1	MEETING OF THE HYDE COUNTY COMMISSION			
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6	Transcript of Proceedings August 10, 2021			
7	1:00 p.m.			
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11	Hyde County Commission Mel Buchheim, Acting Chairman Ron Van Den Berg, Commissioner Greg Swenson, Commissioner Randy Olson, Commissioner Randy Hague, Commissioner Marilyn Ring, Auditor Carrie Stephenson, Planning/Zoning Director			
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14 15				
16	APPEARANCES			
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18	Emily Sovell, Hyde County State's Attorney's Office.			
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24	Reported by Cheri McComsey Wittler, RPR, CRR			
25	Precision Reporting, 213 South Main, Onida, South Dakota cwittler@venturecomm.net			

The following transcript of proceedings was taken at the Hyde County Auditorium in Highmore, South Dakota, on the 10th day of August, 2021, commencing at 1:00 p.m.; before Cheri McComsey Wittler, a Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public within and for the State of South Dakota.

MS. STEPHENSON: We do have Cheri Wittler here. She's a court reporter. So this will be all transcribed. So when you do speak, please speak clearly and loudly so she can hear you.

And if you are on the speaking list, as you come up I won't start your time yet but please say your name and she may need you to spell it for her as well so it can be part of the proper record. Once that gets done, we'll start your time so that won't be part of the three minutes as you're getting yourself on the record.

CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Casey Willis, do you want to step forward, about your application for the conditional use permit, please.

MR. WILLIS: Sure.

My name is Casey Willis. I'm with Engie North America. I'm the developer on this project. This is the North Bend Wind Project we're proposing. It's in both Hughes and Hyde County this time, whereas Tripe H was exclusively in Hyde County.

We started this project about the same time as the Triple H Project, started approaching some of the landowners in 2015 or so assessing the wind regime. To date we have about 40,000 acres of land under easement with participating landowners, and that accounts for approximately 40 landowner groups in both Hughes and

Hyde County.

I mentioned we started this in 2015. We've done fairly extensive wind studies and biological assessments and other field studies as well as an interconnection evaluation. It does take quite a bit of time to get through. That was started in roughly 2017.

So in terms of major contracts for the project, we don't have power purchase agreements signed for the project just yet. We're actively submitting bids to various entities, and we're convinced that it's a fairly competitive project, as was Tripe H.

We've selected to use for this project a GE wind turbine. I'll go over some of the nuances, but it's essentially the same turbine that was installed in Tripe H. It's just a newer upgrade of it. They periodically do software upgrades and tweaks to their products that are kind of minor in nature to improve the performance, and that's essentially what the difference between the two is.

Same DOT contractor, Wanzek, would be utilized for the project, given their familiarity. And from the target standpoint, if everything aligns, we would like to start construction in early '22, which would put this project into commercial operation toward the end of the year in 2022.

So the overall generation capacity of this project is slightly smaller than Triple H. Triple H was 250 megawatts. This one is 200 megawatts. And that's determined by the interconnection capacity and size that's available along the line.

We're proposing -- in the CUP application
we're proposing a request to build up to 51 locations in
Hyde County. Concurrently, we're also proposing 27
locations in Hughes County. The point of interconnect is
actually on an existing line that crosses through the
area. It's a power line operated by Western Area Power
Authority.

Some of you may have heard the scoping meeting that we had tied to their process back in January. What this would entail is WAPA would build a new switchyard, essentially, on that line, and we would build a substation immediately adjacent to it.

Both the switchyard that WAPA would construct and the project substation are actually located on leased land that's owned by the South Dakota State Lands. This is different than what we did with Triple H where we acquired small parcels. Slightly different there.

Similar to Triple H, there's no overhead transmission line because of the location of where we're proposing to build the substation. All of the turbines

themselves will be connected underground by a 34 and a half kilovolt collection line. And at the project substation the voltage is then stepped up by transformer to 230 kV and injected onto the line.

In terms of operations and maintenance, I think you're all aware that we built an O&M facility on the 47 down here. Just given the fact that we're using essentially a very similar turbine and they're both from GE, our plan at this point is to utilize that facility to serve both projects.

We sized that area. It's probably sufficient to build another small building if we needed to on it. So rather than building a whole new operations and maintenance, that's the likely plan.

