 to tell you their backgrounds and their area of  
23 expertise. What I am going to tell you is the  
24 number of cases like this they've worked on to  
25 give you a little bit of perspective.

1                   First off, we have Ms. Stacy  
2                   Splittstoesser, who is also a pipeline  
3                   inspector for us, and she has worked on five  
4                   cases like this over the years.

5                   We've got Ms. Karen Cremer who is the  
6                   staff attorney. She's worked on 18 sighting  
7                   dockets. We've got Mr. Tim Binder. Tim Binder  
8                   is a staff analyst, and he's worked on five  
9                   sighting cases before the commission.

10                  Mr. Brian Rounds has worked on ten similar  
11                  dockets. We also have -- and is that -- we  
12                  don't have anybody else outside or anything we  
13                  need to introduce, okay.

14                  As commissioners, we can't talk to them,  
15                  just like we can't talk to the applicant unless  
16                  we're in an open meeting. It's a little bit  
17                  like, you know, the judge can't go talk to the  
18                  attorneys about -- you know, down at the county  
19                  courthouse about proceedings when they're  
20                  outside of session of court. The people we can  
21                  talk to are the two people who advise the  
22                  commissioners. They're Mr. Greg Rislov, who is  
23                  the commission adviser, and he's served 33  
24                  years with the PUC and brings a great deal of  
25                  expertise. We've got Mr. John Smith, who is

1 the general counsel, the attorney for the  
2 commissioners and the commission, and he's a  
3 former cabinet legal secretary with the state  
4 government as well.

5 So with that, we're going to go ahead and  
6 begin by having the applicant make a  
7 presentation. Once the applicant is done, if  
8 you've got some comments or questions, you can  
9 step up to the mike.

10 We want to make sure that you have signed  
11 your name in at the -- at the front desk there.  
12 That's our only record of whether or not people  
13 came tonight, whether or not they -- you know,  
14 they care, and so we would like to have you  
15 sign in.

16 I will tell you that I spoke to the  
17 legislative delegation from this area this  
18 afternoon and Representative Noel Hamiel and  
19 Lance Carson and Senator Mike Vehle made it  
20 very clear that they wanted to be here tonight.  
21 Their business in Pierre is not going to allow  
22 them to get away, but they did request that the  
23 commission follow up and get them some  
24 additional information about what we heard  
25 tonight.



1           We also have our Secretary of State, Chris  
2 Nelson, who is a landowner in the area. And  
3 so, Chris, why don't you go ahead and -- he's  
4 your secretary of state. And with that, we're  
5 going to go ahead and have a short presentation  
6 from the applicant, and I actually should pause  
7 and see if -- if -- my colleagues, if I've  
8 forgotten to read anything. All right. With  
9 that, go ahead, Basin Electric, take it away.

10           MR. MATHER: Good evening. Thank you for  
11 coming out. We appreciate your attendance.  
12 It's not the coldest night of the year  
13 probably, but it's also not summer. Although  
14 all of us from North Dakota think that you live  
15 in the banana belt, I'm sure you wouldn't agree  
16 with us most of the time.

17           I work for Basin Electric up in Bismarck,  
18 North Dakota. I'm a project attorney that's  
19 been assigned to this case. We're going to  
20 have a presentation primarily tonight by the  
21 project manager, who is Ron Rebenitsch, who is  
22 sitting immediately to my right and by Kevin  
23 Solie, who is the person in charge of the  
24 permit and all of the extensive environmental  
25 analysis that goes under -- on under the NEPA

1 process that accompanies a project like this  
2 when there's certain government involvement.

3 Also with us tonight are Erin Dukart, who  
4 is on my far left, who is a staff biologist and  
5 she also works extensively with Kevin on the  
6 environment and permitting matters, and Miles  
7 Schumacher from Lynn, Jackson, Schultz & Lebrun  
8 as our local counsel.

9 So that will be the team of folks that are  
10 going to present tonight. I would like to echo  
11 Commissioner Johnson's sort of opening remarks.  
12 We view this as very much your meeting and your  
13 input is very important to us so we want to  
14 provide enough of a background information on  
15 the project to provide a real good foundation  
16 for questions, but we're going to go through it  
17 without wasting any time -- any of your time,  
18 and if you have questions at the end, we really  
19 welcome them. So thank you for having us here.  
20 Thank you for coming tonight, and with that, I  
21 am going to turn it over to Ron Rebenitsch.

22 MR. REBENITSCH: Thank you, Russ. Well,  
23 I'll try to go through this, and one of the  
24 things I always get cautioned about is not to  
25 get too windy, so I'll try to keep it brief.

1                   Just to give you a little background,  
2                   Basin Electric is a member-owned and controlled  
3                   wholesale power supply cooperative. What that  
4                   says is that you guys own us. We have 135  
5                   member cooperatives that go all the way from  
6                   the Canadian border to the Mexican border, and  
7                   they in turn serve about 2.8 million consumers.

8                   What we are is the guy that produces the  
9                   electricity, that delivers it to the members so  
10                  they can distribute it over those long empty  
11                  miles, those fewer and fewer ranches out there.

12                 These are our resources. They're located  
13                 throughout the region, some coal-fired power  
14                 plants, gas turbines and other wind projects  
15                 that we have built and are building, as well as  
16                 the Dakota Gasification project. That takes  
17                 coal and turns it into national gas.

18                 We have a number of committed wind  
19                 generation sites where we have purchased the  
20                 output or have actually built projects. This  
21                 is an overlay of those projects, and should  
22                 note too that we've got over 80 small consumer  
23                 wind turbines that are under 100 kilowatts in  
24                 size that are distributed throughout the  
25                 region. We buy the output from that. Whatever

1           they send out through the grid, we'll reimburse  
2           the local co-op for that.

