

Public Utilities Commission
Capital Building 1st Floor
500 East Capital Ave
Pierre SD 57501-5020

Feb 20 2018

Docket #
17-055

RECEIVED

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you today with deep concerns about the proposed Crocker Wind Farm/Geronimo Energy project located in Clark County, South Dakota. My concern is Geronimo's track record on previous projects like the Geronimo Energy Aurora Solar Project in 21 mostly rural sites in the Twin Cities area. This Geronimo project (Aurora) is currently mired in unpaid claims totaling \$85 million. How did this happen??

Fact # 1

(November 26, 2009 Joint Press Release, Enel Green Power and Geronimo Energy)
Enel Green Power, Rome Italy announced that it has signed an agreement with Geronimo Energy, Edina MN. Enel will provide development capital in return for a minority interest in Geronimo Energy and will have **priority rights to acquire, own and operate wind projects developed by Geronimo.**

Fact # 2

(May 29, 2015 Minneapolis Star Tribune, article by David Shaffer)
The Minnesota State Public Utilities Commission voted 3-0 to approve a permit for development of a 21 site solar energy project to Geronimo Energy. Enel Green Power will own and operate the Aurora project.

Fact # 3

(July 14, 2017 Minneapolis Star Tribune, article by Mike Hughlett)
Aurora project owned by Enel and developed by Geronimo is mired in claims creating a legal and financial morass. Scores of subcontractors have filed a blizzard of liens against Aurora and participating landowners. Among the claims are mechanics liens, which are security claims on properties hosting the sites. Twenty subcontractors have filed \$85 million in liens. So many liens have been filed that they have been consolidated under one Court in Wright County, Minnesota; an unusual move!

Many of those who have filed liens feel that Enel and Geronimo have been able to profit from the chaos surrounding the project as they are able to get much of the work done free while the various proceedings take place.

This Geronimo development hit close to me. My family farm is only 1.5 miles from the West Waconia site that is now mired in legal woes. Geronimo and two other developers asked if my family would like to participate in their projects. The money looked real good so our family attorney was given a contract to review. The next day he called and advised to "tear it up and burn it". We took the contract to a second attorney and received similar advice. Fortunately my family followed the attorney's advice; otherwise we would be in the middle of this \$85 million legal and financial nightmare, a project developed by Geronimo Energy.

I received a contract from Geronimo for my land in Clark County for the Crocker Wind Farm. I did not need a lawyer to tell me to "tear it up". I just read it!! The fact that Geronimo or its successors would have a 55 year easement on my land for 6 to 10 dollars per acre means my 44 year old son would be 99 years old when the contract expired.

Please Commissioners, do not let Geronimo do this to Clark County. We need adequate bonding to prevent a similar situation occurring with Crocker Wind Farm.

Sincerely,



Joseph J Jansen
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