

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 6:27 AM

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

Subject: [EXT] Docket EL18-026

Please post the attached comments to the Prevailing Winds Docket EL18-026.

Thank you,

Julie Freier

[REDACTED]
Pickstown, SD 57367

Madam Chairperson, South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners and Staff:

I respectfully request that the proposed Prevailing Winds LLC Wind Park Project be denied.

My grandmother, dad and uncle own approximately 800 acres of farmland in the footprint area of the project. My brother and I own the farmstead that our great grandparents built, which is also located in the footprint area. None of our land or property is signed up to be a part of the project, yet there are at least 4 proposed wind turbines, #60, #45, #41, #49, within a half mile of the farm that my brother and I own.

-These turbines are monstrous in size. The height of the turbines is 586 ft tall with a 440 ft rotor diameter. That is almost 2 football fields high. The height of the current turbines in the nearby Beethoven project is 405 ft. These turbines would be 180 ft taller. To give some perspective to this, the tallest building in South Dakota, according to Wikipedia, is the CenturyLink Tower (formerly Qwest Tower) located in downtown Sioux Falls. It is only 174 ft tall, consisting of 11 stories. These wind turbines are over 3 times as tall as the CenturyLink Tower, spin 200 mph at the tip and have big red flashing lights on top. In contrast, the CenturyLink Tower just sits there. These wind turbines would destroy the aesthetics of our rural area.

-Some of these turbines are near both Highways 46 and 50. Ice throw from the spinning turbines would be a serious concern for passing traffic in winter.

-These turbines would destroy wildlife and habitat. Looking at Figures 8 and 10 of Appendix A on the PUC website for this project, it is noted that there are numerous wetlands as well as a USFWS Waterfowl Production area, a SDGFP Game Production area, and many SDGFP Walk-In Hunting areas. There are also many CRP acres that landowners have planted for wildlife conservation. These turbines would be detrimental to the conservation of these areas as well as the wildlife that lives there.

-These turbines are not needed. I visited with the General Manager of Charles Mix Electric last month on June 19, 2018. He explained that wind turbines can't supply 100% of needed electricity because the wind is unreliable. They can only supply 40% at best. Basin Electric, which supplies Charles Mix Electric, would have to supplement the other 60% from other sources. When asked if Basin Electric was depending on this proposed wind project going through to meet their needs, it was made clear to me that, no, it was not needed because Basin Electric plans 20 years out in advance and has

plenty of other sources for power. There is no urgency for power. It seems that the only urgency is to get this Prevailing Winds Wind Park Project pushed through before the tax credits expire.

-There are many studies that have been done about the detrimental health effects suffered by people who live close to wind turbines. The turbines would have a significant negative effect on the residents' physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual health. A 1000 ft set back is too close for a healthy lifestyle. Most people, given a choice, would not live near a 586 ft tall wind turbine. None of the investors or Board of Directors of Prevailing Winds live in the footprint of this proposed project. I have a neighbor whose land and property recently was up for sale. It would have been the perfect opportunity for one of these board members or investors to buy that property and live within a half mile of these wind turbines. However, not one of them took advantage of this opportunity.

-This project would devalue my farm. You may have heard about the herbicide Dicamba in the news this past year for unintentionally drifting onto neighboring soybean fields and damaging the crop for that season. The farmers were being compensated for their losses for that harvest. A farmer can use any chemical he wants, but when that chemical drifts onto my land, he has trespassed and he is liable for any damage to me. What's the difference between that and shadow flicker, noise, or vibration? NOTHING! This wind park project would damage and devalue my farm and cause financial loss for a lifetime. This seems much worse.

For these reasons, please deny the proposed Prevailing Winds LLC Wind Park Project.

Julie Freier

Please post these comments on the Prevailing Winds docket EL18-026

Julie Freier



Pickstown, SD 57367

Madam Chairperson, South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners and Staff:

I respectfully request that the proposed Prevailing Winds LLC Wind Park Project be denied.

My grandmother, dad and uncle own approximately 800 acres of farmland in the footprint area of the project. My brother and I own the farmstead that our great grandparents built, which is also located in the footprint area. None of our land or property is signed up to be a part of the project, yet there are at least 4 proposed wind turbines, #60, #45, #41, #49, within a half mile of the farm that my brother and I own.

-These turbines are monstrous in size. **The height of the turbines is 586 ft tall with a 440 ft rotor diameter.** That is almost 2 football fields high. The height of the current turbines in the nearby Beethoven project is 405 ft. These turbines would be 180 ft taller. To give some perspective to this, the tallest building in South Dakota, according to Wikipedia, is the CenturyLink Tower (formerly Qwest Tower) located in downtown Sioux Falls. It is only 174 ft tall, consisting of 11 stories. These wind turbines are over 3 times as tall as the CenturyLink Tower, spin 200 mph at the tip and have big red flashing lights on top. In contrast, the CenturyLink Tower just sits there. These wind turbines would destroy the aesthetics of our rural area.

-Some of these turbines are near both Highways 46 and 50. Ice throw from the spinning turbines would be a serious concern for passing traffic in winter.

-These turbines would destroy wildlife and habitat. Looking at Figures 8 and 10 of Appendix A on the PUC website for this project, it is noted that there are numerous wetlands as well as a USFWS Waterfowl Production area, a SDGFP Game Production area, and many SDGFP Walk-In Hunting areas. There are also many CRP acres that landowners have planted for wildlife conservation. These turbines would be detrimental to the conservation of these areas as well as the wildlife that lives there.