3           The green and renewable projects that we  
4           do have, we've got 350 megawatts of wind, 44  
5           megawatts of waste heat. We capture waste heat  
6           from an industrial pipeline and turn that into  
7           power.

8           We've got new power purchase agreement on  
9           a project that's being built today in South  
10          Dakota by NextEra, and then we've got this wind  
11          project here that we're developing. This would  
12          be new to Basin Electric and Basic Electric  
13          would own it. In other words, you, the  
14          consumers, will own this.

15          All told, we've got 645 megawatts of green  
16          and renewable power. If you look at South  
17          Dakota, they rank very high as far as potential  
18          wind, and this map shows the hot spots and  
19          really the hot spots are over most of South  
20          Dakota. And maybe a better way to put it, it's  
21          hard to find a bad spot for wind in South  
22          Dakota.

23          The project description, we are looking at  
24          up to 111 turbines. There will be underground  
25          collector cables or feeder cables that take the

1 power from a turbine to a central substation.  
2 We need to built access roads. We're going to  
3 build an operations and maintenance building  
4 and then the collector substation.

5 Approximately 10 to 12 miles of 230 kV  
6 overhead transmission line will be needed to go  
7 from that collector substation to the nearest  
8 substation on the Western Area Power line,  
9 which is called the Wessington Springs  
10 Substation.

11 The turbines are expected to be delivered  
12 in, I should say, mid to late 2010. They  
13 require a federal environmental impact  
14 statement, and in that we must consider  
15 alternatives, and that's why we've looked at  
16 two alternatives, this site and the western,  
17 the Winner site.

18 And Western Area Power Administration, we  
19 call them Western here, we sometimes call them  
20 WAPA, W-A-P-A, and the Rural Utility Service,  
21 the coal lead agencies for the -- they in turn  
22 are looking at our alternatives. We have  
23 designated this site as our preferred  
24 alternative and we are moving forward with the  
25 intent of going to this site, but it will still

1           be up to the federal agencies to determine if  
2           we have selected the proper alternative.

3           The -- we also have a community wind  
4           project that we've been approached by. And  
5           what that is is a new development for the South  
6           Dakota Wind Project that we've got planned  
7           here. They call themselves the South Dakota  
8           Wind Partners, LLC, and discussions are ongoing  
9           to figure out how we can develop local  
10          participation in these large projects.

11          If you want to build a small wind project,  
12          it gets very expensive. To mobilize a crane,  
13          for instance, might be 200 to \$300,000 to bring  
14          it in and bring it out. So the idea of taking  
15          advantage of the fact the project has already  
16          been built and building another small one close  
17          by with community ownership is very attractive  
18          and we're exploring that with a group and we'll  
19          see where that goes.

20          We certainly are doing our best to figure  
21          out how to cooperate and be cooperative to help  
22          make this happen.

23          The proposed schedule and costs, we expect  
24          to obtain permits and approvals. We're working  
25          on that. We hope to get them all completed by

1 summer 2010 and begin construction this summer.

2 We expect to begin putting turbines on  
3 line before the end of the year, and then  
4 complete this by the end of the year. That's  
5 what we call commercial operation. Each  
6 turbine is its own commercial operation.

7 The estimated cost of that project today  
8 is about \$350 million, and this is the general  
9 layout. You can see Chamberlain on the left  
10 and Wessington Springs up above, and that's a  
11 general layout of the boundaries of the  
12 project. We had to define these overall  
13 boundaries because that's what they study in  
14 the environmental impact statement.

15 Some of the numbers that we look at,  
16 obviously, wind is important. It's amazing how  
17 much the wind can -- a change in the wind speed  
18 can change the amount of energy you can  
19 produce. A one-mile-per-hour change in average  
20 annual wind speed will change production by  
21 about 15 percent, so that's why we try to make  
22 sure we put these in the very best locations.

23 And you might look at this and say why  
24 didn't you put one here or why didn't you put  
25 one there, or why did you put it up there. We

1 do quite a bit of complex computer modeling  
2 when we pick the locations for these towers.

3 I'll just show you a couple of pictures  
4 now before I turn it over to Kevin. This is a  
5 completed foundation, a couple hundred anchor  
6 bolts that extend down around something in the  
7 neighborhood of 10 to 12 feet into the  
8 foundation. These are tower sections that will  
9 be delivered across the roads. They come in on  
10 big trucks and you need big cranes to lift  
11 them. Each of these towers contains a couple  
12 hundred tons of steel, so there's a lot of  
13 weight that has to be lifted and put up into  
14 the air.

15 This is what we call the nacelle, or the  
16 machine head, and that's where the generator  
17 and the gear box is. And you put that on top  
18 of the tower and then you bring up the blades.

19 Each one of those blades weighs around 15  
20 to 16,000 pounds, and then you assemble that  
21 onto a hub that weighs 20 to 40 tons. And this  
22 is just a picture of the completed turbines  
23 that we put up in the past.

24 I mentioned a collector sub. This is an  
25 example of a collector substation and we need



1 to gather all the power from all these turbines  
2 into one stop, and then from that spot we  
3 transmit it into the federal grid.

4 The transmission structures, we've gone to  
5 a single pole structure. We think they're very  
6 attractive. They minimize the impact, and it's  
7 just one less pole to drive around. So by  
8 going to these, we think they reduce the impact  
9 on the project. With that, I'll turn this over  
10 to Kevin.

11 MR. SOLIE: Thank you, Ron, and good  
12 evening. As Russ mentioned at the onset, I  
13 work in the environmental services division at  
14 Basin Electric, and we're responsible for all  
15 of the permits and approvals that are required  
16 for a project such as this. And of course the  
17 reason we're here tonight is for the South  
18 Dakota Public Utilities Commission. We've got  
19 our permit application in to them, and it looks  
20 something like this in a hard copy.