And the last item that is in this proposal is the request to build a permanent met tower. This helps us assess the performance in the wind regime. It's downwind from one of the -- a set of the turbines that are proposed. I'll go over that in a bit.

On to the schematic that shows the turbine itself, again, we're proposing to use a 2.82 megawatt 127 GE turbine. This is very similar to the Triple H one. It's about 10 feet taller so it comes in at just under 500 feet, which is actually on the smaller side of actually turbines that we're using these days. And it

has more to do with the wind regime here being a lot stronger than other places so typically it results in a smaller turbine.

I mentioned at the beginning we had roughly 40,000 acres under easement. And that reflects basically the graphic on the left. Once you factor in all of the setbacks from the county ordinances, both Hughes and Hyde, they're actually very similar. And once you factor in other environmental constraints, microwave beam paths, houses, it significantly reduces the area where we can actually place turbines.

The map on the right shows what we're left with in terms of where we can place turbines. In addition to that -- it doesn't actually show the layout on this particular map. I'll show that on the next page. But that's what we start with when we try to figure out where to place turbines.

And then there's an element in spacing them appropriately. They can't be too close together. So it becomes a bit of a challenge to figure out where to place turbines.

The next map shows the proposed array in both Hughes and Hyde County. Again, 58 are proposed in Hyde. And it shows the three permanent met tower locations

generally in the southeast.

The next map is the array, but it's just -- it's Hyde County alone. The first is both. The second is Hyde County alone. It shows the same thing.

And then I mentioned the State Lands parcel that we were proposing to build the substation on. It's generally in the southeast side of the area that we're looking at, on Holabird grade in Section 16. Again, the orange parcel shows our project substation, slightly smaller, and WAPA would propose a slightly larger one at 21 acres, I believe is what they're looking at.

The next two maps show the permanent met tower locations in just greater detail in terms of where they're at in the section. Again, we would only build one of those. We're looking at three. Over time we kind of rule out a couple of them. But, again, only one. It's an unguyed met tower 100 meters tall.

In terms of the benefits that this project would generate, the capital investment in both Hughes and Hyde County -- it's actually listed incorrectly as only Hyde County. It's both counties. It's 265 to 285 million.

I mentioned that there would be shared O&M activities. This would result in an additional 8 to 10 people being employed to support both projects at that

existing facility. Similar to Triple H, there would be about up to 400 employed during construction with 130 on-site at any one point.

Over the life of the project it's expected to, on average, generate about \$967,000 annually in production taxes based on the state statutes and how those are calculated for over 29 million over the life of the project.

Of that amount, roughly 293,000 goes to the state, and the counties would split, based on the percentage of the generation in each county, approximately 337,000, followed by the school districts with the exact same amount.

This project would also -- you know, similar to

Triple H, it will create stable and long-term payments to

the landowners that are participating and indirect

benefits from the use of local services and sales tax

generation.

The next slide shows the compliance with the Hyde County standards. We're in compliance with all of the established dwelling -- the array accounts for all of the setbacks from dwelling units, county roads, highways, noise, and shadow flicker.

In a couple of instances there are waivers that have been granted, just a couple of them, by the

participating landowners, as allowed in the county's ordinance.

And then, finally, the last slide shows our preliminary schedule. So the main pacing item for us is actually the PUC facilities permit. It can take up to nine months, and the formal filing date was June 23. So the way this statute works is that the PUC has exactly nine months to render a decision on it. It can be done earlier, but the schedule essentially accounts for it taking the full time.

If that happens and it takes the full time, our plan would be to start construction in roughly April of 2022. Concurrently, we'd be starting final design and engineering on the project as we go into elements of like the delivery and the road use maintenance plan that would start later this fall and go up to the point of starting construction.

Civil work is started immediately and it would be done in the late spring to early summer and then shortly thereafter turbine deliveries would commence with the POI and substation being energized roughly October of 2022. And, finally, commercial operation date would be targeted around November.

Again, all of this is a little -- you know, for us to have this happen, all of our major contracts need

to come together, permits need to be approved. In the event that, as an example, we are not able to sign a power purchase agreement in a timely fashion, it may push the schedule a little bit. But that is our target timeline.

So overall our request that's accounted for in the CUP is -- as I stated in the beginning, we're requesting the approval of up to 51 turbine locations, similar to what we requested with Triple H, the ability to move those around to microsite those turbines about 250 feet in the event that there's a need to, as long as it complies with all of the county standards.