-These turbines are not needed. I visited with the General Manager of Charles Mix Electric last month on June 19, 2018. He explained that wind turbines can't supply 100% of needed electricity because the wind is unreliable. They can only supply 40% at best. Basin Electric, which supplies Charles Mix Electric, would have to supplement the other 60% from other sources. When asked if Basin Electric was depending on this proposed wind project going through to meet their needs, it was made clear to me that, no, it was not needed because Basin Electric plans 20 years out in advance and has plenty of other sources for power. There is no urgency for power. It seems that the only urgency is to get this Prevailing Winds Wind Park Project pushed through before the tax credits expire.

-There are many studies that have been done about the detrimental health effects suffered by people who live close to wind turbines. The turbines would have a significant negative effect on the residents' physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual health. A 1000 ft set back is too close for a healthy

lifestyle. Most people, given a choice, would not live near a 586 ft tall wind turbine. None of the investors or Board of Directors of Prevailing Winds live in the footprint of this proposed project. I have a neighbor whose land and property recently was up for sale. It would have been the perfect opportunity for one of these board members or investors to buy that property and live within a half mile of these wind turbines. However, not one of them took advantage of this opportunity.

-This project would devalue my farm. You may have heard about the herbicide Dicamba in the news this past year for unintentionally drifting onto neighboring soybean fields and damaging the crop for that season. The farmers were being compensated for their losses for that harvest. A farmer can use any chemical he wants, but when that chemical drifts onto my land, he has trespassed and he is liable for any damage to me. What's the difference between that and shadow flicker, noise, or vibration? NOTHING! This wind park project would damage and devalue my farm and cause financial loss for a lifetime. This seems much worse.

For these reasons, please deny the proposed Prevailing Winds LLC Wind Park Project.

Julie Freier

From: PAUL LISA SCHOENFELDER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 7:52 AM
To: PUC-DOCKET FILINGS
Subject: [EXT] Existing Docket Filing

Docket Number: EL18-026 Last Name: Skorpik First Name: Marlene Company: LandOwner Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] City: Wagner State: SD Zip: 57380 Phone: [REDACTED] Fax: Email: [REDACTED] Comments: I am submitting Ms. Skorpik's comments on her behalf since she does not have a computer. She can be reached at the phone number provided or mailed a letter at her address.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

PUC,

Please stop this project. I live at [REDACTED] Wagner, SD in the proposed project for Prevailing Winds. My concerns are about my property. I did not sign up my property, but I am concerned about the big cranes and don't want them to touch my property. I am concerned about the big turbines. I am concerned when the turbines break down and come on property and tear it up. Especially when it is muddy. Those cranes are going to tear up our land during construction and the roads will be unsafe to drive on during this construction.

Who sent this company an invitation to put these things in or near my property?

They dig a big hole and put in cement. The people that put the electricity in were nice people and did a good job of cleaning up after the work. I enjoyed Charles Mix Electric and the work they did when they put in new electrical lines. I am concerned about the impact of the soil and the big trucks. Charles Mix Electric they were very good and come and fix things right away. Will this company do that?

I don't like a mess and leaving me with a mess is wrong. My renters will not be cleaning up after them. What is going to happen when they are no longer working? Who is going to be responsible for taking them down and clean out the concrete in the ground? This wind project is not benefiting us.

I heard the PUC lady on the NPR program on WNAX and she was good and is going to help protect us. I have heard from others in Nebraska and Iowa and how these towers are not good for anyone and we need the PUC lady to protect us too.

Marlene Anna Skorpik

From: Karen Jenkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 4:39 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] EL18-026

In reference to the response of Commissioner Hansen to Mr. Brouwer's question:

"I guess I am questioning if any application will be denied unless there is something so grossly negligent within the application?"

Part of Commissioner Hansen's response:

For the commission to deny a siting permit we need to have actual 'evidence'. Evidence must be from testimony of expert witnesses who are available for cross examination. They cannot come from books or newspaper or magazine clippings. Neither can they be based upon individual's beliefs that flicker or wind turbine noise is harmful. There must be proof to substantiate the claims. Emotional requests, personal feelings, speculation is not considered evidence. Our decisions cannot even be based upon our own feelings. We are not legislators. Our feelings do not count. Whether we like a project or not we must make the decision based upon evidence presented at the evidentiary hearing. That is the law. If we do not follow the law our decisions will be overturned by the circuit court or the Supreme court.

Why then does the PUC hold a Public Meeting and take comments from the Public?

What part of this process is considered in denying an application?

What do you consider evidence?

Respectfully,

Karen Jenkins

<https://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2018/EL18-026/comments/brouwerresponse072718.pdf>

Karen Jenkins
[REDACTED]
Tripp SD. 57376
[REDACTED]

From: PUC

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 12:06 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: EL18-026

Ms. Jenkins,

Thank you for your message concerning operations of the PUC. You have several excellent questions and I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this valuable information.

