

Wind Docket EL19-003 Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC in Codington & Grant Counties

I attended the SD PUC Deuel Harvest Wind Energy LLC Evidentiary Hearing for Deuel County April 15-18, 2019 in Fort Pierre. I observed a collegial atmosphere between the Commissioners, their staff, and the applicant's legal team. The applicant's experts and employees were held in higher regard than even the sound expert hired by the PUC. Both the independent and PUC expert claimed a noise impact assessment is best practice. The noise impact assessment could help determine the threshold limit for those forced to live in the sacrifice zone. The independent expert recommended if a noise impact assessment is not conducted, then the threshold for the sacrifice zone should begin at 35dBa; that is if the PUC decides to hold the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the citizens in preeminence above the profits of the wind developer.

Pre-filed testimony by the applicant's experts indicated the nocebo (I see turbines; I think they are harmful; I become ill.) concept was responsible for much of the bad rap given the turbines. Our governor doesn't want turbines near her home.

At Shirley Wind Farm in Brown County WI, the Board of Health declared it a Human Health Hazard. The board ordered the County Health Officer to investigate why people were becoming ill and some were abandoning homes. The applicant's expert witness testified the County Health Officer conducted a peer review of the literature and found "insufficient scientific evidence" between wind turbines and health concerns. May I point out it has been known for more than three years the Brown County WI health officer complained multiple times to her assistant; "the times I have been out there by the wind turbines, I get such migraine headaches". When I read about her review of the literature, it seems biased at best. The board of health may have concluded the county health officer and others may have tried to mislead them.

Can we conclude an applicant's experts or employees could be biased?

But as a taxpayer, I find it troubling the PUC staff was apparently not aware of the "real" facts.

That reminds me: the PUC Commissioners find a whole lot of things troubling, but they have never found a project they could not permit. It does not seem to matter if it is in Bon Homme, Clark, Deuel, Codington or Grant County. At some point they will be permitted. The record indicates sooner than later.

The PUC has heard numerous complaints from people involved with turbines. The victims cannot be believed even though when they left the area they feel better and when they return they become ill.

In Deuel County such victims were called liars.

Does the PUC collectively believe they are all nocebo?

Has the PUC been fooled by the applicant's experts every time?

As the PUC and local county officials permit these wind projects to move forward with larger and larger turbines more and more problems will become apparent. The PUC has been made aware that these problems have existed with larger turbines for more than four decades.

Instead of sounding the alarm to our legislature, they have encouraged the lawmakers to make bad law.

The SD PUC should know the larger the turbines the more potential for people problems.

These facts have been made known a number of times by independent noise experts such as Robert Rand and Richard James. Granted, the wind developer paid experts provide plausible deniability with nocebo, but the SD PUC has received testimony from those who have experienced living among turbines to conclude it is not OK to permit projects based on maximizing profits.

What SD Codified Laws or Administrative Rules permits the PUC authority to place profits before the health, safety, welfare of the inhabitants?

There is something wrong at every level of Government. I just can't put my finger on it.

What are the missing ingredients?

Is it possible the systems political class has decomposed (taking from the taxpayer and ratepayer) to finance future campaigns while at the same time those forced "by government fiat" to live among the turbines are negatively impacted financially?

Plus, they are forced to endure a long list of health miseries.

Officials up and down the political landscape permit (socialism) to put upon the least among us the "old" green new deal. What are the missing ingredients?

Rick Kahler recently penned "A thriving capitalist system requires virtue and integrity."

It has been my observation the lobbyists in Pierre as well as every layer of government have neither.

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