

September 4, 2018

Thank you for this opportunity.

Please do not make your decision tonight. You have the right and the responsibility, to table this discussion, seriously consider what has been brought to you, and to come back at a later date to continue this discussion, **before making a decision.**

The Applicant filed their Application with the PUC on May 30, 2018, without permits from the three counties in the project footprint. It may seem urgent to the Applicant to have your decision tonight, however it was the Applicant's choice to wait until August to apply for the Conditional Use Permit in Hutchinson County.

The Counties of Bon Homme and Charles Mix have not represented the citizens and residents properly in this matter. We **urge** you to take your time and give this matter great consideration.

**We are here to ask you to protect us. This protection can come when you deny this application.**

Our greatest concern is health. Some people fail to understand that the health effects associated with turbines depend on individual sensitivities, length of exposure, wind speeds, geography and a host of other factors. The effect of extremely low frequency sound on the inner ear leads to the distress of sleep disruption, sleep deprivation, and subsequent adverse health effects.

Recently, we experienced the effect of noise inside our home from the fans on a grain bin that is on the adjacent property. The noise outside was acceptable, simply a part of rural living. The noise inside the house however was amplified and had an irritating, reverberating effect on my ears. Our neighbors were simply taking care of their grain and we knew the fans would be turned off. We knew the sound would not be something we have to deal with day in and day out.

A wind turbine is different. How will we stop the noise inside our house when it comes from the turbines that could be built one and two miles from our home? If we are not able to tolerate the noise what will we do? We would not want to have anyone else experience trouble, so how will we sell our house if we couldn't live there anymore? Will it even be marketable?

We were not able to protect ourselves from the Beethoven Wind Project. The only notice we received was the Notice of Public Hearings for Conditional Use Permits for B&H Wind Farm, LLC. First there were six and then they came back with ten more. The Board of Adjustment gave no consideration to our concerns at the last hearing.

If you do not deny this permit, you will not only fail to protect us, you will most likely be setting a precedent for future projects around us. Directly north of us are 234 acres owned, by the same property owner, who is hoping to host turbines #30 and #51 to the southwest of us. It makes sense that the property he owns north of us would host turbines from a future project, **a project which most likely is already being planned.** This is of great concern to us, we have been able to live with Beethoven so far, however to be surrounded by turbines would definitely be unacceptable. **We need you to protect us from the Prevailing Winds Project.**

If you will not deny this application please place these conditions to protect our health, safety, and welfare. These are the same conditions we have asked the PUC to place on the Applicant.

Condition #1: A four mile setback from a resident.

Support: To protect by distance from sound, inaudible noise, and sight disruption. The turbines chosen by the applicant are 586 feet tall and twice as powerful as Beethoven. This size is unprecedented in South Dakota and certainly unprecedented for us. We would be within 1.07 miles of #55 and many other turbines just increments further.

The distances of the turbines from our home, that are in this project and in Hutchinson County would be as follows, if allowed.

55 - 1.07 miles

51 - 1.8 miles

56 - 1.28 miles

30 - 1.67 miles

25 – 2.2 miles

In addition to these turbines, there are four others in Bon Homme County, which if allowed, would have the following distance from our home:

47 – 2.4 miles

46 – 2.8 miles

20 – 2.9 miles

18 – 3.3 miles

We live 3 miles from six Beethoven Turbines now. We can hear them, see them, and we consider them a nuisance. The cumulative effect of the existing turbines and the proposed turbines will be substantial and will negatively affect our peaceful enjoyment of our property, our view shed, and most importantly may cause us to have to leave our home.

Condition 2: Require an ALDS be installed on the turbines and if the FAA does not approve the use of the ALDS the Conditional Use Permit shall be revoked.

Support: The red blinking lights are meant to alarm. And they do, still after three years. The red blinking lights we have been forced to live with from the Beethoven Project are a nuisance, adding more will only increase that nuisance. The Applicant should be prevented from creating a nuisance.

Condition 3: A decommissioning bond, paid for up front, and arranged between the PUC and the Applicant. If the bond is not paid for upfront the Conditional Use Permit shall be revoked.

Support: Once the turbines are up, they are up. Whether or not the proposed industrial wind project will be lucrative enough to produce the income to provide for a bond or an escrow fund in ten years is not and cannot be proven. An escrow fund, as the PUC is currently setting as a condition, cannot be funded if the entity owning the industrial wind project goes bankrupt.

Condition 4: A liaison person must be appointed to monitor the project as it is being built to insure compliance and an avenue for those in the footprint to voice concerns and complaints. If the PUC does not provide this condition the Conditional Use Permit shall be revoked.

Condition 5: A liaison person must be appointed to monitor the project from the commencing of operation through the decommissioning of the project. If the PUC does not provide this condition the Conditional Use Permit shall be revoked.

Condition 6: No shadow flicker on non-participating residences.

Support: Shadow flicker is a nuisance and the Applicant should be prevented from creating a nuisance.

Condition 7: Sound may not exceed 35 dB(A) for non-participating residences.

This will protect us against audible and inaudible sound.

Finally, please protect us. Please do not make your decision tonight. Your decision will have a great impact on our lives. Thank you for your time.

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