

Yesterday I went to the South Dakota PUC website, I clicked on Wind Energy Resources, then Studies and Reports. Here is what I found:

1. South Dakota Wind Power Report 2007 (10 years old)
2. South Dakota Energy Infrastructure Authority Energy Study 2007 (10 years old)
3. Dakotas Wind Transmission Study Summary, Western Area Power Administration 2005 (12 years old)
4. Wind Development in South Dakota Status Update 2009 (8 years old)

I drove here from Avon to bring the PUC up to date on the situation with wind energy in South Dakota. I can speak from experience. I have been studying this scam since 2010. This spring my son and I wrote a book called "Paradise Destroyed: The Destruction of Rural Living by the Wind Energy Scam." I hope you have read it; it is up to date as of June 2017.

When I wrote this book there were 35 proposed wind energy projects in South Dakota. The hearing tonight is on one of these. Wind Energy projects are ripping communities apart, pitting neighbor against neighbor, as you will see here tonight. Right now there are 17 South Dakota counties actively fighting to protect their property rights, their peaceful enjoyment and value of their homes. These thousands of people are spending their own time and lots of money trying to protect themselves. Protect themselves against who? We call them BIG WIND, multinational corporations that now own 10 out of the 13 wind farms in South Dakota. Since I wrote the book I have contacts all across the country. A gentleman from Bismarck, North Dakota told me that last year in their legislative session BIG WIND had 55 lobbyists, breaking the record of 23 lobbyists on a single issue.

On September 22 I will be testifying in Lincoln NE before 49 Senators to bring a bill out of committee that puts a 2 year moratorium on wind turbines in Nebraska. And speaking of Nebraska, on August 28 at our Bon Homme County Zoning Board meeting we heard a lady from Nebraska who suffers from "wind turbine syndrome", headaches, nausea, depression and other issues. She lives 1 1/3 miles from the nearest turbine, but has over 70 of them in her sight from her home.

Wind energy projects are only built for one reason "the production tax credit". I didn't say that, Warren Buffet did. The same Warren Buffet that is ruining the great states of Iowa and Nebraska with thousands of wind turbines. I can remember driving into Nebraska and seeing the sign "Nebraska, the good life". Well, ask some of the people that live in the middle of hundreds of wind turbines how "good" their life is now.

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BIG WIND isn't going away until the production tax credit is phased out, and then their next job will be to lobby to get it reinstated. Yes, lobby with ~~your~~ <sup>OUR</sup> money. For ~~you~~ <sup>we</sup> paid the taxes that Warren Buffet or Next Era Energy didn't pay.

Tonight we are asking the PUC to do some more research on setbacks. Something that is newer than 10 years old. Something that wasn't bought and paid for by the American Wind Energy Association. Something more up to date than the PUC Model Draft Ordinance from 2008 that was developed by the South Dakota PUC with the help of wind industry representatives. Things have changed since 2008. The turbines are 200 ft. taller making them much more dangerous for health and safety reasons. The PUC needs to take charge of protecting the residents and taxpayers and make the minimum setback for any residence from a Wind Turbine ONE MILE. Right now there is or has been litigation in 3 or more counties about setbacks. We are opposed to wind energy for the simple reason it's a taxpayer scam. I live 10 miles from the Beethoven Wind Farm south of Tripp; I look out of my window at flashing red lights every night. I watched Northwestern Energy get a 15.5% rate hike and watched you, the PUC allow Northwestern to add 9 million dollars a year to the consumers' bills to pay for the wind farm. There was very little in the way of jobs or economic development. And being in the real estate appraisal business for 30 years, it didn't surprise me when the last small acreage I appraised had one comparable that sold for about a 60% discount. Why? Perhaps because when you opened your kitchen door in the morning for that first look at the day, all you could see was wind turbines. We're here tonight to save our homes and communities. The people of rural South Dakota are not going to let big multi national corporations ruin our beautiful state for tax subsidies. Wind turbines are nothing more than subsidy meters, that's all they are. Electricity is the bi product. The PUC needs to step up and protect us with one mile setbacks.

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There is no economic develop  
They raised electric rates  
Beethoven