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My comments concern an article in the Pierre Capital Journal written by Bob Mercer in November of 2017. I will quote a portion of that article, "The company (referring to Scout) moved dirt at several sites in Hand County during 2016, and did other work there too, all without the state energy-conversion permit required by South Dakota law. Gary Hanson commented, "Don't be playing in the dirt until you get a permit". Chris Nelson admitted he was incredulous about how the matter has unfolded."

Basically, Scout pleaded ignorance of state law because they do work in many states, all of which have different laws.

In my younger days, I have been picked up and ticketed for speeding several times in various towns in South Dakota. Each time I pleaded ignorance of the speed limits as I was simply passing through and not familiar with local speed limits. Apparently, as I learned from each law enforcement person who ticketed me, it is my responsibility to educate myself of speed limits and ignorance of the law is not a good excuse to break the law. I am perplexed that a large company of highly educated people whose job is wind energy would not be aware of all state laws concerning wind energy prior to considering a project in that state.

My question of the PUC is this: How was this "digging in the dirt without a permit" problem resolved?

Also, does the PUC consider Scout and the various entities involved in the Sweetland project trust worthy to follow state laws as the project proceeds. Or, is it simply easier to ask forgiveness than permission?