

Hubner Auction & Realty Inc.

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Dear Editor,

In the September 26th Mitchell Daily Republic I read the article about Northwestern Energy negotiating the rate hike with the PUC. In early May Northwestern asked for a rate increase, and imposed that increase on an interim basis. Walmart, Toshiba American, Trail King and Redfield Energy intervened; apparently they weren't going to accept the rate increase.

Northwestern Energy is going to get a rate increase of 20.2 million dollars annually. THEN the agreement also allows Northwestern to add another \$9 million dollars a year to the consumer's bill for the purchase of the Beethoven Wind Farm south of Tripp. Then it says they were "previously forced to buy the electricity from the wind farm under a federal law, and resell it at prices less than Northwestern paid. "

Keep reading: 'If the energy is not needed or is not economical to sell, Northwestern can reduce the output to zero. Northwestern expects this operational flexibility to result in lower overall costs to consumers". The flexibility they are talking about is apparently SHUTTING DOWN THE TURBINES. Shutting down the wind turbines must result in lower costs.

You, the Northwestern Energy Customers pay 3 times for your electricity. You pay your normal electric bill for what you use; then when you pay your federal income taxes, you pay in for the big corporations that paid billions less in taxes because they got the production tax credit which reduced the government's revenue and you have to make it up. Then you get rolled for another 9 million annually to pay for the wind farm that Northwestern bought but with your money.

B&H Wind, BayWa Wind, and the developers are long gone. The wind farm has been producing electricity since May 28, 2015 and it's already on its 3rd owner. It must be a good deal for the investors and developers, as they can't wait to do it again, this time twice the size. Are you beginning to realize what Industrial Wind Farms really are? They are A SCAM. The tax payer and the consumers pay for it all.

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