

Please post these comments on the Prevailing Winds docket EL18-026

Julie Freier



Pickstown, SD 57367

Madam Chairperson, South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners and Staff:

I respectfully request that the proposed Prevailing Winds LLC Wind Park Project be denied.

My grandmother, dad and uncle own approximately 800 acres of farmland in the footprint area of the project. My brother and I own the farmstead that our great grandparents built, which is also located in the footprint area. None of our land or property is signed up to be a part of the project, yet there are at least 4 proposed wind turbines, #60, #45, #41, #49, within a half mile of the farm that my brother and I own.

-These turbines are monstrous in size. **The height of the turbines is 586 ft tall with a 440 ft rotor diameter.** That is almost 2 football fields high. The height of the current turbines in the nearby Beethoven project is 405 ft. These turbines would be 180 ft taller. To give some perspective to this, the tallest building in South Dakota, according to Wikipedia, is the CenturyLink Tower (formerly Qwest Tower) located in downtown Sioux Falls. It is only 174 ft tall, consisting of 11 stories. These wind turbines are over 3 times as tall as the CenturyLink Tower, spin 200 mph at the tip and have big red flashing lights on top. In contrast, the CenturyLink Tower just sits there. These wind turbines would destroy the aesthetics of our rural area.

-Some of these turbines are near both Highways 46 and 50. Ice throw from the spinning turbines would be a serious concern for passing traffic in winter.

-These turbines would destroy wildlife and habitat. Looking at Figures 8 and 10 of Appendix A on the PUC website for this project, it is noted that there are numerous wetlands as well as a USFWS Waterfowl Production area, a SDGFP Game Production area, and many SDGFP Walk-In Hunting areas. There are also many CRP acres that landowners have planted for wildlife conservation. These turbines would be detrimental to the conservation of these areas as well as the wildlife that lives there.

-These turbines are not needed. I visited with the General Manager of Charles Mix Electric last month on June 19, 2018. He explained that wind turbines can't supply 100% of needed electricity because the wind is unreliable. They can only supply 40% at best. Basin Electric, which supplies Charles Mix Electric, would have to supplement the other 60% from other sources. When asked if Basin Electric was depending on this proposed wind project going through to meet their needs, it was made clear to me that, no, it was not needed because Basin Electric plans 20 years out in advance and has plenty of other sources for power. There is no urgency for power. It seems that the only urgency is to get this Prevailing Winds Wind Park Project pushed through before the tax credits expire.

-There are many studies that have been done about the detrimental health effects suffered by people who live close to wind turbines. The turbines would have a significant negative effect on the residents' physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual health. A 1000 ft set back is too close for a healthy

lifestyle. Most people, given a choice, would not live near a 586 ft tall wind turbine. None of the investors or Board of Directors of Prevailing Winds live in the footprint of this proposed project. I have a neighbor whose land and property recently was up for sale. It would have been the perfect opportunity for one of these board members or investors to buy that property and live within a half mile of these wind turbines. However, not one of them took advantage of this opportunity.

-This project would devalue my farm. You may have heard about the herbicide Dicamba in the news this past year for unintentionally drifting onto neighboring soybean fields and damaging the crop for that season. The farmers were being compensated for their losses for that harvest. A farmer can use any chemical he wants, but when that chemical drifts onto my land, he has trespassed and he is liable for any damage to me. What's the difference between that and shadow flicker, noise, or vibration? NOTHING! This wind park project would damage and devalue my farm and cause financial loss for a lifetime. This seems much worse.

For these reasons, please deny the proposed Prevailing Winds LLC Wind Park Project.

Julie Freier