The requested approval to build a project substation on the east half of Section 10, Township 110 North, Range 73 West, and that's the State Lands parcel I referenced, and that's along Holabird grade. And then finally the ability to build one of three proposed permanent met tower locations. And that would be an unguyed met tower up to 100 meters tall.

So that's what I have, if there's questions.

MS. STEPHENSON: Casey, I had one. I see that you had some that signed the waivers for the noise and the shadow flicker. I believe the only waiver that you provided was the one for the setback.

Do you have those other ones available?

1 MR. WILLIS: Yeah. It may actually be just in 2 Hughes County. I'll double-check that. 3 MS. STEPHENSON: Okay. We just didn't have any in your application so we would need copies of those. 4 5 MS. SOVELL: And I think there was actually 6 reference to six waivers on the setback. 7 MS. STEPHENSON: Yep. We fixed that. 8 CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: You said there's supposed to 9 be 6 to 8 people employed in this deal. 10 MR. WILLIS: 8 to 10. That's on top --11 CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: How many was supposed to be 12 employed in the last one? You always said they would be 13 living in Highmore and paying taxes and renting houses. 14 How many people will be working here on this 15 project? I mean, to maintain them, keep them up. 16 MR. WILLIS: Right. So for Tripe H I believe it 17 is about 15. CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Yep. I don't think we have 18 19 any of them living here in Hyde County. MR. WILLIS: I don't know. I don't know where 20 21 they live. It's not something that --22 CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: So it's something that 23 instead of preaching that they're going to be living here and telling everybody that they're going to be living 24 25 here and buying groceries, kids will be going to school

1 here, well, that's not the case really. I just want to 2 make sure that people know that. 3 MR. WILLIS: Yeah. I mean, it's not like we can 4 dictate --CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: I know. But when you preach 5 6 they'll probably be living here --7 MR. WILLIS: They have the opportunity. 8 CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: -- and attending school, 9 that's really not -- that's kind of a false statement. 10 Another thing I had to say about your haul road agreement, where they're supposed to be traveling on them 11 12 certain roads, well, there's a lot of times they weren't 13 on the right roads. 14 MR. WILLIS: We tried to fix that where there 15 were issues. 16 CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Well, there were a lot of 17 issues with it. I think that's got to be really strict. If that happens again, it's a sad situation. 18 19 MS. SOVELL: Casey, the haul road that's the 20 working draft, is it the same in Hyde County -- despite 21 the map differences, is it the same one they're using in 22 Hughes, do you know? 23 MR. WILLIS: Yeah. Because Hughes has never 24 dealt with a wind project so it seems like the logical 25 thing to start with is what we did with Hyde. That's the

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     template that we redlined and I sent to Mike and Carrie a
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     couple of weeks, a month ago. That's exactly what they
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     have as well.
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             COMMISSIONER HAGUE: Are you going to build it
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     even if Hughes County doesn't go with it?
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             MR. WILLIS: It would be challenging, to be
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     honest with you. We would have to reassess that. If you
8
     talk about reducing the project 30 -- by 35 percent,
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     you're burdening the capital cost of the project, and it
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     makes it costlier and less competitive. Ideally, no.
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             COMMISSIONER HAGUE: Okav.
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              COMMISSIONER OLSON: What is the per unit per
     person per year? What do they get?
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14
             MR. WILLIS: Per unit per person per year? Are
15
     you talking about the compensation to the landowners?
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              COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yes.
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             MR. WILLIS: That's proprietary. It's not
     something that we share. There's a confidentiality
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19
     provisions in the easement.
20
             COMMISSIONER OLSON: Okav.
21
              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: And how about your safety
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     issues? I brought up the safety issues numerous times on
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     that other project, but nobody ever did nothing about it.
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             MR. WILLIS: What safety issues? Can you
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     clarify for me?
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             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Coming out of the gravel
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    pit.
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             MR. WILLIS: We are not using that gravel pit
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    again.
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             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: I know it. And that's fine.
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    But you never ever did straighten up that last problem I
    had with it.
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             MR. WILLIS: Right. No. I understand that
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9
     there were issues that were raised.
             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Yeah. And that little sign
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11
    you put up down there, 10 miles an hour, that would never
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    hold up in a court of law.
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             MR. WILLIS: I'm just telling you categorically
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    we're not using that gravel pit because of the issues
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    that occurred. We looked, at our own expense, at other
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    options to supply gravel to alleviate that concern.
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             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Anybody else got any
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    questions up here on the board?
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             MR. WILLIS: Can I step down?
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             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM:
                                  Yep.
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             MS. STEPHENSON: Do you guys have any other
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    questions before we start the public portion?
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             All right. So we will start with the speakers.
    The first one on the list is Dick Knox. So, Dick, if
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     you'll spell your name for our reporter here, and then
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we'll get your time started.