21 Also, we're working on the federal level,  
22 because we have an intersection with Western  
23 Area Power Administration, tapping into their  
24 line, and because we would be looking to the  
25 rural utility service for financing or a loan

1           guarantee, it's a -- what's termed a major  
2           federal action, and because of that, we have to  
3           do an environmental impact statement.

4                     And that doesn't mean that there are many  
5           environmental impacts, but it's the process  
6           that we have to follow.

7                     And you see the four letters up there,  
8           NEPA, that's the process that we follow. And I  
9           do -- I guess I've seen some of you that are in  
10          the crowd tonight at some of the meetings we've  
11          had, I guess, on the federal side. And then  
12          along with that there are county and other  
13          local permits, such as conditional use permits  
14          and building permits, and we would secure those  
15          as well.

16                    This line shows the EIS process really,  
17          and you can see that we had scoping meetings  
18          back in April of 2009, and those were held in  
19          Plankinton and in Winner, and each of those  
20          meetings had approximately -- oh, 80 or 90  
21          people in attendance.

22                    Moving down the chart, where you see the  
23          red arrow there, the federal agencies have  
24          issued a draft environmental impact statement  
25          dated January 15th, 2010, and the public

1 comment period for that ends actually today, on  
2 March 1st.

3 Moving forward, the agencies will prepare  
4 a final environmental impact statement, and it  
5 will be another opportunity, 30 days for the  
6 public to comment, and then they would prepare  
7 a record of decision, and hopefully the federal  
8 process will be similar to the state process  
9 and we will be permitted some time in mid July  
10 of this year.

11 And this is just an example layout. And I  
12 guess the reason I have this slide is that the  
13 siting of these wind turbines is an iterative  
14 process. It's not -- it's kind of a fancy word  
15 for trial and error, but that's -- sometimes  
16 what -- what it amounts to, and so there are  
17 all these different resource that we have to  
18 consider, and so the turbine locations might  
19 not always be where the project engineer would  
20 like them, but we take all these different  
21 resources into consideration.

22 Here you can see kind of a laundry list of  
23 the things that are kind of studied in the  
24 process, both for the state PUC and for the  
25 federal process.

1           A couple of the highlights there, I guess,  
2           are the threatened and endangered species. In  
3           this part of the state there are concerns about  
4           the whooping crane, the piping plover and a  
5           little minnow called the Topeka shiner, and so  
6           the agencies are doing what is called a Section  
7           7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
8           Service on those issues.

9           And then also, moving down to cultural  
10          resources, there are -- archeologists have been  
11          out and have studied the ground, and so we're  
12          looking at historic structures, prehistoric  
13          structures, such as stone rings, and then  
14          there's also a tribal consultation component as  
15          well.

16          So during construction, of course there  
17          would be, you know, somewhere between maybe 150  
18          and 250 workers depending on how the contractor  
19          mobilizes. And of course that's going to bring  
20          a positive impact to the local economy because  
21          they will be looking for places to stay and  
22          they will need something to eat. Also, there's  
23          an opportunity for the use of local  
24          construction materials, sand, gravel, concrete,  
25          items like that.

1           Once the project is constructed, there  
2           would be 10 to 12 permanent jobs, and we  
3           estimate the payroll would be -- for those 10  
4           to 12 people would be approximately \$550,000  
5           per year plus -- plus benefits.

6           And our estimate on taxes, and this is  
7           our -- would be taxes paid to the counties, and  
8           this isn't to each county, but we're estimating  
9           that approximately \$500,000 per year would be  
10          paid amongst Brule, Aurora and Jerauld  
11          counties.

12          Again, I mentioned, I have seen some of  
13          you at meetings before, but we had our scoping  
14          meetings back in April and we had the draft EIS  
15          hearing just recently in -- in Chamberlain  
16          actually, on February 11th. And now here we  
17          are on March 1st, with the -- the hearing for  
18          the state action. With that, I will turn it  
19          over to Russ Mather.

20          MR. MATHER: Just a couple more comments  
21          with the commission's indulgence. There was a  
22          letter filed late on Friday afternoon  
23          consisting of some comments from some folks  
24          that I don't know whether or not they're going  
25          to be here tonight, the Campbells or their

1 attorney.

2 I just wanted to respond real briefly  
3 because a couple of them I think are -- are --  
4 provide a real good basis for discussing some  
5 things that might be of interest to the folks,  
6 so it would just be real short.

7 One of the first comments that they raised  
8 was why do you have such a long-term lease. We  
9 asked for 50 years. Basin Electric Power  
10 Cooperative, its member cooperatives and the  
11 subsidiary that is going to construct and own  
12 this project intend to be around for a very  
13 long time. These turbines will become part of  
14 our resource mix. We intend to work very hard  
15 to maintain them very well, and the term of the  
16 lease reflects that.

17 The other thing that was raised just  
18 generally is you have a bunch of terms and  
19 conditions in there, and you don't appear to be  
20 very flexible as far as changing those terms  
21 and conditions. We think that our lease is  
22 pretty darn fair and -- and represents some  
23 commercially reasonable terms and conditions  
24 for everybody.

25 It's very important to us that they give

1 us the ability to -- to do the operational  
2 things that we need to do to keep them running  
3 and -- and keep them generating for everybody's  
4 benefit.

5 And one of the most important things in  
6 terms of flexibility is that when you have a  
7 project this size and you're trying to deal  
8 with everybody fairly, frankly, the terms and  
9 conditions, as they ultimately come out, have  
10 to be essentially the same with -- with  
11 everybody. We can't have a situation where  
12 we're working with a bunch of people that we  
13 regard very strongly as working partners and  
14 have different terms and conditions for  
15 everybody. It's just -- it's our philosophy.  
16 We've been in the business a long time and it  
17 just seems fair to us, so that's our response  
18 to that.