You ask why the PUC holds a public meeting and takes comments from the public. The PUC holds a public input hearing on all siting projects that come before it. State law, specifically 49-41B-15 below, requires the commission to do so:

49-41B-15. Procedure followed by commission following receipt of application for permit. Within thirty days following receipt of an application for a permit, the commission shall:

- (1) Schedule a public hearing;
- (2) Notify the applicant of the hearing;
- (3) Serve notice of the application and hearing upon the governing bodies of the counties and municipalities totally or partially within the area of the proposed facility;
- (4) Publish a notice of the time, place, and purpose of the public hearing in at least one newspaper of general circulation in counties totally or partially within the area of the proposed facility; and
- (5) File a copy of the application with the auditor of the county or counties in which the proposed facility will be constructed.

Source: SL 1977, ch 390, § 9; SL 2006, ch 242, § 4; SL 2008, ch 246, § 2.

The public input hearing is valuable to the commissioners, advisors and to the PUC staff analysts and attorney working on the docket in guiding them as to the concerns of the local residents. The staff members working on the docket will burrow into the issues of local concern in their analysis and in securing more information and obtaining expert witnesses where

appropriate. While staff members are working on the docket, each commissioner and their advisors are doing their own separate review of the docket filings.

You ask what part of this process is considered in denying an application. There are many pieces of evidence for the commission to review for a siting permit application. As you will see by the application filed on May 30, 2018, <http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2018/EL18-026.aspx>, there are many details to be considered.

The commission denied a wind siting permit requested by another wind facility project in EL17-028. Here is a link to that docket so you may review the formal filings, <http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2017/el17-028.aspx>, including the order by which the commission denied the application pursuant to 49-41B-13 (2), <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/orders/electric/2017/el17-028deny.pdf>.

You ask what is considered “evidence”. Evidence is the collective mass of testimony and exhibits, presented before the commission in a formal legal proceeding. The receiving of evidence is controlled by a body of law regulating the burden of proof, admissibility, relevance, and weight and sufficiency of what should be admitted into the record of the legal proceeding. Generally, all admissible evidence must be of such a character that it reasonably and substantially proves the point rather than merely raising suspicion or conjecture. Evidence is satisfactory if it is sufficient to satisfy an unprejudiced mind seeking the truth.

I hope this answers your questions.

Gary Hanson, Vice Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.sd.gov

From: PAUL LISA SCHOENFELDER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 12:57 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Comments for PUC Docket EL18-026

Lisa Schoenfelder

[REDACTED]

Wagner, SD 57380

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

See attached comments.

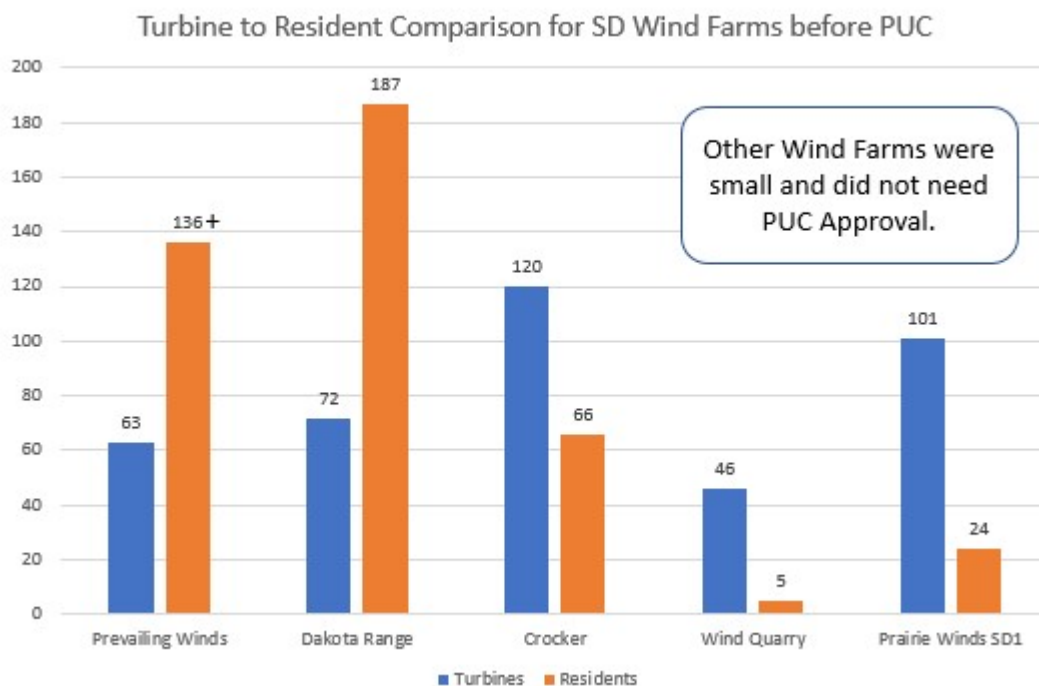
Name: Lisa Schoenfelder

Address: [REDACTED] Wagner SD

I am the fifth generation and am heir to the Frank Sip Homestead, just 8 miles east of Wagner and in the proposed Prevailing Winds Park project. Our homestead has several historical and cultural points of interest in which I want to keep protected and is a part of our two businesses and our livelihood. My husband and I both left our jobs in Idaho to come here to start our new Chapter in life, living and loving the land as so many rural South Dakotans do. Maintaining and restoring the heritage of our people and the other cultures that make up this great region, the Czech/Bohemian, German, the local tribes and others is very important to me and our business.

