

I was looking at the PUC site, about to click on Dakota Range one day, and saw this new docket listed. I thought I would take a look and see what this project had planned for these fine citizens of the area. After just a few minutes of research, my head was swimming. HOW CAN THIS POSSIBLY BE? 590 foot turbines? 1,000 feet from homes?

That is all the farther I needed to go.

I didn't need to read the sound study. The flicker report? No need to click on that either. Aircraft detection lighting? I can't say that would even get me to click. There is no way anyone should be subjected to this danger, the nuisance, or the mental torture.

What these county boards and commissions have allowed to happen here is shameful and must not be allowed to move forward. Participating landowners want the money. Easy money...at the expense of others. There is no possible way these people can live in the shadow of these behemoths. Participators or non-participators, it does not matter, they all need to be saved from this ridiculous error in judgment. This project IS NOT SAFE. The danger of ice throw and blade throw is enough to say 'STOP'. As much as wind energy people like to minimize the danger of ice throw, it is a very real safety concern for residents and travelers through the area. Do you know how I know that? I know that because I went to a public meeting in May. The wind developers had 3 placards on easels. 2 were about construction. The third, placed right in the middle, was totally concerning ice throw. 33% of their message was directed at 'selling' people on ice throw being trivial. No, it is no small thing.

Here are two examples:

1. My brother is a truck driver. Earlier this year, a turbine threw a large chunk of ice over the top of a house, on to the highway right in front of him. It was night, it startled him, and it could have caused him injury, or an accident had he swerved out of instinct, like most drivers would.
2. My friend was just hit in the head by hail on Tuesday. Small chunks of ice in comparison, but they cut her head and caused injury. Those hail stones were not coming off of a blade traveling 200 miles per hour, they were gravity fed.
3. Ice is dangerous. Period.

I cannot understand how anyone would want to ruin this beautiful countryside for a few dollars. The birds, bats, bees, and all of our precious wildlife...in danger. For what? For a check in the mail for a handful of people...misery for everyone else.

Amber Christenson

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Strandburg, SD