19 They also raised some questions regarding  
20 setbacks of these turbines from the property  
21 lines of people who are not going to sign Basin  
22 Electric leases. And it's a fair question, but  
23 the question of where you put wind turbines  
24 really has very little to do with property  
25 lines. Our commitment, as we've stated in the

1 application and as we've adhered to in every  
2 project that we've ever done, every rule,  
3 regulation, zoning ordinance and other codes by  
4 the State of South Dakota or any political  
5 subdivision will be fully complied with with  
6 regard to setbacks and every other aspect of  
7 construction and operation of these turbines.

8 Other than that, right now what we do is  
9 work with the individual landowners on whose  
10 lands we're going to locate these turbines, who  
11 have signed a lease, to find the best spot for  
12 wind. That's how you locate these things. It  
13 makes a difference, and we will locate the  
14 turbines in those spots.

15 Likewise, anybody that wants to put  
16 turbines on an adjoining property's landowner,  
17 we'll work with that landowner. We're quite  
18 confident to find the best spots from a wind  
19 perspective to locate there. It's almost  
20 impossible on a hypothetical basis to say what  
21 impacts any turbine will have on any other  
22 turbine so it's kind of a case-by-case basis  
23 and that's just where we have to leave it for  
24 now. We just will work with our landowners as  
25 hard as we can to optimize the turbines that we



1 put down.

2 The last questions have to do with what is  
3 your approach on hunting. Our leases don't  
4 preclude any hunting. Whether the people are  
5 hunting on the land where the turbines are  
6 located that we have leased or on adjacent  
7 property, please don't shoot our turbines.  
8 It's really expensive for everybody. And Kevin  
9 and his people have been working very, very  
10 hard with the -- with all of the environmental  
11 people to -- to ensure to the greatest extent  
12 possible that there is minimal impact on the  
13 actual wildlife in the area, the game birds,  
14 the deer or anything else. It's a very  
15 important thing to us, and we've spent a lot of  
16 time trying very hard to make sure that that  
17 won't be impacted any more than is absolutely  
18 necessary.

19 The last question she has is noise. Right  
20 now we think that at the -- and help me out  
21 with this, Ron, right -- any receptor, any  
22 occupied residence that would care that the  
23 noise level from the turbines will -- is not  
24 expected in any case to exceed 50 decibels. In  
25 our lease we've asked our landowners to give us

1           leeway to go up to 71 decibels. There's a  
2           couple of reasons for that.

3           The first reason is that at the time that  
4           we were negotiating some of these leases which  
5           is, you know, pretty early in the process, we  
6           weren't exactly sure what combinations of  
7           equipment and technology would be selected so  
8           we couldn't say exactly what the decibel level  
9           would be. The 50-decibel level that is  
10          referenced in the application is the one that  
11          is associated with the equipment that was  
12          actually selected for this project, and that's  
13          about as simple an answer as I have for that  
14          one.

15          So I don't want to extend our time with  
16          the mike. We'll turn it off, Commissioner  
17          Johnson, and turn it back over to you.

18          MR. JOHNSON: Well, he referenced a letter  
19          that was sent in by the attorney of some  
20          concerned landowners. You can find that letter  
21          on our Web site. Any communication that  
22          anybody makes with the commissioners about this  
23          proceedings goes up on this Web site and you  
24          will be able to find the transcript of  
25          tonight's public input hearing up on that Web

1 site.

2 Commissioner Kolbeck pointed out to me  
3 that I have forgotten something.

4 MR. KOLBECK: I just wanted to thank the  
5 4-Hers for coming here and keeping me fat and  
6 happy.

7 MR. JOHNSON: And Gary and I are not going  
8 to make any snide comments or much hilarity  
9 could ensue. But with that, now it's your  
10 turn. We want to hear from you. We've got a  
11 mike up here in front.

12 If there's some mobility concerns that  
13 make it difficult for you to get to that mike,  
14 just wave your hand, and we'll get you a mike  
15 somehow, run it out to you.

16 Generally the way we like to do this is if  
17 you have long comments, let's just hold it a  
18 little bit. You know, people have got lives,  
19 they've got things they want to do. So let's  
20 hear from people who have relatively brief  
21 comments and make sure they have an opportunity  
22 to have their questions answered or their  
23 comments heard, and then if you've got a lot to  
24 say, we're happy to hear it.

25 All right. Any comments or questions? I

1           spent enough time in Aurora County to know that  
2           not everybody here is shy. Plus we've got  
3           probably Jerauld and Brule people here also.

4           MR. ARNOTT: Jerauld County.

5           MR. JOHNSON: Hey, Gail, grab the  
6           microphone.

7           MR. ARNOTT: Just a question about -- I'm  
8           Gail Arnott, Wessington Springs Area  
9           Development Corporation. A question about the  
10          110 towers. It was 101, and I'm wondering if  
11          110 is a firm number and how we got to 110, and  
12          also when will they make the decision about the  
13          preferred site being selected?

14          MR. REBENITSCH: Well, I'll start with the  
15          last question first. We think we've selected  
16          the preferred sites and we have -- 90 percent  
17          certain we know where we're going to put them.  
18          There are always issues that come up, and  
19          sometimes you have to move them. And we might  
20          discover something that we weren't aware of  
21          before and then we'll have to move them.

22          How did we get from 101 to 111? We had  
23          always put in our application to the EIS, etc.,  
24          we were planning on 101 with an option to be  
25          able to extend this 111. And that was my fault

1           and my responsibility. I said, guys, you never  
2           know when something is going to come up. We  
3           might want to add a few turbines. Maybe  
4           somebody will offer us a special bargain, so  
5           let's plan for up to 111. We had purchased  
6           101. We're planning up to 111, and we --  
7           it's -- as -- maybe I was lucky in having done  
8           that because we received this request here just  
9           a month and a half ago, would Basin Electric be  
10          willing to work with us to build an additional  
11          seven turbines. So now I've got 101, got 110  
12          and got 108. The 108, fortunately, is less  
13          than 111. So, you know, we were able to say,  
14          yes, our permits and everything that we planned  
15          for allows us to put in an extra seven turbines  
16          because we had that 10 that could have added  
17          to. So that's how we ended up with 101 or the  
18          potential for 111. And if we can work out  
19          adding this extra seven for a community wind  
20          project, we're trying to do that.