I am concerned about the impact of having 4-20 turbines a mile, 2-miles and 3-miles away from our home and our business. I am concerned about our businesses vitality going forward, our customers, our employees as well as our neighbors and ourselves.

I am asking you, the PUC to protect us by either enforcing proper setbacks and not with a decibel measurement of 40-45 in which we know is not adequate in this application or a shadow flicker that says it is ok to be impacted 30 minutes a day or 30 hours a year. The entire impact perspective of this project needs to be factored in when placing 589' turbines in densely populated areas with over half of the residents receiving no benefit and an abundance of wildlife that will be impacted. I also feel strongly that mitigation concessions are not an acceptable alternative. Shame on the US Game and Fish to accept a monetary compensation for dead birds, bats or animals due to the turbines. That is not going to positively impact the area that lost this the wildlife. The monetary compensation may help fund other programs, but it will not bring the dead wildlife back to the impacted areas. I am asking the PUC to deny the Prevailing Winds Park project because it is sited in an inadequate location. It is the wrong project for this location. The population density is not appropriate for a project of this size. There are many appropriate applications for a wind farm and I have experienced them first hand in Wyoming, Idaho and other states. I have also observed inappropriate applications of wind farm projects, in locations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. If the PUC looks back at those projects that have been approved, Wind Quarry is an appropriate example of low impact. Dakota Range and Prevailing Winds is an example of severe impact to health and safety of its inhabitants. And even more so the Prevailing Winds project since several residents can attest to current impacts from the Beethoven Wind project adjacent to this project.



Although I have several concerns, I want to point out that several of the Prevailing Winds application studies are inadequate and need to be reviewed or independently studied. One example is that there is a cemetery that is missing and according to the Crocker concessions, the PUC's CU1-17 states that cemeteries have a 1-mile setback. This cemetery has four or more generations of resident family members resting here and those who come to respect them should be able to do so in peace with the tranquility of the landscape that is a part of a rural cemetery. We have a historical structure and other artifacts and not one person has contacted us to identify them for the WAPA study.

In addition, several non-participating residents were not included in the sound or shadow flicker analysis. As a part of a thorough assessment, it would be valuable to get a map of the MP locations that were recorded for ambient measurements in Appendix A of the Appendix M sound study. You will see that the majority of the sounds testing in this appendix were significantly below the 45-decibel testing that is typically used by Burns McDonnell in their sound study from receptors. Thus, automatically creating a negative impact to the residents.

I share my family and my neighbor's concerns about the landscape and the esthetics. I share the concern about potential health issues and the impact to the wildlife.

Finally, I too share your concern for all the neighbors including those participating in the project to have similar protection when a turbine is placed on their property or on their neighbor's property. There are several of my neighbors who thought this was already approved and felt pressured to sign up to at least get some compensation or to possibly shuffle some turbines around. They have now learned that they will not be getting a turbine on their property. I am concerned for them and ask that you investigate the process done by Thorstad company to obtain the multitude of easements to ensure that they could proceed with the project even though they communicated it was already "a done deal". At a Charles Mix county meeting on July 19, 2018, a representative from Thorstad stated that the siting map was not complete, and they have not finalized the locations. Then a week later, July 26, 2018 at a special meeting for the county commissioners, that same representative said that they would not move the turbines from one land owner to another if they promised them they would get one. This was in response to county commissioners inquiring if some setbacks could be put in place and still allow them to proceed. This is confusing and should be investigated to protect all parties involved. We have a right to know where turbines are going to be sited relative to our property and what that impact will be. We need to protect all residents, including those that signed up not realizing the impact this will have on them.

Commissioners, you are seeing these come before you because many of the wind farm projects were put in place outside of the PUC purview. The first two that you approved were very low impact to residents participating and non-participating. The three that you have had before you these past 9 months are a completely different application, impacting more and more residents.

Commissioners, you are being thoughtful and mindful in what you did with Crocker and Dakota Range but as you know, it was not enough. The third time is a charm and I believe you will move the protection of our people, the landscape and the overall environment to the appropriate level to balance what is good for the state and the inhabitants in our state and our small rural communities.

Lisa A. Schoenfelder

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing you about my concerns with the proposed wind farm for the Charlies Mix/Bon Homme county area. I am against the project.

I grew up at [REDACTED] Wagner, SD 57380 on land homestead by my great grandfather. When my father took over the family farm, he also purchased the quarter section to the west. As a little girl I would spend as much time as possible outside. Running around the stock dam, playing in the shelter belt, eating mulberries and ice skating in the pasture after a winter thaw and refreeze was my youth. Also I would ride my bike over to the "other place" and just look at; to quote Lewis and Clark "the boundless horizon". This time outside developed me into a person who loved and respected the outdoors. Just like so many other South Dakotans I had/have a love and connection with the land.

I attended school in Wagner, I went to college and graduated with a bachelor degree from South Dakota State University, and worked in Custer State Park for many years. As life developed I got married and followed my husband to SE Nebraska where I have lived for the last 25 years. I work as a Safety, Health, and Environmental compliance person for a chemical company as a compliance auditor. This job has allowed me in the last 18 years to travel all over this wonderful country of ours. I have seen many many beautiful places but my heart has always longed to come home. I am and always will be a South Dakotan.

