

Name: Lisa Schoenfelder

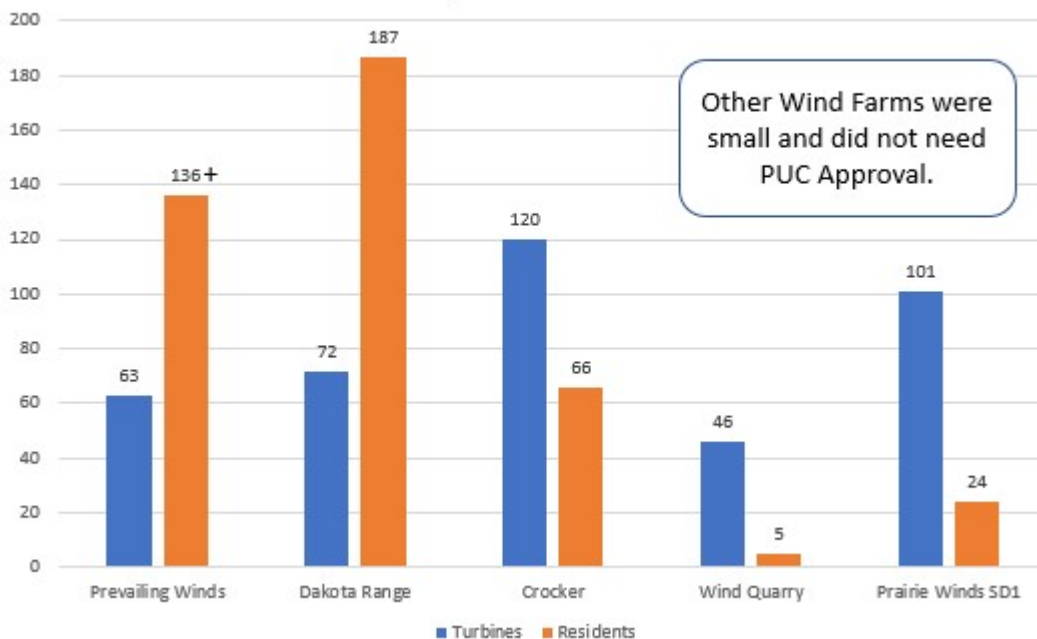
Address: [REDACTED] Wagner SD

I am the fifth generation and am heir to the Frank Sip Homestead, just 8 miles east of Wagner and in the proposed Prevailing Winds Park project. Our homestead has several historical and cultural points of interest in which I want to keep protected and is a part of our two businesses and our livelihood. My husband and I both left our jobs in Idaho to come here to start our new Chapter in life, living and loving the land as so many rural South Dakotans do. Maintaining and restoring the heritage of our people and the other cultures that make up this great region, the Czech/Bohemian, German, the local tribes and others is very important to me and our business.

I am concerned about the impact of having 4-20 turbines a mile, 2-miles and 3-miles away from our home and our business. I am concerned about our businesses vitality going forward, our customers, our employees as well as our neighbors and ourselves.

I am asking you, the PUC to protect us by either enforcing proper setbacks and not with a decibel measurement of 40-45 in which we know is not adequate in this application or a shadow flicker that says it is ok to be impacted 30 minutes a day or 30 hours a year. The entire impact perspective of this project needs to be factored in when placing 589' turbines in densely populated areas with over half of the residents receiving no benefit and an abundance of wildlife that will be impacted. I also feel strongly that mitigation concessions are not an acceptable alternative. Shame on the US Game and Fish to accept a monetary compensation for dead birds, bats or animals due to the turbines. That is not going to positively impact the area that lost this the wildlife. The monetary compensation may help fund other programs, but it will not bring the dead wildlife back to the impacted areas. I am asking the PUC to deny the Prevailing Winds Park project because it is sited in an inadequate location. It is the wrong project for this location. The population density is not appropriate for a project of this size. There are many appropriate applications for a wind farm and I have experienced them first hand in Wyoming, Idaho and other states. I have also observed inappropriate applications of wind farm projects, in locations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. If the PUC looks back at those projects that have been approved, Wind Quarry is an appropriate example of low impact. Dakota Range and Prevailing Winds is an example of severe impact to health and safety of its inhabitants. And even more so the Prevailing Winds project since several residents can attest to current impacts from the Beethoven Wind project adjacent to this project.

Turbine to Resident Comparison for SD Wind Farms before PUC



Although I have several concerns, I want to point out that several of the Prevailing Winds application studies are inadequate and need to be reviewed or independently studied. One example is that there is a cemetery that is missing and according to the Crocker concessions, the PUC's CU1-17 states that cemeteries have a 1-mile setback. This cemetery has four or more generations of resident family members resting here and those who come to respect them should be able to do so in peace with the tranquility of the landscape that is a part of a rural cemetery. We have a historical structure and other artifacts and not one person has contacted us to identify them for the WAPA study.

In addition, several non-participating residents were not included in the sound or shadow flicker analysis. As a part of a thorough assessment, it would be valuable to get a map of the MP locations that were recorded for ambient measurements in Appendix A of the Appendix M sound study. You will see that the majority of the sounds testing in this appendix were significantly below the 45-decibel testing that is typically used by Burns McDonnell in their sound study from receptors. Thus, automatically creating a negative impact to the residents.

I share my family and my neighbor's concerns about the landscape and the esthetics. I share the concern about potential health issues and the impact to the wildlife.

Finally, I too share your concern for all the neighbors including those participating in the project to have similar protection when a turbine is placed on their property or on their neighbor's property. There are several of my neighbors who thought this was already approved and felt pressured to sign up to at least get some compensation or to possibly shuffle some turbines around. They have now learned that they will not be getting a turbine on their property. I am concerned for them and ask that you investigate the process done by Thorstad company to obtain the multitude of easements to ensure that they could proceed with the project even though they communicated it was already "a done deal". At a Charles Mix county meeting on July 19, 2018, a representative from Thorstad stated that the siting map was not complete, and they have not finalized the locations. Then a week later, July 26, 2018 at a special meeting for the county commissioners, that same representative said that they would not move the turbines from one land owner to another if they promised them they would get one. This was in response to county commissioners inquiring if some setbacks could be put in place and still allow them to proceed. This is confusing and should be investigated to protect all parties involved. We have a right to know where turbines are going to be sited relative to our property and what that impact will be. We need to protect all residents, including those that signed up not realizing the impact this will have on them.

Commissioners, you are seeing these come before you because many of the wind farm projects were put in place outside of the PUC purview. The first two that you approved were very low impact to residents participating and non-participating. The three that you have had before you these past 9 months are a completely different application, impacting more and more residents.

Commissioners, you are being thoughtful and mindful in what you did with Crocker and Dakota Range but as you know, it was not enough. The third time is a charm and I believe you will move the protection of our people, the landscape and the overall environment to the appropriate level to balance what is good for the state and the inhabitants in our state and our small rural communities.

Lisa A. Schoenfelder

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