21                 We're wrestling with the number of issues  
22                 right now. I'm saying as a project manager,  
23                 you know what, we build it, I can build it, but  
24                 there's all kinds of economic and financial and  
25                 tax issues that need to be settled first.

1                   MR. ARNOTT: By preferred site I meant  
2                   White Lake versus Winner.

3                   MR. REBENITSCH: Okay.

4                   MR. ARNOTT: When will they make the --

5                   MR. REBENITSCH: That is really up to the  
6                   federal agencies.

7                   MR. JOHNSON: Ron, why don't you repeat  
8                   the question.

9                   MR. REBENITSCH: Okay. The question was  
10                  what is the preferred site? Is it Winner or  
11                  Crow Lake? And I will tell you that Basin  
12                  Electric, as the owner of the project, has  
13                  gotten what we call the owners' preferred  
14                  alternative and we've named Crow Lake, but it  
15                  has to go through the federal agencies. And I  
16                  think I'm going to defer to Kevin for a moment  
17                  to maybe expound on that a bit.

18                  MR. MATHER: I think Ron has pretty much  
19                  captured it. The only thing that I can add is  
20                  that we have only made application to the state  
21                  for the Crow Lake site.

22                  MR. ARNOTT: And when will they decide it?

23                  MR. MATHER: We're looking for what's  
24                  called the record of decision, would be  
25                  in in -- sometime this summer and --

1                   MR. REBENITSCH: We're going through the  
2                   EIS process and each step takes some time, and  
3                   sometimes they take longer than expected, and  
4                   that's the kind of thing that gives me high  
5                   blood pressure, and I make the joke that I  
6                   started this project with a full head of hair.  
7                   We're working on trying to achieve that record  
8                   of decision this summer so I can get started  
9                   with construction.

10                  MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Who next? And when  
11                  you come to the mike, please do as Mr. Arnott  
12                  did, mention your name and where you call home,  
13                  and we would ask you to speak loudly and slowly  
14                  so that Stacy, the court reporter, can get it  
15                  all down.

16                  THE COURT REPORTER: Perhaps spelling the  
17                  last name also.

18                  MR. JOHNSON: Oh, yeah, spelling the last  
19                  name. Unless you're Jones.

20                  MR. KOLBECK: All right. What do you call  
21                  a room full of wandering nuns? Roman  
22                  Catholics. I've got a bunch more jokes like  
23                  that if we don't get people up to the  
24                  microphone.

25                  MR. HOTCHKISS As long as Jerauld County is

1 represented, Harold Hotchkiss, resident of  
2 Wessington Springs.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Harold, how do you say that  
4 last name again?

5 MR. HOTCHKISS: Hot, C-H, with a kiss on  
6 it, Hotchkiss. Not Mahotchkiss or Hotchkissia  
7 or anything like that. It's Hotchkiss. The  
8 life of these turbines, how long do they last  
9 before you have to repair them?

10 MR. REBENITSCH: Well, we're going to  
11 implement a very strong maintenance program  
12 from the beginning. Our design life is 25  
13 years. If we maintain them and keep them in  
14 good shape, they will be like any old tractor,  
15 you keep them in good shape, it will run  
16 indefinitely.

17 We may have to replace a generator, might  
18 have to replace some gears in the gear box, but  
19 the infrastructure, the tower, the foundation,  
20 that doesn't wear out.

21 MR. HOTCHKISS: No, that wasn't wear out.  
22 All I was wondering for is a chance for shops  
23 to rebuild in the community or will everything  
24 leave to be done or --

25 MR. REBENITSCH: We'll probably -- we'll



1           try to do as much as we can locally. There are  
2           a fair number of parts that we'll have to order  
3           in to replace.

4           The one thing I like -- as an engineer,  
5           the one thing I like about a wind turbine is  
6           that there's not a lot of moving parts. You've  
7           got the big rotor, you've got a gear box and  
8           you've got a generator, and then some little  
9           motors that keep it rotating.

10          So small motors we can have repaired in  
11          the region or locally. The big gear box,  
12          that -- you need a place, a foundry where you  
13          can do large castings. But for the most part,  
14          this 10 to 12 people are going to be very  
15          highly trained, and they will do as much of the  
16          maintenance as they can.

17          MR. HOTCHKISS: Well, I was just really  
18          wondering if there would be something -- a shop  
19          or something that would be local to do some of  
20          that maintenance work, building or rebuilding  
21          work.

22          MR. REBENITSCH: There will be some of  
23          that, but I'm -- at this point in time, I can't  
24          predict.

25          MR. HOTCHKISS: Not much.

1                   MR. REBENITSCH: But we'll try to do as  
2                   much as we can in-house in our operations and  
3                   maintenance building.

4                   MR. HOTCHKISS: Okay. Thank you.

5                   MR. LAMBERT: Good evening. My name is  
6                   David Lambert, L-A-M-B-E-R-T. I represent the  
7                   regional economic development group called  
8                   Dakota Heartland Development Association which  
9                   works with rural communities in a six-county  
10                  area in south central South Dakota, including  
11                  Aurora county and White Lake.

12                  While others are better suited to answer  
13                  the specific questions regarding the potential  
14                  direct economic impact of Basin's PrairieWinds  
15                  South Dakota 1 project, let me share with you  
16                  the ripple effect that has impacted White Lake  
17                  and the communities to the east that have  
18                  started to react to the potential benefits of a  
19                  project of this size and magnitude.