As my business travels have taken me to Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado; I have watched the landscape I love be marred by the constant spinning of the new "Giants in the Earth" wind turbines. Traveling to Hays, KS one time I counted when I crossed the first shallow of a wind turbine until my vehicle crossed the last one, it was 45 miles. Add another 20 miles on each side for the sight line and the spinning blades of wind farms are all the eye can see for 85 miles. I recently made my annual trip to Hays and there are even more now. Once they built "just a few and that will be it" they later come back and keep adding because the impact is already there and; as the power companies say, the infrastructure is already in place so it is the idea spot. I do not believe this company will stop at their additional 60 turbines, for proof of this just look south to Nebraska. They will be back in a year to add "just another 100 more". It hurts my heart to see the land I love being destroyed.

And why is it being destroyed? MONEY. Study after study reveals they cost more to build, install and maintain than the energy they produce in the life cycle of a single wind turbine. What makes them so profitable? The millions and millions of dollars in government subsidies. The Governor of South Dakota just gave the project 4 million dollars of hard working tax payer money to destroy the very thing South Dakotan's love the most, the land. And you can talk green energy all day long but the math and science don't add up. Especially when there is a "PAID FOR" hydroelectric dam 20 miles away that has a moratorium on the amount of electricity it can produce. I have done my research and I'm not fooled by the "talking points" of investors and power companies.

So why is a Nebraskan writing you? I have been deeded the 80 acres I love with all my heart. The address is [REDACTED]. Wagner, SD. Since the land has been turned over to me I have made some improvements as I WAS planning on building my retirement home there. I paid local contractor Blaha

Gravel over to dig out the small stock dam to improve wildlife habit and complete other dirt work. I paid the local family farmer o redo the fence area and other small projects. I have paid an Avon contractor to extend the water line and hydrant out past the new fence line for the cattle. I have paid Bouza Construction to build a pole barn on site. And I have spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars locally at Bomgaards, Valley Pump, The Food Center and other business in Wagner as I travel home about every 2-4 weeks for the last 6 years to visit my dad, cousins and work on my land. Every penny I have received from the farm income I have re-invested into my land and the Wagner area.

I have now halted all money spending because of this project. I work will a gentleman from Elgin, NE who went home for his father's 80th birthday party. Sitting outside on the porch all he heard was (whoo, whoo, whoo) of the neighbor's wind turbine blades turning. He told me he doesn't even like to go home anymore; it always gives him a headache and makes him feel funny. With the talk of sound wave impacts, headaches and fainting spells from blade flicker, and reports of restless sleep syndrome from people who currently live close to the Beethoven project (people I've known my entire life) and reduction in wildlife; why would I build my lifelong dream home in the area or invest another dollar in Charles Mix county and the state of South Dakota? It appears elected and government officials are more concerned with money then the health and welfare of its state residents. Who is looking out for us? Who is going to protect us who cannot fight the millions and millions of dollars being poured into this project so a select few can line their pockets? The county commission says their hands are tied and are going to "talk" to the project's lawyer to see if they can get some concessions. Who is going to protect us? All we have it you.

I was at the first PUC meeting in Avon two years ago and again at the meeting in July 2018. All I heard was the same thing. People who are for the project are investors and 90% don't live in the footprint and many not even in the area and people who are against it live in the footprint; have ALL the impact; and gain nothing but physical and financial hardship and broken dreams. Having traveled all over the US, I know there are a heck of a lot nicer and easier places to live then South Dakota. If this wind farm expansion goes through I am planning on taking the profit from my farm land, my personal income and future retirement monies and spend it elsewhere outside of South Dakota.

Again I am against the wind farm located in Charles Mix and Bon Homme counties.

Sincerely

Lori Cerny



Dorchester, NE 68343

From: Lori Cerny [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 12:44 PM

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

Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Letter of position for Wind Farm proposal in Charles Mix County

Sent from my iPhone

001838

From: Karen Jenkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 4:35 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] EL18-026

Commissioners and Staff
SDPUC

I am Karen Jenkins, I have been requesting information from you since this docket was posted on your website.

I have lived in my home since April 2011. In about April 2015 the Beethoven Wind Farm went on line. As I type this I can look out and see eight turbines located three miles from my home. There are many more that I can see when I'm standing up and on different levels of my home. There are even more in sight when I drive back home after leaving my property.

Luckily (I don't mean to infer I accept them) the closest turbines are three miles away from our home. Weather and wind direction change and so the effects from them change as well. The visual changes too. However, their existence will not change in my lifetime.

Nine more turbines are proposed within one and two miles of our home in this project. They are numbered 55,56,30,51,25,20,46,47, and 18.. I know this will not be good for us and/or the value of our home.

I just came from the bank in town (Tripp). In the foyer on the bulletin board was a flyer announcing an Open House hosted by BayWa r.e.Wind, LLC celebrating American Wind Week to be held on Tuesday August 7, 2018. Same at the Post Office and Grocery store, (which is about all we have in Tripp).

As I headed home and turned down the gravel road to our home I thought, "We might as well put a For Sale sign up right now1"

It didn't take long to figure out this is the start of Phase 3 of the industrial wind farm that started with Beethoven. I can hear the same people representing The Thorstead Companies, the same "local friends and neighbors" telling the folks who attend: "Your neighbors signed up, the turbines will be next to you anyway, you might as well sign up and benefit from them".

The companies and their representatives that have applied for the permit for Prevailing Wind "Park" are not being honest with the PUC, the local governments, or the citizens and residents in the footprint and in the counties who will be affected by this cancer if you do not stop it now.