MR. DICK KNOX: Okay. I'm Dick Knox, spelled K-N-O-X. I've been a resident of Hyde County since 1958. My parents moved up here and bought the family farm/ranch that we are still ranching and farming on today.

I was the second generation to work that ranch. My sons, Doug and Dan, are the third generation. And I first come aware of this project because WAPA in Billings, Montana sent me this letter back in January. There's a place to put my name, address, telephone number, my concerns, and add more on the back if I needed to, which I did. I mailed it back to them in February. To this day I've never heard one single thing from them.

A month ago -- there was also a telephone number on here. A month ago I called them up. What did I get?

An answering machine that said leave your name, address, telephone number, and we'll get back to you. So far nobody's got back to me.

I also found out that they had a cell phone number there so I called the cell phone number several days later. It just rang and rang and rang. Never even asked me for a message or nothing.

So then here I am today. I'm not -- I want to make this clear. Everything I'm talking about today will

be in Pratt Township. That's where our farm is, our ranch is. That's where we operate out of, and that's what I'm talking about.

And I want to also make it clear that I'm not trying to trash this project. I'm going to talk about one thing that's greatly going to affect our operation in Pratt Township, and it's going to make it hard for anybody to live there and for that to be a headquarters of our operation.

So from there, there's 27 turbines projected to be put in Pratt Township, and there's one turbine out of the 27 is all I have a concern with and that's a turbine in Section 2/110/73. And it's Turbine No. 47. And that turbine is within your legal setback. I know that. So maybe I don't even have a legal right to be here. But as a landowner, and I still own land down there, I need to voice --

MS. STEPHENSON: 30 seconds.

MR. DICK KNOX: Okay. Well -- man, that went fast.

Anyway, this turbine is going to cause interference with our farm, and I'm here today to ask that that turbine be removed from Pratt Township. They can put it anywhere else they want to. Get it out of Pratt Township.

Man, I didn't think I could talk 30 seconds, let alone -- well, anyway, thank you for your time. I got to go then.

CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Thank you.

MS. STEPHENSON: Okay. Our next speaker on the list is Paul Knox.

MR. PAUL KNOX: Paul Knox. I'm a lifelong resident, born and raised down there. My concerns, I have several. As being a school board member, the state has advised us through the business manager not to count any of this money that we're supposed to get off these projects until we actually get it. So what's that tell you? They going to go bankrupt in a couple of years and then just nothing here?

Our decommissioning bond is totally inadequate for what's going on down in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Hundreds of towers sold to a shell company, and they're basically abandoned, filed bankruptcy, nobody there to clean it up.

Another concern of mine is the native prairie down there. 60 percent of that project's in native prairie, and that's a huge Native American village from Ree Heights to the river to Blunt. There are countless tepee rings down there. In fact, the other day I maybe discovered a turtle effigy on some family ground. Can we

not try to protect that a little bit? There's not much native sod left.

And the setbacks. These towers keep getting bigger. Can we at least try to keep them a two-mile setback from a guy's building site?

That's all I have. Thank you.

MS. STEPHENSON: Our next speaker is Nick Nemec.

MR. NEMEC: I'm going to address the roads. Last year when they were doing construction it was

probably toward the tail end of the two wettest years we've had in at least my lifetime. And the road -- the Holabird grade, which is the road I'm familiar with, did

13 get pretty beat up.

But I have to give the company credit. They made a good-faith effort while they were in construction to maintain that road as best they could. There were road graders going up and down that road every day trying to smooth out ruts. They brought in more fill for bad spots. And now after they're done with construction --

And it wasn't just the Holabird grade where they were traveling was bad; the Holabird grade north of Holabird, which one of those construction vehicles never set foot on, was bad too. The roads were bad all over. And so it wasn't just construction that was causing bad roads. It was the weather that was causing the bad

roads.