20                  First, the phone calls have already  
21                  started to arrive in White Lake, Plankinton,  
22                  Corsica and other communities regarding the  
23                  types of eating and sleeping establishments  
24                  available for construction and support  
25                  personnel to this project.

1 Suppliers have been busy identifying  
2 transportation channels to deliver materials,  
3 including both rail and roads. This impact  
4 will be shared and distributed among these  
5 transportation channels due to the tremendous  
6 amount of materials, equipment and auxiliary  
7 services that will be needed due to this  
8 project's timeline for construction.

9 While much has been discussed regarding  
10 the construction phase of this project, the  
11 city of White Lake and the development  
12 corporation are working to capture the  
13 permanent jobs and services needed to maintain  
14 and operate this energy project if it comes to  
15 fruition. These preparations include working  
16 to ensure that local kids who are currently  
17 involved in MTI, Mitchell Technical  
18 Institute's, energy production and transmission  
19 program be considered for these good paying  
20 jobs.

21 White Lake's public school system is  
22 working with area schools and MTI to offer  
23 credit courses to excite high school students  
24 in this new and exciting field. White Lake  
25 Development is working to attract other

1           auxiliary types of businesses to the community  
2           to enhance its newest industry partner.

3           White Lake believes this project's  
4           investment will pump new life in a town that  
5           strives to grow into the future. On behalf of  
6           the White Lake Development, the city of White  
7           Lake, and myself, I thank you for this  
8           opportunity to share our optimism about this  
9           project.

10           MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Lambert.

11           MR. BECKMAN: Dennis Beckman, Jerauld  
12           County. I got kind of a two-part question. I  
13           have a friend in another state and they have a  
14           wind farm down there. Now, they pay for the  
15           wind field, so much an acre. Do they do that  
16           here?

17           MR. REBENITSCH: The leases that we've set  
18           up are based on a per turbine basis. We pay so  
19           much per turbine per year, and then that amount  
20           goes up 2 percent every year.

21           MR. BECKMAN: Yeah, this is, you know, an  
22           area like two miles around the site, they would  
23           pay so much an acre because of the -- you know,  
24           the site needs the wind, and it's basically,  
25           you know, per -- you know, other towers

1           couldn't go behind there, see.

2           MR. REBENITSCH: Initially -- well,  
3           there's two other payments, too, I should  
4           mention. We pay so much per acre for the  
5           original option when we started sighting the  
6           towers because we didn't know where they were  
7           going, and then we will also have a  
8           construction payment equivalent to one year of  
9           turbine rent.

10           But we -- we looked at this and said, do  
11           we want to go on a cash rent or a crop share.  
12           We felt the cash rent approach made more sense,  
13           and it really comes down to the turbines. If  
14           you look at the acreage, each turbine only  
15           permanently disturbs about four-tenths to a  
16           half an acre. That includes the road out to  
17           the turbine.

18           MR. BECKMAN: My other question was you  
19           said, I believe, there was \$500,000 worth of  
20           taxes that you felt this would bring in. How  
21           will they come to the community? You know,  
22           I've heard that they won't have to pay anything  
23           for ten years, the state has some concessions  
24           on that, and, you know, the one in Wessington  
25           Springs I believe has been going for about a

1 year, and I don't know if there's been any  
2 taxes that went back to Jerauld County as of  
3 yet.

4 MR. REBENITSCH: I'm not a tax expert, but  
5 I -- and I -- but I do understand at this point  
6 in time that it's not a case where we're not  
7 going to be paying any taxes, but there's an  
8 offset in the earlier years and that trends up,  
9 and that is being looked at at this time.

10 MR. SOLIE: If I could add, one of the tax  
11 experts at Basin Electric did the calculation,  
12 the \$550,000 per year to be divided amongst the  
13 counties, that is for the first year of  
14 operation and that's with the tax incentives  
15 that are currently in place.

16 MR. BECKMAN: Okay. So the actual  
17 structure that's -- itself, would not be taxed,  
18 would that be right, only the tower and the  
19 footing can be taxed to the county, or that  
20 won't be taxed for that ten-year period?

21 MR. JOHNSON: South Dakota changed just a  
22 couple of years ago its tax laws. And a large  
23 wind farm, and I won't talk about this one  
24 specifically, but a large wind farm now  
25 actually has what is equivalent to a production

1 tax. It's not a property tax, it's a  
2 production tax in lieu of a property tax. And  
3 so about 80 percent of the structure isn't  
4 taxed. The production tax is sort of pegged  
5 what would be about 20 percent of the value, if  
6 it was a different kind of property taxable  
7 type item. I'll see if my colleagues have  
8 anything else to add on that.

9 MR. DOLAN: There's a nameplate tax, too,  
10 that is not taxed. That's \$3 per nameplate  
11 capacity for the entire project.

12 MR. JOHNSON: There's a what, Ross?

13 MR. DOLAN: It's a nameplate tax that the  
14 communities and the government get that does  
15 not -- is not affected by that -- by that other  
16 formula.

17 MR. JOHNSON: It's quite a confusing --  
18 Mr. Dolan just brought up that there's another  
19 component to it. It's a production and it's a  
20 nameplate. There's also a rebate provision if  
21 you're building transmission. It's a really  
22 confusing formula, and we don't have anyone on  
23 staff who's an expert on it. The folks at the  
24 Department of Revenue and Regulation are the  
25 experts. If you want some specifics, we would

1 be happy to put you in touch with someone who  
2 is.

3 MR. DOLAN: But the nameplate tax would be  
4 \$450,000 roughly for the project, the nameplate  
5 taxes for the entire project. That's split  
6 between the local governments and the schools  
7 and that -- that's not subject to any kind of  
8 break-back.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Ross Dolan just explained  
10 his understanding of the taxes, and if anybody  
11 has any question, he sounds like he knows a  
12 little bit.

