

I listened to the Crown Ridge II public hearing in Watertown held Monday night. What I heard was 15-20 local residents against the project and 1 for. What I heard was the applicant adding up 66, 66 & 2 and coming up with 132. I heard the applicant talk about height, but qualifying it as tower height, not system height. What is the system height (blade up)? We don't know. I heard them use the term "zero emissions". What about all the fossil fuels used to build, transfer, erect and maintain these turbines? What about the article in the Argus Leader about all the fiberglass blades being dumped into a Sioux Falls landfill from Minnesota? What I heard was the cost of this project is about \$400,000,000, divided by 132 turbines, about 3 million dollars each to construct. Chris Nelson's testimony at the legislature last year stated each turbine would collect about \$300,000 per turbine per year or 3 million dollars in tax credits over 10 years. So, the tax credits (coming from the taxpayer's pockets) pays for the whole project. I heard the applicant say the \$400,000,00 was an investment in South Dakota. No, it was \$400,000,000 taken out of taxpayer's pockets to transfer to Next Era, who hasn't paid federal income tax in years. Then I heard about what I call "bribe money" from Next Era to SDSU, Crystal Springs Rodeo and Mitchell MTI. Pay everybody to be your friend with taxpayer money. Rich Rall had it right. It's all a scam. But what was most interesting and not surprising was Gary Hanson telling everybody at the end that their decision can only be based on evidence and they also must rely on local government decisions. Yes, local government like the kind in Deuel County getting sued for conflict of interests. I can tell you from experience that there will never be enough evidence to stop the PUC from giving a multinational corporation a permit. Never. Mr. Richter proved that his rural acreage value was decreased, if it's worth anything at all, with evidence at the meeting. But Big Wind will come in with the Berkeley study from California, which is a flawed biased study, and the PUC will take that as "evidence". In the Prevailing Winds hearing there were 5 witnesses with health effects, one even had to leave his home of 43 years. But that was not good enough for the PUC. They needed "evidence" and got what they wanted when Big Wind brought in Doctors from the east coast who had no experience living near a wind turbine or diagnosing anybody with problems from wind turbines. These \$500/hour expert witnesses had the "evidence" the PUC wanted. Hanson was warning you: The evidence is already in. Furthermore, the contractors and subcontractors are already being hired for Crown Ridge II. What happened in Watertown Monday night was another PUC dog and pony show. This permit is already cut and dried. The evidentiary hearing will be another farce where lawyers drain the money from the interveners while the state and applicant lawyers are paid with our tax money. There is no winning for the people of South Dakota that will live under these turbines. Eventually when enough turbines are built to affect enough people across the country, the class action lawsuits because of health effects, property devaluation and loss of property rights will take place. And by that time most of us will have moved away and the PUC Commissioners will be retired living off their taxpayer funded pensions.

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