They did a good-faith effort of repairing them, I think. I'm on the Holabird grade just about every day. And, to my judgment, it's back to previous condition. In fact, on road approaches into fields they've actually improved them, and where township roads and county roads intersect, they've increased the radius so it's easier to get a semitruck around a lot of those corners. The approaches into fields, they've increased the radiuses there so it's easier to get a truck in and out of the field.

When they were hauling their extra dirt away, if you got ahold of them, they were more than willing to haul dirt to you to improve a field approach that wasn't one they were using. If you had a tower that bordered some of our land -- was on your land or -- they put these tower roads in to get to their towers.

Some of their tower roads are as good as a county road, and they don't mind if you use them to access your fields so that's a great improvement there.

And so the road situation, I think, is way better than it was previously.

And then as far as setbacks, my daughter and son-in-law live --

MS. STEPHENSON: 30 seconds.

MR. NEMEC: My daughter and son-in-law live a mile and a half from wind turbines. And she says they don't even notice them. Now I realize they're further back than what the setback is, but they don't even hardly notice the turbine out there on the horizons.

MS. STEPHENSON: Our next one is Dan Knox.

(Mr. Knox distributes a document.)

MR. DAN KNOX: My name is Dan Knox, K-N-O-X. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of our farm and our family. I'd like to present a case for the removal of site 47 due to the proximity of our farm and, most importantly, my home.

Unless I am misunderstanding this, there's eight sites that have to be removed from this proposal, regardless. Hyde County themselves, with a similar board, eliminated two sites from the previous project. With the prevailing winds being from northwest to southeast, this proposed project will definitely carry sound onto our personal residence. We already experience sound from the previous project with a north wind on a calm day. It is the intensity of the added decibels that we are most concerned about.

I'd like to point out on those maps that I handed out that we own land on three sides of the quarter that site 47 sits on; therefore, this would truly put

this tower in the middle of our farm.

I've stood up at previous meetings, always advocating for more legitimate setbacks to nonparticipating members. At the last meeting I went on record saying that I think it's only fair to respect the person who was there first. In this case, it's my family and I.

I also pointed out that Hyde County has ordinances to prevent participating members from pushing a feedlot or hog barn up against existing nonparticipating members' residences. The time I've spent around these turbines makes me firmly believe that with the prevailing winds at this site, even the approximate mile-ish setback is just not sufficient.

The landscape of our area has changed drastically due to these towers, and with the proposed project many of our acres will seem engulfed by this wind farm. And at the risk of sounding hypocritical, I would like everyone to know that I do have towers. My brother and I have many acres in the last project that we did not sign up. However, we purchased land that had towers constructed on it, as a result of an existing easement, that was not removable.

MS. STEPHENSON: 30 seconds.

MR. DAN KNOX: Once again, I'd like you to take

into consideration that this tower I do believe with the northwest winds, especially with snowfall and as the tree leaves -- in the fall and winter, that sound will carry drastically more than even in the summer months. And I'd just like you to take that into consideration.

And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

MS. STEPHENSON: Our next speaker will be Doug Knox.

MR. DOUG KNOX: Doug K-N-O-X.

Doug Knox. I'm representing the Richard Knox Family Farm. We at the Richard Knox Family Farm feel we need to have our farm and farmyard safe and inviting in order to keep our family farm alive. Our farm has been in Hyde County since 1958, as my dad mentioned, with the next generation, my son Mason, also wanting to farm.

I feel the Richard Knox family has been an asset to Highmore and Hyde County. We have always supported Highmore and the county by buying local when available and always actively participated in community fundraisers benefiting local causes and people in need. Our farm has three owners, three to four full-time employees, and three to four part-time employees, all residents of Hyde County and/or Highmore.

As part owner of the Richard Knox Family Farm,

I'm asking you the board to remove Turbine 47 to keep the

turbine effects away from our farmyard. It is my understanding that many sites will have to be removed anyway. Removing this turbine will also allow substantial relief from the turbine effects on our headquarters and also benefit the large amounts of wildlife our farm shelters.

Our farm is not a 30-year project in Hyde County. It's a forever farm in Hyde County.

MS. STEPHENSON: Our next speaker will be Tonja Jessen.

MS. JESSEN: Tonja Jessen T-O-N-J-A J-E-S-S-E-N.