13 MR. DOLAN: And that's from the state.

14 MR. BECKMAN: And that would come each  
15 year?

16 MR. DOLAN: Yes. That's not subject to --

17 MR. JOHNSON: Ross, if we're going to have  
18 you talk, why don't we go ahead and have you  
19 grab the mike.

20 MR. DOLAN: Ross Dolan with the Daily  
21 Republic. I'm not supposed to be  
22 participating, but there is -- with the  
23 nameplate tax, the -- it's a \$3 per kilowatt --  
24 excuse me -- kilowatt tax based on the -- so if  
25 it's 150,000 kilowatts, which is what this



1 project is, roughly -- 151,000 actually, but  
2 for the simple math it comes out to be \$3 per  
3 kilowatt basically. So it comes out to be  
4 \$450,000 that goes to the government and the  
5 schools in the area. And that's not -- that's  
6 not deducted with any kind of formula, okay.  
7 That's separate from the production tax, okay.  
8 The production tax is added on to that.

9 And then it would be -- the money would --  
10 after the 10th year, the production tax would  
11 be going to the cities and the -- also goes  
12 back into the real estate fund or what do you  
13 call the fund? I can't recall that exactly.  
14 But the thing that you do have to know is that  
15 the nameplate tax, that's not deducted, that  
16 goes out immediately and it can't be lowered,  
17 okay, so that's available to you right away.  
18 So it's 450,000 bucks.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Other questions or  
20 comments?

21 MR. WITTE: Lance Witte, Wessington  
22 Springs superintendent. I have a couple of  
23 questions. I saw you had a map up on one of  
24 your slides, and it looked like a location map  
25 of the farm. And do you have the distribution

1 of where the turbines will be located by  
2 county, how many might be in each county?

3 MR. REBENITSCH: I don't have that with me  
4 tonight.

5 MR. WITTE: Is that located on the Web  
6 site or somewhere where we can access that?

7 MR. REBENITSCH: No, and there's a reason  
8 for that. We're still shifting turbines and as  
9 we find things, we might have to move it.  
10 We're trying not to disappoint people, trying  
11 not raise expectations.

12 MR. WITTE: I was trying to count them as  
13 you had them up there to see how many were  
14 going to be in Jerauld County but I wasn't fast  
15 enough before you moved so.

16 And to answer the question about the  
17 Jerauld County taxes, I can add a little bit to  
18 that. We were anticipating those taxes to come  
19 in in February, but because of the handover  
20 from Babcock & Brown to NextEra that's been  
21 delayed by about two months' time.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Other questions or comments?  
23 And we'd asked you to hold off if you had  
24 longer comments. It appears as though we've  
25 got a little bit of a lull so we take questions

1 or comments of any size or length at this time.

2 MR. KOLBECK: I could ask a question of  
3 the applicant. You threw out some technical  
4 terms earlier when we talked about dB. Could  
5 you maybe explain to the crowd what 50 dB  
6 sounds like.

7 MR. REBENITSCH: DB is decibels, and 50 dB  
8 is equivalent to a fairly quiet room inside  
9 your house. And if any of you have the  
10 opportunity, I would encourage you, stop on the  
11 road up here by the Wessington Springs project  
12 and get out and listen and see if you can hear  
13 anything.

14 These turbines are very quiet. The type  
15 of turbines we'll be building are also  
16 identical to the turbines that already exist up  
17 at Wessington Springs. Those aren't our  
18 turbines, but we're building something very  
19 similar.

20 MR. KOLBECK: There's also been some talk  
21 of flicker and other things like that. Can you  
22 maybe address -- have you had any trouble with  
23 that at other projects and maybe explain what  
24 flicker is?

25 MR. REBENITSCH: Yes. What flicker is is

1           when a turbine is rotating in our latitude, the  
2           sun can get pretty low in the sky in the  
3           wintertime, and so you try to set your turbines  
4           so you don't have that rotating shadow that  
5           goes across somebody's picture window.

6                     We have got some very sophisticated  
7           computer programming that allows us to  
8           predict -- it takes all the latitude and the  
9           arc of the sun and predict where the flicker  
10          would occur, and so then we'll adjust the  
11          turbines so that we minimize that.

12                    Now, we can't get rid of it all entirely.  
13          There's -- there's times -- but we do keep it  
14          down to just a few minutes in the -- say,  
15          either in the morning or in the evening, and  
16          typically that might be in the spring or in the  
17          fall.

18                    But we do -- we do design them -- we try  
19          to take that flicker out of them because nobody  
20          likes a shadow crossing your window.

21                    MR. JOHNSON: Other questions or comments?

22                    MR. MOELLER: My name is Scott Moeller.  
23          I'm here from White Lake. I go to Mitchell  
24          Tech for the school. I was wondering if --  
25          Basin, if you guys were going to do any work,

1 or are you going to sub it all out?

2 MR. REBENITSCH: The work that we are  
3 planning on doing -- we're going to do the  
4 maintenance work, but at this point in time we  
5 have signed what we call a balance of plant  
6 contract, and with that contract we -- we  
7 purchased the turbines already, and they're GE  
8 turbines and they're going to be delivered  
9 starting early this fall.

10 The contractor will unload the turbines,  
11 he'll build the foundations, he'll build the  
12 roads, he'll install the underground cables and  
13 then he'll erect the turbines and do the  
14 initial commissioning. Basin Electric will be  
15 more just monitoring that construction.

16 MR. MOELLER: Thank you.

17 MR. REBENITSCH: You're welcome.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Moeller, how do you  
19 spell your name?

20 MR. MOELLER: M-O-E-L-L-E-R.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Perfect. Thanks. Any other  
22 comments or questions? While you're gathering  
23 your thoughts, we will just reiterate that you  
24 do have an opportunity to make written comment  
25 to us. We would be happy to receive those as

1 well at the commission. If you would like some  
2 contact info, feel free to grab any of us after  
3 the meeting tonight. Any other comments or  
4 questions?

