

Exhibit: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**SD PUC DOCKET EL18-053  
DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY LLC**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY LLC  
FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY  
AND A345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE  
IN DEUEL COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF GEORGE L. HOLBORN**

**March 2019**

**ON BEHALF OF INTERVENOR JOHN HOMAN**

1 **Q: Please state your name and address.**

2 **A:** My name is George L. Holborn. My address is 2008 South Silverthorne Ave.

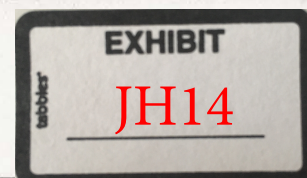
3 Sioux Falls, SD 57110

4

5 **Q: Please give a brief description of your background.**

6 **A:** With the exception of two years of military service in the late '60's, my  
permanent address

7 has been in South Dakota. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture  
Education and





8 Master of Science Degree in Agronomy with a Minor in Agriculture Economics from South

9 Dakota State University in 1976.

10 I worked in the South Dakota Agriculture industry for several years and founded Millborn

11 Seeds Inc. in 1985. I sold the company in 2004.

12

13 **Q: When were you appointed to the Deuel County Planning and Zoning Board of**  
14 **Adjustment?**

15 **A:** My first meeting was November 2016 and my last meeting was January 2017.

16 This was when testimony was received to consider changes to the Deuel County Wind

17 Energy Systems (WES) Ordinance.

18

19 **Q: As a board member, please describe your experience of working with**  
Invenergy LLC.

20 **A:** As a new board member, I realized early on my fellow board members echoed much of

21 what Invenergy and the other two wind developers wanted known. In general, it was

22 obvious to me a familiarity with one another existed before I was appointed.

23

24 **Q: Did you ever ask any Invenergy representatives or fellow Planning & Zoning**  
member

25 how long they have been working on the project?

26 No. But in my opinion Invenergy provided the board with biased material; such as "If you

27 can't hear it, it can't hurt you." That did not seem as plausible as a 500 foot industrial wind

28 turbine (IWT) 1500 feet away may give someone a headache. As a board member, I asked

29 Invenergy for something not so obviously biased.

30

31 **Q: Is there anything further you would like to comment on regarding your**  
tenure on the

32 **Deuel County Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment?**

33 **A:** Yes. Money was the essence of the process but for me it was to do no harm. This was to

34 protect the health, safety and welfare of all Deuel County Citizens.

35



36 Q: Why did you resign from the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment?

37 A: My fellow board members had made up their collective mind long before I was  
38 appointed. I had hoped I could have had more success lobbying the County  
Commission.

39 Beyond that, I've been studying this conundrum.

40

41 Q: Please explain the conundrum as you understand it.

42 A: I have learned, about the last three years it is no longer a conundrum.

43 It is really quite simple. It depends on placing people before greed. Once that is  
put into

44 perspective, all the lawsuits, hearings, anxiety, destruction of the social fabric of  
the

45 community, and including this exercise, can and should go away.

46

47 Q: Do you have an example?

48 A: Yes. Why should the taxpayers have any possibility of being forced to pay for  
49 decommissioning of the turbines? When a wind participant is able and willing to  
sign a wind

50 contract with the wind developer, they are already in agreement. They should be  
able to

51 include decommissioning in said agreement. They are both benefiting.

52 The wind non-participant taxpayer is already on the hook for the Production Tax  
Credit

53 and as their increased electricity cost as the rate payer.

54 Why put his position in jeopardy again?

55

56 Q: What are your thoughts on turbine setbacks?

57 A: Wind Participants should have the liberty with the help of the wind developer to  
site the

58 turbines as close to their own residence as they wish. The wind developer would  
have us

59 believe turbines can and should be sited within 110% of a public right away.

60 Everyone should have some control over how close the turbines are sighted to  
homes.

61 There is so much money in this scam on the taxpayers and ratepayers, there is no  
reason

62 with a waiver, a two to three mile setback won't work.