I'm going to kind of -- I guess just to summarize with Nick, I agree with everything he said with the roads. I drove a lot of roads last year, both Hyde, Hughes, Sully County, and it didn't matter where you were, it was just because of the wet. And I do agree that the company did an excellent job of putting those roads back to where they were.

As far as the speed and safety, I agree it can be an issue. However, as being a farm/ranch operation ourselves, we're driving big trucks up and down these roads too. And I've met a lot of grain trucks and gravel trucks over the years, and they don't slow up. They don't scoot over. You're riding your butt on the ridge -- on the lovely ridge that the county leaves on

the edge, you're leveling it off. So the roads have always been an issue, but I do feel that the company did an excellent job of bringing them back, if not better than what they were.

As far as archaeological issues, I do know they have someone out there that's been checking, and this has been going on since the first project. They were doing the bird surveys, the archaeological. They're not taking any of it for granted.

They have a guy I don't know however long ago
this first go-around went. And I did a lot of research
and I talked to a gentleman that has all that research
and he's done all the tepee ring sites and archaeological
digs. Because they are a valuable part of our
South Dakota history, and we don't want to disturb. And
I feel like they're going an excellent job of making sure
to keep that in mind when they're doing this project.

As far as the people living in Highmore or Hyde County, I do feel that there would be more people living here if we had housing. We are doing better. We have a housing committee that's working and trying to get homes into Highmore, but it's very hard to come into Highmore and live when you don't have housing available for someone to come in. And, unfortunately, Miller is not that far away. I do know some people are living over

in Harrold. So, you know, you've got to get your housing where you can find it.

I have an old classmate that wants to move back to the area, and she cannot find land anywhere or a house to move back to. So it is hard to move back in. And, to be honest, how welcome do you suppose these new people are going to feel when they know this has been a fight from day one. They're probably not going to feel real welcomed into the community if they know the community's constantly been fighting it from day one. So that's something we need to work on.

MS. STEPHENSON: 30 seconds.

MS. JESSEN: But I do agree. I think we have a great opportunity to help build our community, our city, our county, and our school. To quote -- I think it's on the bottom of the school's website. We have the opportunity to build a better tomorrow today and I think this will be a great opportunity to expand and bring money and more people in.

MS. STEPHENSON: Mark Klebsch.

MR. KLEBSCH: K-L-E-B-S-C-H. I don't know. After that I got nothing.

I agree with everything she said about the roads. They're really way better than they are now than they used to be. You know, they were trouble during

construction, but they're really good now.

As far as -- I'm not going to argue about this and that and all that. But how it's been lately, I really do wish I had a dozen of them. Because one complaint, the cows never get under them. Jeez, the cows just love them. The shade would be great. But other than that, I agree with Nick and Tonja, all that stuff.

Thank you.

MS. STEPHENSON: That was the last person we had signed up. We will do one last call for anybody that wishes to speak.

Okay. Seeing none, we have no more speakers.

CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Do you want to address

14 anymore, Casey?

MR. WILLIS: Yeah. Just the one that comes to mind is the archaeological issues. I will just say that it's something we as a company and most wind companies actually take a complete 100 percent avoidance approach.

So basically we go out and survey the areas of disturbance prior to disturbance, identify eligible sites, flag them with construction fencing and avoid. We reroute things. That's not just this project, Triple H, that's every project.

Just generally speaking in an area where there is a lot of agricultural operations, there's not that

