
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 21 May 2018 19:08:41 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: PUC
Subject: [EXT] Wind Turbine EL 18-003 docket

Dear P.U.C. Commissioners,

My Name is Daniel Kaaz, my wife and I will be directly effected by the onslaught of turbines coming to Codington County. Before I get into some suggestions, I'd like to tell you about me.

I live here. I live only six miles from where my great-great-great grandfather homesteaded (my family owns and farms this land). I live only five miles from where I grew up (my parents still own, farm, and live) on this land. My wife and I have moved in a home from Waverly South Dakota and are currently restoring it. I want to tell you how I got here.

Roughly 15 years ago we purchased this property. It really didn't look like much, just an abandoned homestead. There was a house on the property that was in a state of collapse, and a few other buildings slowly being reclaimed by mother nature. For a mere [REDACTED], we purchased the 15 acres we call home. It was alot of money to us at the time, in fact it was a large chunk of the inheritance from my wife's mother. The surrounding landowners agreed to let us put our mobile home on the property, and we finally had a home that was ours.

We worked hard-putting in long hours at our jobs and clearing the property (no one had lived on it in over 20 years), the old buildings were dismantled and we salvaged what materials we could, as we wanted to build another room on our home as our sons lived with us too. With alot of sweat equity we were able to construct an addition, moved a garage over from my parents farm. We struggled financially (even with both of us employed full time) but we were determined to make it. I could see the dream in my wife's eyes and that pushed me forward, even in the tough times.

In February of 2011, it was time to face the facts. We couldn't afford to keep struggling like this, and decided to throw in the towel. We were late on all our bills, and were getting calls at work. we made arrangements with an attorney in Sioux Falls and quietly drove to see him. Bankrupcy....I seemed our only way out. We sat and told him of our troubles, and he offered a way out. We would loose everything.... the car, and the property we had worked for, buried our pets on, our home. We drove home in silence, neither one wanting to face our situation.

That night as we watched television, she looked at me all teary-eyed and said she didn't want to loose all this. I said I couldn't walk away either. She asked what we could do to change it. We looked through the paper and internet and found that the North Dakota oilfield was booming, they needed truck drivers. I told her if we do this, perhaps we can save our home, however in the 15 years we had been married I had never spent an evening away from her. We agreed the sacrifice might be worth t to save our home.

The next morning we called the attorney and told him to shred the paperwork-we were going to fight for our property. Two weeks later I was employed as a truck driver in the North Dakota oilfield with our last [REDACTED]. The conditions were (and are) harsh, there were (and are) alot of teary phone calls, but slowly our situation was turning around.

A few years into it, one evening my wife called me, all excited. She said she had purchased a home-for the price of [REDACTED]. I found it hard to believe but on my next trip home viewed it. The former superintendents home from the school in Waverly. She purchased it to save it from demolition, to move to our property. I could see the dream back

in her eyes, and our mobile home was going to need some updating anyway, why not put it in a house? With that we again we secured permission from the adjoining landowners, put in the basement, and moved that home to our property.

Though the home was livable, we chose to remodel right away, as we could still live in our mobile home as construction progressed. Soon the house was ready to move into (though not completed) and we sold our mobile home. While I worked in North Dakota, my wife would attack and complete projects on the home that would scare most people. When I would return on my hometime we attacked the projects-together.

The new roof, sprayfoam insulation and windows we paid to have installed-all else we did. Stripped the walls to the studs, new wiring, plumbing, sheetrock and construction of a room between the house and garage-all done by us. We resanded and stained the floors, and even constructed a new staircase. The interior of the house is stunning. We are finally down to siding and finishing the basement. Now we get news of turbines coming. At first I thought ok, it's green energy. Through some research I found that they were far from green, and going to be directly on top of our home. The Statue of Liberty is only 320 ft tall, these are 500, and want to be situated 1500 feet from my door. Through more research we found out about trespass zoning-effectively allowing the turbines to use my property, and preventing me from using it. Then we found out about the property loss and value and quickly realized that we would loose \$30,000.00-minimum. Our property that we had worked so hard on may become unsellible & unlivable.

With that, I have some suggestions for you at the P.U.C. I ask you to deny any permitting of these things, but if you do, my time in the oilfield has given me a few things you should DEMAND from any company wanting to construct turbines:

- 1) Demand a manual FOR the turbine being constructed. This will have information for you including FACTORY RECOMMENDED SETBACKS. Alot of wind companies do not want to provide this as without it they can build as close to homes as county setbacks allow, and after turbines are built, it's too late.
 - 2) Demand Signage. I am including pictures from a few wellsites I visit. As you can see, the oil industry puts signs at the entrance of every site. Information includes the well name, AN 800 PHONE NUMBER OF WHO TO CALL in case of emergency, where it is located for EMS, and warnings. This would be very helpful if turbines are built as if one were malfunctioning, the company could be contacted immediately and sent to the correct turbine. (IE-a turbine leaking oil, making loud noise, on fire, throwing a blade, etc.)
 - 3) You will notice a button on my photographs in some pictures. The oil industry has started putting a button (as you enter location) that shuts the location down. I believe this should be put into service with the turbines as I understand they currently have this shut down switch, however it is located inside the turbine. So in the event of fire, throwing blades, etc. they expect someone to walk directly into the line of fire to shut it off?
- These are some observations I've made in my 7 years working with the oil industry that the wind energy needs to take heed.
- 4)There has to be a guarantee for property value. If they claim there is no property loss they should not be afraid to put this in writing.

I thank you for letting me say my piece.

Sincerely,
Daniel A.Kaaz