Please deny this permit., please error on the side of caution, please protect us. We have so much to lose.

Respectfully,

Karen Jenkins

[REDACTED]

Tripp SD 57376

[REDACTED]

July 12, 2011

Karen Jenkins, address is [REDACTED], Tripp, SD.

I am not an investor or relative of. I have not leased my land to the developer.

I urge you to protect my husband, myself, and all of those within and around this footprint.

This protection can and will come when **YOU deny this application.**

As you consider the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government, please consider this: **We have not been represented properly by our local government.**

I have participated with others to ask our local government to protect us by establishing safe setbacks. I came to realize the principle of "ex parte communication" was completely ignored.

At the Bon Homme County Zoning Board we pushed for safe setbacks, unaware the developer and investors were working to change the permitting process.\

Conditional Use Permits, requiring a Public Hearing, were in effect.

The Commissioners working with the developer and investors changed the permitting process to require only a Building Permit which does not require Public Hearing.

Had we been more observant we may have been able to prevent this.

Ethically, the Zoning Board should have made it clear to us that changes to the permit process were being considered.

Taken away was our **last chance**, to share our concerns and evidence, **before permitting at the local level.**

Prevailing Winds has not studied the residents in the footprint and surrounding area of Beethoven Wind Farm.

How can they show this project will not pose a serious threat of injury to the environment and the social and economic condition of the “inhabitants” etc.?

In real estate, location is everything, and **we had it**. A few miles from town, a beautiful 8 acre property with a home, barn, and outbuildings. A 360 degree view to enjoy the change of seasons from our home. Everything we had dreamed of.

The landscape and beauty that existed has been substantially and negatively altered forever.

Substantially altered by the Beethoven Wind Farm being built 3 miles west of our property, since the purchase of our home in 2010.

Red warning lights cause alarm and blink constantly in the early mornings and all night.

Towers dominate the western view from our home and from distances miles away look like an abandoned industrial zone when not lit.

Noise from it now present and unwelcome.

As humidity and wind conditions change, I sometimes notice a feeling of pressure in my chest. I’ve experienced ringing in my ears and dizziness. I often wake up with a start

Now we have Beethoven and the threat of Prevailing Wind Park placing nine turbines to the south and southwest within 1 and 2 miles of our property.

Closer turbines put our biggest investment and asset, **our home** and property at risk of being **unlivable and unmarketable**.

Watching the cranes erecting the turbines at Beethoven was devastating.

We have now lived here seven years, two as we dreamed, two of them spent with the construction and startup of Beethoven, and the past three years trying to prevent more turbines from coming.

Unsure of if we will be able to stay or go.

Putting off improvements that would add to the value and enjoyment of our property.

All of this has and continues to substantially impair our lives and our future. To say otherwise would be denying the truth. Yet, we have not been studied.

Finally,

While an ALDS to mitigate the red blinking warning lights is considerate, that system will not change the look of the Industrial Wind Park. The beauty here will be negatively altered forever.

The Beethoven Project and this project will never be decommissioned.

When the turbines are no longer lucrative and are too expensive to maintain they will be abandoned.

You can't squeeze blood from a turnip.

The money to decommission won't be there.

The only way to protect us is to deny this application.

Thank you,

Karen Jenkins

[REDACTED]

Tripp SD 57376

[REDACTED]

From: Lori & Sherm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 4:55 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] EL 18-026

Dear Commissioners,

In the matter of the application for the permit for the Prevailing Wined Farm docket EL18-026, please deny the requested permit for said wind energy conversion facility.

It seems to me that the application fails to prove the second and third of the four provisions imposed upon the PUC by the state legislature.

It would seem from the many comments you have received concerning the local pheasant hunting industry that there would be no small economic impact due to negative effects on the environment. Not all of the actual land use has actually been properly identified as of this date, including native prairie remnants. How do you quantify “a threat of serious injury to the ... economic condition of inhabitants”? What parameters are used, what constitutes “serious”? How much “injury” is enough? Is the PUC, or more appropriately the state government, in a position to determine what businesses are better suited to an area than others?

Regarding “will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants”, what units are used to scientifically measure “substantially”? Has my family’s “health, safety or welfare” been somehow measured and quantified prior to construction of this wind energy conversion facility without us even knowing about it? And to what degree or standard can “health, safety and welfare” be diminished before it is “substantial”? Can I somehow measure this and admit it as empirical scientific evidence to be considered or do I just have to take the word of “wind energy experts” that it is okay? How do I measure the effect on my welfare and well-being of a horizon that will be in constant motion for nearly 300 degrees around? If constructed as proposed there will be five existing and twelve new windmills within two miles of our home, including six within one and a quarter miles. Thirty-five of the forty-eight “Beethoven” windmills are in view of our property. The majority of the proposed facility will be in view as well. What units do we use to measure that effect on our well-being?

Four members of our immediate family have doctored for ear problems in the last six months including myself for vertigo. As children, our now eighteen and nineteen year olds never had ear infections or problems. After three years of exposure to an industrial wind energy conversion facility, one really has to wonder how much can be coincidence when health problems of people near such facilities are being reported around the world. At the Oct. 19, 2017 Minnesota Senate Legislative Energy Commission hearing on wind energy and health, Dr. Alves-Periera testified that regarding health symptoms observed near turbines an alternate explanation would be to “believe there is a world-wide ‘collective hallucination’ shared by those experiencing the symptoms”. Minnesota Senator Matthews asked wind industry representatives if they were saying that people changing their attitudes and having a more positive attitude would actually give them a better night’s sleep leading to fewer health issues.