5 MR. GILLEN: My name is Darin Gillen,  
6 G-I-L-L-E-N. With a project this size, do you  
7 have any idea what your gross receipts are  
8 going to be? I know, that's part of the tax  
9 base --

10 MR. REBENITSCH: The revenue -- if you  
11 look at turbines, we're expecting them to each  
12 produce somewhere around 6,000 megawatt hours a  
13 year or six million kilowatt hours a year.

14 As far as revenue, we're taking that power  
15 and we're integrating that into the rest of our  
16 resource and we deliver then the reformed power  
17 to our members. I'm trying to come up with a  
18 number -- there isn't really a cash number  
19 because we blend it in with our coal-fired  
20 power plants and our gas turbines and our  
21 transmission, and then we deliver that at a  
22 wholesale rate to our members.

23 MR. GILLEN: But you don't have any  
24 approximate value to put on it?

25 MR. REBENITSCH: If you take 6,000

1 megawatt hours a year, the spot market for  
2 power -- electricity in -- at MISO right now is  
3 probably averaging somewhere -- anywhere from  
4 the lower teens per megawatt hour to \$100 a  
5 megawatt hour. Over the last year it's  
6 averaged probably 35 during the on peak times  
7 and 25 during the off peak times, which would  
8 be equivalent to about three cents a kilowatt  
9 hour. I'm pulling these numbers out of my head  
10 from what I've been watching. That's what  
11 power is worth.

12 Now, I can tell you some others numbers,  
13 though, and that is the all-in costs of this  
14 project will average somewhere around six cents  
15 a kilowatt hour. That's the all-in cost. When  
16 you subtract out the production tax credits and  
17 the treasury grant, etc., you're dropping  
18 significantly below four cents a kilowatt hour.

19 MR. GILLEN: Thank you.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Other comments or questions?

21 MR. NELSON: Chris Nelson. Two questions  
22 and one comment. First question, South Dakota  
23 Wind Power or Wind Partners, LLC, who are the  
24 components of that?

25 MR. REBENITSCH: Right now there are 12

1 boards of directors is my understanding. Three  
2 of them will be representing the corn growers,  
3 three of them will be representing the farm  
4 bureau, three will be representing the farmers  
5 union and three will be representing the  
6 cooperatives. And what they'll do is put this  
7 together much like an ethanol plant where  
8 they'll be out seeking people -- participants.  
9 I really don't -- I can't get into any more  
10 detail than that because this is their  
11 business, and I don't want to be saying things  
12 that they may not -- at this point in time may  
13 not be ready for.

14 MR. NELSON: I understand. The second  
15 question, 10 to 12 employees, what's kind of  
16 the hiring schedule?

17 MR. REBENITSCH: We want to start hiring  
18 employees probably by mid summer. I would like  
19 to have those employees there while it's being  
20 built so they develop that institutional  
21 memory, that they remember where that cable was  
22 buried just in case we ever have to go find it  
23 sometime.

24 MR. NELSON: And the one comment on behalf  
25 of at least one landowner, I would ask the



1 Public Utilities Commission to look very  
2 favorably upon this application and move as  
3 quickly as possible. Thank you.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Other questions or comments?  
5 There's an additional award because apparently  
6 if you say something good, you get a round of a  
7 applause so -- questions or comments? We'll  
8 make one final request for any questions or  
9 comments. I kind of go slowly because as you  
10 notice about every 20 seconds we sort of get  
11 somebody who pops up so --

12 MR. BECKMAN: Dennis Beckman. I just had  
13 one more question. If there's any problems in  
14 the -- you know, with people, is it Basin's  
15 responsibility or the contractor who does the  
16 site?

17 MR. REBENITSCH: It's Basin. Basin is the  
18 builder. We're the owner. If you have  
19 problems with a contractor or the building, we  
20 want to be the first to know. We're going to  
21 have an individual or two -- hopefully just  
22 keep it to one so that if there's ever any  
23 questions, your road is not being graded  
24 properly, somebody left the gates open, you  
25 know who to call. The buck stops here.

1 MR. BECKMAN: It stops with Basin then  
2 basically?

3 MR. REBENITSCH: Yes.

4 MR. BECKMAN: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. JOHNSON: And Mr. Dolan just tracked  
6 down -- again, there are a few different  
7 components, there's the nameplate tax capacity  
8 he talked about, there's also the production  
9 tax that's been referenced. The nameplate  
10 capacity largely will stay local. Production  
11 tax, 20 percent goes to local governments, 80  
12 percent goes to the state property tax  
13 reduction fund.

14 MR. DOLAN: Not all of it, for the first  
15 ten years.

16 MR. JOHNSON: For the first ten years.

17 MR. DOLAN: Yeah.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Other questions or comments?  
19 Well, then we do want to thank you for your  
20 time tonight, and certainly the Public  
21 Utilities Commission and the applicant will be  
22 sticking around to answer your questions one on  
23 one. If you've got questions about the process  
24 or about the project, feel free to ask.  
25 Yes, Ms. Splittstoesser.

1 MS. SPLITTSTOESSER: There was a question  
2 here, they wanted the name of the contractor,  
3 you had said the name of the contractor who was  
4 going to be constructing the turbines.

5 MR. REBENITSCH: It's our intent to go  
6 with Wanzek Construction out of Fargo, North  
7 Dakota.

8 MS. SPLITTSTOESSER: Wanzek?

9 MR. REBENITSCH: Yeah, W-A-N-Z-E-K.

10 MR. JOHNSON: And let's go ahead and have  
11 the -- the applicant team and the Public  
12 Utilities Commission staff go ahead and stand  
13 so people can get a good look at you. Because  
14 once we get dismiss the audience here it's  
15 going to get -- so pick out your favorite that  
16 you want to ask questions of and track them  
17 down. Thanks very much.

18 (The hearing was concluded.)

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