

Dear PUC Commissioners,

My name is Tom Croat, and I'm a landowner in an Xcel Energy wind farm about 150 miles from the proposed Dakota Range wind farm. The 201 MW Nobles wind farm, in Worthington, Minnesota, went into operation in 2010. The wind farm has 134 turbines; myself and my two brothers consider ourselves lucky to have turbines on our properties. We have been pleased with the overall results and impact of the project and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my experience living on a wind farm in the area.

As we all experience daily, the upper Mid-West has extremely strong wind. For us, the wind is like a new crop that produces year-round and requires no planting or harvest. Each year our crops and yields are unpredictable, but the wind always blows. Thanks to our "new crop," we are enjoying the ability to comfortably invest in retirement from the annual lease payments.

I have read some of the complaints about the wind farms and researched the impacts of the turbines. I saw concerns raised about noise. On our farm you can hear the turbines on some days more, especially if it's cold or if it's a particularly windy day. It's a bit difficult to distinguish the sound of the wind verses the turbine, but the noises are nothing you cannot get used to. The developer did a good job of siting the turbines and we've experienced a very minimal impact from the turbines. We have not been bothered by the noise and have not had complaints from our neighbors about the noise from the turbines.

The only complaint that I did hear from neighbors is that they wish they had turbines on their land or wish they had more included on their property. Our community and family have benefitted greatly from Nobles wind farm and I hope you will allow other rural communities to see these same benefits.

Tom Croat



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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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Tom Crook

[REDACTED]
Rushmore, MN 56168

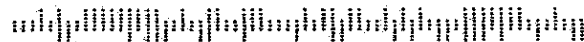
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Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Vice Chairperson
Chris Nelson, Commissioner

South Dakota

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March 2, 2018

Tom Croat

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Rushmore MN 56168

Dear Mr. Croat:

This is in response to your letter regarding the Dakota Range Project Permit Application that was filed with the commission on Jan. 24, 2018.

Your letter and my response will be posted in the commission's public, online docket under Comments and Responses. You can access the docket at www.puc.sd.gov by clicking on Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2018 Electric Dockets, and scrolling down to EL18-003.

Thank you for your interest in the Dakota Range Wind Energy Facility Permit Request process.

Sincerely,

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson