

July 9, 2018

To: South Dakota PUC

From: Alan Meiers-**Please Post My Comments to Docket EL 18-026**

My land is located in the middle of the Prevailing Wind Park Farm proposal. I am **unequivocally against** this project. The beautiful and bountiful land located in this footprint is likely each landowner's most valuable and precious asset, and in many cases the plan is to keep the land in the family and pass it on to future generations.

Enter the Wind Farm proponents with their smooth marketing plan designed to capture the interest of the eager but innocent landowner with the promise of an easy additional source of income which they are told would be foolish to refuse. The landowner then gives in to this ploy and is led into signing a **FIXED RENT Wind Farm Lease/Easement contract that will encumber their land for 30 years!** In essence they are signing away complete control of their land to a big foreign or multinational company for almost half a century! A contract entirely in the corporation's favor that is non-negotiable with a fixed rent for 30 years meaning there is no rent escalation provision clause at any point. Would you ever consider for a moment of entering into a 30 year fixed cash rent lease on local farmland? In addition, there is reportedly a confidentiality clause in the contract that forbids the landowner from discussing any of the terms of the contract.

Even more disturbing is a growing number of people are being forced to live near these Wind Farms and are suffering from debilitating health problems. It is difficult for me to comprehend how a participating landowner can live with a clear conscience knowing that the decision he or she made to participate, for just a small increase in annual income, has subjected their non-participating neighbors and friends to potential health hazards from exposure to these turbines.

The wind turbines of this proposal are reported to be 590 ft. high and likely even higher when the blade length (up to 350 ft.) is included. This is well over two football fields tall. A turbine of this size would dwarf the Statue of Liberty which is only 305 ft. tall. The vertical airspace of the blade alone is calculated to be larger than an acre of land!

With the turbines being built larger, combined with the escalating cases of people reporting ill health issues, makes the setback distance for these turbines an even more crucial issue for each county where they are being proposed. The 500 ft. setback that was approved by Bon Homme County officials is meager considering that the new wind turbines for this project are approaching an astronomical height. A 2 mile setback would at least provide the non-participating landowner a decent safeguard zone and some comfort knowing that their health and well-being is at least a concern to the County officials. This should outweigh the self-indulgent demands of the Wind Farm proponents.

The fact is Wind Farms cannot exist without the support of heavy monetary subsidies from our tax dollars approved by Congress. Politicians, lobbyist, investors, multinational and foreign companies are the main beneficiaries. They don't hesitate to consider any future negative consequences of these Wind Farm factories and appear to be in a race against time (for funding) to get their share of money to fatten their pockets and bottom line. This greedy mentality obviously ignores and cares little about the constant battle of survival for small rural communities like Avon, which once was tight knit, but now has been so severely divided by this issue it is likely permanently scarred beyond repair.

I respectfully urge you to Deny This Permit!!!

Cordially,

Alan Meiers



Scottsdale. AZ