Although the politically correct crowd has a thirty year head start, more and more recent research in acoustics is casting serious doubt on the wind energy industry’s self-suggested standards for noise. Rather than relying only on the audible-only sound range of the A-weighted decibel scale, there are increasing calls for complete sound spectrum frequency analysis to uncover the total sound energy emitted by wind turbines and other low frequency sound and infrasound producing industries. Until such time as actual standards determined by someone other than wind industry proponents are established, would it not be prudent to at least slow down construction of these facilities? If the questionable economic and environmental benefits are actually tangible, will they not still be so in the future?

Regarding setbacks, should not the horizontal length of the rotor be accounted for rather than distance to the tower? A 450 foot diameter rotor takes 225 feet off of any setback. Should not all setbacks be measured from property lines rather residences? I spend a lot time on my property but not so much inside the house. What if I want to build my next house at the other end of my property? It might be within a few hundred yards of a windmill.

Regarding local support for this facility, there are twenty-four occupied residences by my count in Charles Mix County that would be in the footprint of the facility. Only seven of these residences are actually signed up to lease land to the facility. The tail seems to wag the dog!

It seems that the legislature has put the PUC in hard place with the use of terms like “substantial, injury and welfare”. Please consider this.

Please deny the permit requested in docket EL18-026.

Sincerely,

Sherman Fuerniss

[REDACTED]

Delmont, SD

From: Georgia Andersh <Georgia.Andersh@rcwd.org>
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 4:20 PM
To: PUC-DOCKET FILINGS
Subject: [EXT] Existing Docket Filing
Attachments: Kevin Andersh.pdf

Docket Number: EL18-026 Last Name: Andersh First Name: Kevin Company: Tiny Acres Farm Address:
40128 294th Street City: Wagner State: South Dakota Zip: 57380 Phone: 6053843472 Fax:
6054877824 Email: kgandersh@gmail.com Comments: Please consider the attached.

001846

Has anyone thought about Wind Turbines causing climate change due to altering natural wind currents?



In the auto, medical, food, and farm industry products are put out even when they are known to have problems. Only after large numbers of people become sick and even die are recalls issued. Then investigations reveal that these problems were known. We know that there are health issues and concerns caused by wind turbines. Why do we have to wait for a catastrophe before anything is done?

we know
wind turbines
affect wildlife.

I have noticed that there are no longer nesting Great horned owls on our land since the turbines. There are three within a mile of our land. We were told by the original owner that there have always been a pair since they homesteaded this piece of land.

I have noticed a big drop in the squirrel pop and there are no ducks in the wet land that has lots of water this year. This spring the snow geese stayed to the South as they came from the Springfield area. I watched for years as they used to fly farther to the North before the turbines.

Has our soon to be ex governor thought about our tourism and hunting industry?

These people spread money accross the whole state. Part of the S.D charm is our wide open spaces. A lot of bikes rumble down through the less traveled roads just to see this type of country I don't think they will be happy to see these turbines all over the place especially after going through Iowa & Minnesota. If they put turbines up in my favorite spots I will go else where and I'm not alone.

Your home is where you should feel your safest. When you get close to your home after work or from being gone you should get a peaceful feeling as you get closer to home. I no longer have that as I have to drive past a gap that reveals over a dozen spinning turbines by day and a red angry flashing red lights at night.

It's like running a gauntlet until I get to our yard and the trees block them out. With this new project ~~neither~~ neither us or our kids and grandkids who live on the farm with us will be able to hide from them. In the distance they make the ridge look like an abandoned waste site by day and a war zone at night with the red flashing lights.

~~In the end it's all about~~

There are a lot of people that are against these turbines but they are afraid of losing business or friends so for now they are silent. Many don't like the fact that it's owned out of state and the power goes out of state. A Minn resident that was forced into some of the first turbines said they were told ~~that~~ their electric rates would go way down. They have only gone up! In the end it's all about a big company getting richer at the expense of the general public.

Kevin Andersh & families
40128 294th St
Wagner SD 57380

then
I feel
peaceful

mead

Kevin Andersh & Families
40128 294th St
Wagner SD 57380

From: PAUL LISA SCHOENFELDER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 8:41 AM
To: PUC <PUCPF@state.sd.us>
Subject: RE: [EXT] EL18-026

Paul Schoenfelder



Wagner, SD 57380
Docket: EL18-026

Please find attached Paul Schoenfelder's Comments.

Name: My name is Paul Schoenfelder.

Address: My Home is at [REDACTED] About 8 miles east of Wagner and 8 miles north of Avon. I grew up in Mitchell, met my wife while going to school in Aberdeen. Our farm is where she grew up and it has been in her family for 122 years since it was homesteaded in 1896. That is 122 years in the same family. Interestingly, part of the house is even older. The living room is actually a cottonwood log cabin with historical significance and was built in the 1880's as a way-station for the stage line that ran from Springfield. Our house is over 130 years old.

My father-in-law deeded us part of the farm and the plan was for my brother-in-law to take over the farm. Sadly, he passed away in 2004 and our plans changed. We were living in Idaho, but we understood the importance of taking care of something so important, so we started the process of moving back in 2011.

