

Nick Nemec

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Holabird, SD 57540
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PUC Docket EL21-018

Testimony of Nick Nemec in the matter of the application by North Bend Wind Project, LLC to operate a wind farm in Hughes County and Hyde County, South Dakota.

I am a landowner in the proposed project area and a resident of Hyde County. I have land under contract with the North Bend Wind Project although the proposed array map does not place any towers on my land. I am also a landowner in the neighboring Triple H Wind Project which was built and is operated by the same company. One (1) Triple H wind tower is located on my land.

I would like to address two issues, roads and effects on wildlife.

During the 2019-2020 construction of Triple H we endured the wettest 24 month period in living memory. The heavy and frequent truck traffic involved with the construction was hard on roads and they were in poor condition. But by the same token the rural roads not in the construction area and where no wind tower trucks had traveled were, due to excess rain, also in the worst condition they had ever been in. On the Triple H haul roads south of Holabird, Engie and the construction companies made a good faith effort to maintain and where needed, repair the roads during construction. I travel the Holabird Grade everyday and saw road graders and packers working continuously to maintain the road, additional aggregate was added as needed in many places. Some of the township roads were widened, the radius at many road intersections was widened, this makes turning from one road to another with a semi-truck easier and safer because we aren't dropping the rear wheels of the trailer into the edge of the road ditch. In some places bad culverts were replaced with new culverts.

During the cleanup process Engie was more than willing to widen field approaches with their extra dirt, again making it easier to maneuver a truck from a field onto the road without running the risk of rolling the truck by dropping the back axles into the ditch. The wind turbine service roads are a wonderful addition and make travel to some fields much easier than in the past. Post-construction, the county and township roads that served as Triple H haul roads, and that I regularly travel, are now in better than pre-construction condition. The roads outside of the construction zone are in the same condition they have ever been.

There have been claims that wind towers have negative effects on wildlife and that they will drive wildlife away. I would like to relate something I saw this spring. In early June I was planting sunflowers on my wind tower field. A mama antelope with a pair of twins was lying in the shadow of the tower, within 20 feet of the base of the tower. Over the course of the day, as

