

From: William [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 10:02 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXT] Input on PUC Docket EL18-026, Prevailing Winds Park

To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission,

I have had the opportunity and great privilege to enjoy pheasant hunting in South Dakota over the past decade. I am one of a group of 8 to 10 friends who have regularly traveled to your great state to the Charles Mix County area for this annual event. We are a diverse group of business professionals who are also avid sportsman and landowners with the upmost respect for the environment. We understand the impact; economic, social and environmental, that an initiative like the proposed Prevailing Wind Park, EL18-026, can have on the Wagner/Avon area.

I understand that in 2017 over 30% of South Dakota's in-state power generation came from wind energy sources and wind energy projects have contributed roughly \$2 billion in capital investment to SD in the past decade. However, based on information contained on the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks web site, **pheasant hunting also generated over \$208 million in revenues for SD in 2017. Spending in Charles Mix County alone was over \$7 million!** My friends and I each contribute to this spending in the Wagner/Avon area through our purchases at local stores, restaurants, motels, gas stations and on hunting licenses. I estimate that we each spend roughly \$2000 annually to enjoy hunting in a state that has openly advertised it's desire to be the pheasant hunting capital of the world and which offers an experience second to none! EL18-026 will destroy this vision and an important source of revenue for the local merchants and communities.

In the past couple years, as wind turbines have been erected in the Wagner/Avon area, we have seen the lands we previously hunted be greatly impacted. Habitat that is so important to pheasant survival and reproduction has been bulldozed. The quiet natural surroundings have become overwhelmed by the

continuous whine of turbines and the "swish" of blades. No Pheasants are to be found in those areas and local residents/businessmen like [REDACTED] are quickly losing their source of livelihood. A few people may benefit financially from the business investment by the wind power companies like Prevailing Wind Park, LLC, at least until the subsidies run out. However, the long term negative impact to the local economies, residents and to the environment is too large of a price to pay.

The Wagner/Avon area of South Dakota has been blessed with great natural beauty and a healthy environment for both humans and one of nature's most beautiful birds, the Ringneck Pheasant. I urge you to stop any further windmill construction in this area.

Best Regards,

William Hopkins

[REDACTED]

Stoughton, WI 53589

[REDACTED]

From: PUC
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 4:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EL18-026

Mr. Hopkins:

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: Raysby, Keith [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 1:25 PM

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

Subject: [EXT] wind farm

My comments regarding the proposed wind farm in SE SD (Bon Homme county in particular).

Regards,

Keith Raysby
[REDACTED]

001756

Keith Raysby

[REDACTED]
Norfolk, NE 68701
[REDACTED]

our farm address:

[REDACTED]
Avon, SD 57315

To the attention of Commissioner's Kristie Fiegen, Gary Hanson, and Chris Nelson

Dear Commissioners;

I am a land owner in Bon Homme County at the address noted above. We are likely to be recipients of two of these wind towers in the 219kW wind farm proposed by S Power Company.

While I reside in Nebraska, my son lives at the farm today and my wife and I plan to retire and build a house as well on this farm in the next 2-3 years. I grew up on this farm through all the years until I went to college. We have always had several towers on our farm that deliver power from the Fort Randall dam to the sub-station east of us.

The concern then was the danger of living in the proximity of these high voltage lines and many people made a lot of noise on how those of us living close would suffer brain cancer and other maladies. Our house is less than ¼ mile from these lines yet no one suffered such diseases and these towers have been there for more than 60 years.

There are those opponents of the wind farm who make a lot of noise now from the barely tangible to the intangible problems we can expect from wind farms to the point that all they do is make a lot of noise and not a lot of sense with abandonment of fact in favor of fear mongering.

Wind farms have been in existence for many decades at various parts of our country and with few exceptions, have proven their value to our current and future needs. The facts are that wind energy does not require water (as does gas, coal, or nuclear) and their carbon footprint is negligible over time, again quite contrary to other forms of energy generation.

It's clear the future demand for energy will only increase and wind and solar offer the ability to fill the gap between gas, coal, and nuclear until something better is finally developed by science and engineering. For sure there will be demand to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and for sure no one wants a nuke in their backyard.

I implore you to do the right thing and not give in to the emotional fears but look to the future and approve this wind farm.

 18-July-2018

From: PUC

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 4:11 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: EL18-026

Mr. Raysby:

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

Your letter 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
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