The reason why this is unique and relevant is because that 130-year-old farmhouse is about 2/4 a mile from a proposed 590ft wind turbine. There would be at least four or five turbines within approximately 1 mile and 9 within 2 miles from our home. We both quit our jobs and moved back to South Dakota, a state that we love for its tranquil beauty.

I am against this project because it is too close to residents who have lived and worked on their farms, some all of their lives.

The Prevailing Winds application clearly states that the burden of proof that this project will not have a negative impact lies with the applicant. It would appear to me that there are too many questions and unknowns to approve this project as written.

I question the applicant's due diligence. When the turbine locations were finally made public, my home was not on any of the maps, including studies, shadow flicker, none of them. There are other impacted land owners not included.

On the land use map, our pasture was shown as tilled. That pasture has never seen a plow. We have several CRP acres on our property that are not identified. This is only one example of what I have observed for my property. How many other mistakes and flaws in their factual information are there in this application? If the PUC's decision is based on facts and the information provided is not factual, that is unfair and one-sided.

The cultural impact, we have a 130-year-old cabin not mentioned in the application. How many more such structures have been missed?

The application states that the project should not pose a serious threat to the social condition of the inhabitants. I can guarantee these turbines will have a negative impact. I currently live 3.5 miles away from the Beethoven project and in the future could live 3/4 of a mile away from the Prevailing Winds project. It is undeniable that dozens of 590' towers will change the landscape like it has done in other areas. I recently drove through Elgin, NE. This is not the landscape that the people living there have historically experienced. These large towers are intrusive. Although I may be living 3/4 of a mile away from them, they are going to be leaking onto my property every time I look out my window, every time I walk outside. Local authorities are struggling with creating ordinances and reasonable setbacks. They, like our representatives at our state level, they are relying on the wind power developers for their information. Why is 45 decibels considered acceptable. Why does 30 minutes of shadow flicker a day on a residence or 30 hours per year acceptable. Our local authorities have not had time or resources to adequately respond to these questions. They are adopting ordinances based on agreements and negotiation with the wind company. Charles Mix authorities would likely adopt a more comprehensive zoning ordinance, but due to time constraints they are being pressured by the wind company to set up a contract for their specific project. I respect the authority of our county commissioners but have concerns that sPowers only has their interest in mind when doing this negotiation.

I also have grave concerns about the process. In 2017, I read in the Press and Dakotan and Daily Republic that, "It's official!" That is was a done deal and the project was going to be constructed in 2018. This was from Prevailing Winds who made these statements with full knowledge that the WAPA was still conducting its study of the project and that the PUC would have to review the application and approve, and the public would be allowed to provide input.

Aside from completely disrespecting the authority of WAPA and the PUC, this was misleading to the public and continued pressure cause several land owners to sign easements with false information. Prevailing Winds continues to lead people to believe that this project has been approved and moving forward when they know that is false. Many people who oppose this project have told me that there is nothing that can be done about it because it has already been approved.

I assume this proposal will be going to an evidentiary hearing. It is my understanding of the process that it will be very difficult and expensive for individual citizens to have their concerns heard and considered. sPowers has millions of dollars at their disposal to provide the information they need to get this project approved. This information only provides their perspective and is not representative of many years of research across the world on issues and negative impacts from large industrial turbine facilities around residential neighborhoods.

Individuals who strongly appose this project can not be fairly represented given the time and financial requirements to successfully argue their case with factual evident. Simply put, without large sums of money, individual land owners can not be fairly represented and have their voices heard.

I am not opposed to wind or solar power, but this project will put an undue burden on residents who will receive no direct benefit. If someone wants their land used for turbines, that is their choice. But, for many working and living in the area, they will have no choice but to see and listen to the wind turbines.

I am asking the PUC to protect the citizens who will bear the brunt of this burden by denying this permit as written or at least requiring a minimum of a two-mile setback for non-participating land owners.

July 27, 2018

To Whom This Concerns:

Yes, I am all for Wind Power:
however, not where there are
many young families that are
trying to make their living
farming and buying their farms
to do it. I have a granddaughter
that was diagnosed with cancer
at 6 years old and is 10 years
old now. Because of surgery
she is deaf in her left ear,
and wears a hearing aid that
picks up vibrations from her
right ear and transfer to her
left ear. All research Iains

The Wind Power give off vibrations
that will effect her hearing aid.
and these windmills will be
within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away from
their home. There will be
8 windmills close.

Why can't these Windmill
companies go out west to
sections of ground where
nobody lives. Like Jackson County
as our family owns land
there and 1 family lives
on 3 sections.

Also talking to people near wind towers
their livestock will not graze grass.
The grass near the wind towers

remember animals can detect
vibrations and even detect
when storms are coming
We need to learn more about
the effects on livestock.

Karen Brown

Wagner, S.D. 57380

From: PAUL LISA SCHOENFELDER

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 7:42 AM

To: PUC@state.sd.us; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Existing Docket Filing

Docket Number: EL18-026 Last Name: Brown First Name: Karen Company: LandOwner Address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] City: Wagner State: SD Zip: 57380 Phone: [REDACTED] Fax: Email:

[REDACTED] Comments: I am submitting Ms. Brown's comments on her behalf. You can reach her at the above email address or phone number.