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From: Tim Noeldner [REDACTED]  
Date: 3/21/18 3:25 PM (GMT-06:00)  
To: Fiegen, Kristie, Hanson, Gary (PUC), Nelson, Chris  
Subject: [EXT] Comments on Dakota Range Wind Project (EL18-003)

Dear South Dakota PUC Commissioners,

I understand from the Notice of Public Input Hearing for the Dakota Range Wind Project (EL18-003) (the "Project") that the Commission will be accepting comments in writing from anyone about the Project, including by email, right up until the time of the decision.

I am providing these comments for your consideration on behalf of my mother, Mabel Noeldner, who owns a 240 acre farm just outside the defined project boundary. Her farm is located in [REDACTED]. The Project boundary is located ½ mile north of the edge of her land.

We speak in support of this project for the following reasons:

1. Harvesting electrical energy from the wind will provide our neighbors within the project area with an additional source of revenue to supplement farm income.
2. The Project will help support local government and schools through the taxes it pays.
3. The Project will provide a significant number of construction jobs and some on-going operation and maintenance jobs which we expect will contribute to the economic well-being of this region.
4. The Project will produce clean energy, that does not come with the by-products of combustion. We recognize that generation produced from combustion of natural gas or coal will still be needed because the wind doesn't blow all of the time that people need electricity, but we believe the addition of this emission-free electricity is a wise thing to do in that it diversifies the electrical power supply of our state and country.
5. The project developer is experienced, and we believe they have done their homework competently.
6. The builder, owner, and off-taker, Xcel Energy, is an excellent electric utility with an outstanding record of construction management, sensitivity to communities and the environment, and safety. We have no concerns with Xcel Energy constructing, owning or operating the project. In fact, we are glad to see them involved.

While our farm is slightly outside the project area, we do have one request for your consideration. We have always enjoyed the brilliant night skies in this part of South Dakota and are a little concerned about all the blinking red lights on 72 wind towers detracting from that. Of course, we understand the need for safety and do not want any airplanes to collide with the wind towers either. We have heard that there is a technology available involving radar enabled lights that may meet both concerns. Our understanding is that with this technology the warning lights would only turn on when radar senses that an airplane is approaching. We have heard that this technology will be used on the Geronimo wind project in Clark County, SD ... but we have not verified that or any specifics about this technology (including what it

costs). Depending on the cost, we respectfully ask that the Commission consider requiring this capability to be built into the Project. At a minimum, the lighting should be designed with this capability in mind (so radar could be added later) ... and preferably, if the cost is deemed reasonable by the Commission, we would like to have the technology installed and operational from the start. Thank you for your consideration.

We would also like to compliment both the Commission and the electric utilities involved in building the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV transmission line (and the Big Stone South to Brookings 345 kV transmission line) as those lines have made it possible to capture electrical power from Codington and Grant Counties' abundant wind resources and transmit that electricity to customers who will use it.

Thank you for your service.

Tim Noeldner on behalf of  
Mabel J. Noeldner