63 The wind developer can negotiate with the non- participant.

64 They have already used their skills negotiating with this participant.



65 It is only a problem due to the corruption at every layer of government beginning  
in  
66 Washington DC. In Deuel County we have learned 8 of the 12 people involved with  
the wind  
67 process had either a direct and or indirect relationship to the wind developer.  
68 Until the non-participant is no longer "forced" to endure such a miserable burden  
without  
69 compensation, more turbines sited equals more misery. It seems to me whether in  
Deuel  
70 County or in Pierre, we, you, Invenergy are unable to guarantee turbines "will not  
71 substantially impair the health,  
72 safety and welfare of the inhabitants" (wind non-participant inhabitants).  
73 I do not believe Invenergy can guarantee "not to pose a threat of serious injury to  
the  
74 environment nor to the social or economic condition of inhabitants or expected  
75 inhabitants." I cannot believe this kind of crony capitalist socialism (monetarily  
benefiting  
76 some while forcibly impoverishing others) is constitutional.  
77  
78 **Q: What are your thoughts on Shadow Flicker?**  
79 A: I have encountered shadow flicker on one occasion east of White, South Dakota  
80 on Hwy 19 about 11:00am roughly two years ago. I immediately became  
disorientated and  
81 drove my vehicle over to the shoulder of the Hwy. As a Planning and Zoning Board  
Member,  
82 we had testimony it can be sensed even through a person's closed eyelids.  
83 I have not personally tried that, but in general shadow flicker makes me  
uncomfortable.  
84 People should not have to endure such things without agreed compensation.  
85 At a spring 2017 Deuel County Commission Meeting, an Invenergy representative  
spoke  
86 several minutes complaining that 30 hours of flicker per year is such an  
insignificant amount  
87 people shouldn't complain. To his credit a Commissioner asked "If it is such a small  
amount  
88 of time why don't you shut the turbines down during those few minutes?"  
89 After a brief pause, the wind developer replied "that would affect the profitability  
of the  
90 project". My personal thought is if at least some shadow flicker is allowed,  
91 the complainer can be worn down in court.



92

93 **Q: Are there any other comments you would like to present at this time?**

94 A: Yes. It has been known for nearly four decades infrasound can be a problem for some of

95 us. The wind developers have done nothing but cover this up or ignore it.

96 When someone is enjoying life and at some point a 2.0 - 4.2 MW industrial wind turbine is

97 sited about a mile away, at some point that person becomes ill, but when that person

98 leaves he or she feels better. At the expense of the wind developer/s, a moratorium should

99 be instituted until it is determined to what extent this is associated with the IWT.

100 This inquiry should be done by independent researchers, not unlike those 40 years ago.

101 Not a single person should be forced, used as a

102 pawn, so others can financially benefit. The Deuel County Planning & Zoning Board of

103 Adjustment received testimony from a citizen that at times his home vibrates when the

104 IWT are operational. No one should have to be forced to endure this torture so that

105 politicians can garner campaign contributions or local officials receive payments from

106 multiple turbines. In Deuel County when families who live among the turbines

107 complained, they were called liars.

108

109 **Q: What is your experience regarding property values?**

110 A: At a Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting in the fall of 2016, an Invenergy

111 representative claimed that property values would stay the same or go up

112 after the turbines were operational. I estimated 150 - 200 people roared with laughter.

113 I restated that question and restated his answer. Again, the people roared with laughter.

114

115 **Q: What was your experience when selling your home?**

116 A: We owned our property for more than 10 years. We had been trying to sell it well over a

117 year. We had no choice; I get headaches when near the turbines. We lost in excess of 250K



118 to remove ourselves from the Deuel County tax rolls. Make no mistake money matters,

119 but what has happened to that community is a real shame.

120 We closed on the sale 02/28/2019. "Meadow Creek Valley" is a very unique piece of

121 property. We had every intention of being carried out feet first.

122 The new owner has agreed to let me come and help him out on his property from time to

123 time.

124 Property Values: When I see ads along the lines of "Here's a real chance to get in on living

125 among the turbines, the price has been bid up 20% above the original asking price.

126 Contact us immediately; you could live here soon."

127 Then, and only then, will I believe the government and industry biased studies that claim

128 that property values will stay the same or are enhanced. When we were showing "Meadow

129 Creek Valley" to perspective buyers, we were repeatedly asked if it was in or near the

130 turbine controversy of Deuel County. I cannot be persuaded to conclude people were

131 asking because they wanted to live among or near the turbines.

132

133 Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

134 A: Yes. Thank You for the opportunity to present my testimony.

The foregoing written testimony is to be presented to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for SD PUC Docket EL18-053.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019.

*George L. Holborn* / George L. Holborn