

Sweetland Wind Project SD PUC Hearing, Miller, SD
April 25, 2019

For the sake of time, I will address just a few of the many concerns that this project brings.

1) Illegal Digging in 2016 and 2018

Scout started the Sweetland project in 2016, by illegally breaking dirt without state permits (to gain potentially “tens of millions of dollars” in additional tax credits). This was reported by Bob Mercer in, “State regulators weigh possible penalty against wind developer in Hand County,” Capitol Journal, Nov. 8, 2017.

In 2018, Scout did extensive digging into Hand County roads, once again illegally, and without proper permission.

2) Foreign LLC owned

The SD PUC application lists Sweetland Wind Project and Scout as owners, yet Scout is owned by Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners, a specialist investment and operational asset management LLC in the US, UK and Australia.

3) Industrial Project Approval Without Conditional Use Permits

According to the Hand County Comprehensive Plan (Article 5. Section 507), an industrial park requires a conditional use permit. This project plans to cover 20,979 acres with 71 industrial turbines (499 ft. tall) , and transmission lines; yet does not have a county conditional use permit allowing public notice and participation.

4) Sweetland Wrote the Development Agreement

When we asked the Hand County research committee what they had learned after over a year, the Chairman said, “This is it!” as he presented the 6 page “Development Agreement” that Scout wrote, and the county signed. No wind zoning was in place, and the same 5 people serve as our county commission/zoning board/research committee. One of those board members is listed as a pending participant in the Sweetland application.

5) Noise: 50 dBA

The Sweetland agreement allows turbines within 1,320 feet of residences and noise levels of 50 dBA at participating residences. Twenty-eight occupied residences are listed over 35 dBA, where widespread complaints could be expected. **Sixteen** occupied residences are slated to experience 45 dBA and above. Five homes at 50 dBA are likely to experience serious problems.

If the project is now using larger turbines, does that mean even higher dBA?

6) Human Health, Safety and Welfare Threats Unaddressed

Scout denies human health risks and claims there are no peer reviewed human health studies. This is not true.

The potential for infrasound to displace humans must be addressed by requiring mandatory infrasound testing (with a micro barometer) before the project is approved. Vibroacoustic Disease (VAD, med. code T 75.2), caused by industrial wind turbines, is inaudible, yet results in mild to severe health hazards in up to 30% of the exposed population.

Someone needs to protect the children and adults who live near turbines and the surrounding vicinity from being human test subjects. Why would gag clauses be in wind contracts if there is nothing to hide?

Sincerely,

Candice Lockner

██████ ██████ ██████

Ree Heights, SD 57371

██

████████████████