

I am not sure why we are here, since NextEra was denied their permit in Grant County for half of the Grant County portion of this project. But, since we are here, I would like to talk about a safety issue.

The safety issue that concerns me, is my personal experience with a wind turbine throwing chunks of ice.

It happened in February of 2018 on Highway 59, south of Barret, MN. I haul milk to Perham, MN and drive by a field with 10 turbines operating. One of those turbines threw ice over a tree grove and a house onto the highway ahead of me; when the ice hit the highway the chunks shattered into many pieces. The distance of the throw was 520 yards, or 1560 feet.

There were two other incidents in Freeborn County, MN of ice throws hitting a semi tractor and a farmer's stock trailer. I am also aware of livestock being hit with 400 pound chunks of ice.

Who will be liable for any damages after the turbines are built? The state does not require liability insurance coverage by wind farms. A court calls this the Allocation of Liability. A landowner, farmer or rancher on whose land a wind farm sits, is the odd-man-out under the state's current wind farm permitting process. I am giving credit to David Ganje of Ganje Law Office for this information from the article 'Naked in the Wind', published in the Capital Journal.

I checked with the two insurance companies I have policies with, about having a turbine on my property. One said they would not cover any liability from a turbine. The other said if I sited a turbine on my property, they would cancel my insurance.

I did some research, and Farmers Insurance has a supplement for wind turbine liability that is 25 pages.

Our count officials have failed to protect us. I encourage anyone with wind turbines on their land to protect themselves.

I would like the PUC commission to contact all insurance companies in South Dakota and determine their policy on turbines. Most of these people who signed up had no idea of the dangers, and no idea they could not be insured.

Allen Robish
Strandburg, SD