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     many sites typically. You would find more intact -- it's
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     not to say there are not any. There certainly are.
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     We're finding them out. And that's the whole point is
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     we're flagging and avoiding them. That's what we do.
              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Anybody have any questions
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 6
     here?
              Make a motion to close the evidence.
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              COMMISSIONER SWENSON: I will.
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              COMMISSIONER HAGUE: Second.
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              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: All in favor signify by
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     saying aye.
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                       (All indicate aye.)
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              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Any deliberation about this,
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     or what do we want to do?
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              THE COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. Emily, do you
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     want their discussion on the record?
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              MS. SOVELL: We have not in the past put the
     deliberations on the record. Do you want the
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19
     deliberations on the record?
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              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: No.
21
           (The Commission deliberates off the record.)
22
              COMMISSIONER VAN DEN BERG: I'll make a motion
     to approve the North Bend Wind Project with the
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     contingency to eliminate Tower 47.
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              MS. SOVELL: Any contingencies regarding the
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haul road or anything else or just that contingency?
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              COMMISSIONER VAN DEN BERG: Just that
3
     contingency.
 4
             MS. SOVELL: Motion's on the table.
5
                    (Discussion off the record.)
6
              COMMISSIONER HAGUE: I'll second it if we don't
7
    have any other major troubles.
8
              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: I got a lot of concerns
9
     about them staying on their own roads and everything
10
     they've been preaching to us. It never ever materialized
11
    before, what I thought.
12
                    (Discussion off the record.)
              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: All those in favor of this
13
14
    motion signify by saying aye.
15
              (All but Chair Buchheim indicate aye.)
16
             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Myself, nay.
17
             MS. SOVELL: Okay. So then what we have done
18
    historically is with respect to the application, there is
     a signature for the original that will be take by the
19
20
     auditor for formal record.
21
              I'll circulate that to Mel acting as Chair.
                                                          You
22
     sign there.
23
              In addition, historically we have adopted
24
     findings. I will go through what -- I have two different
25
     templates. I'll use something similar to in the past
```

while he's signing off on that. You can tell me if you want other findings.

The hearing was held on August 10, 2021, before the Hyde County Board of Adjustment concerning Conditional Use Application No. CUP2021-001. The board, having heard evidence from Applicant North Bend Wind Project, LLC, hereby makes the following findings:

No. 1, Notice of the Hearing was published on July 29, 2021, and August 10, 2021. No. 2, proponents of the Conditional Use Permit stated in part economic development, increased tax base, compliance intent with local zoning ordinances, employment opportunities, and similar benefits.

Opponents of the CUP stated in part concerns regarding noise, impact upon established farmsteads, and impact upon archaeological sites.

Were there any other portions you want with respect to --

No. 4, the board further finds the Applicant's mode of conduct and location will not hinder the enjoyment and use of nearby properties and will not disrupt the appropriate use of land and resources of the county.

In closing, the board concludes the Conditional Use Permit is granted contingent upon removal of Tower

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No. 47.
1
2
              Does anyone want to motion to approve those
3
     findings with respect to CUP2021-001?
4
              COMMISSIONER SWENSON: Yeah.
5
             MS. SOVELL: Motion by Greg Swenson.
 6
              Second by --
              COMMISSIONER VAN DEN BERG: I'll second.
7
8
             MS. SOVELL: Okay. Call the vote.
              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Rollcall or 'ust --
10
             MS. SOVELL: Let's do rollcall on this.
11
             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Ronnie.
12
             COMMISSIONER VAN DEN BERG: Yes.
13
             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Greg.
14
             COMMISSIONER SWENSON: Yes.
15
             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Randy.
16
             COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yes.
17
             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Randy.
18
             COMMISSIONER HAGUE: Yes.
19
             CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Myself, aye.
20
             MS. SOVELL: So, with that, if you conclude the
21
    hearing or motion to conclude at this time, I will run
22
     down and put those in signature form, and we'll have them
23
     back up if you can wait for Carrie.
24
                    (Discussion off the record.)
25
              COMMISSIONER VAN DEN BERG: I'll make a motion
```

```
to adjourn.
1
2
              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: Anybody want to second that?
 3
              COMMISSIONER SWENSON: Yeah.
              CHAIRMAN BUCHHEIM: All in favor signify by
 4
5
     saying aye.
                        (All indicate aye.)
 6
7
              (The hearing is concluded at 1:55 p.m.)
8
9
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23
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25
```

1	STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
2	:SS CERTIFICATE
3	COUNTY OF SULLY)
4	
5	I, CHERI MCCOMSEY WITTLER, a Registered
6	Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter and
7	Notary Public in and for the State of South Dakota:
8	DO HEREBY CERTIFY that as the duly-appointed
9	shorthand reporter, I took in shorthand the proceedings
10	had in the above-entitled matter on the 10th day of
11	August, 2021, and that the attached is a true and correct
12	transcription of the proceedings so taken.
13	Dated at Onida, South Dakota this 10th day of
14	September, 2021.
15	
16	
17	/s/ Cheri McComsey Wittler
18	Cheri McComsey Wittler, Notary Public and
19	Registered Professional Reporter Certified Realtime Reporter
20	ocicilica acarcina neporcei
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

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