

From: JIM EKHOLM <james.ekholm@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2024 4:54 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Cc: Ron Ruud <ronor52@gmail.com>; Matt Holden <mtholde@gmail.com>; Kevin Gross <grossbk80@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXT] Comments on Doc. # EL24-023 Deuel Harvest - Clear Lake 22AUG24

"Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application on Thursday, August 22, 2024 - 5:30 p.m. CDT- Clear Lake Community Center, 218 Third Avenue South, Clear Lake, South Dakota".

SD2 Lake Cochrane Seaplane Port

August 15, 2024

I am the current manager of the Lake Cochrane Seaplane Port – SD2. Most of the traffic using SD2 consists of private general aviation being used for pleasure excursions. Over the years we have had several commuters who flew onto the Lake for weekend vacation. At the moment we have no amphibians or float planes based on the Lake but we do have several regular visitors. And, we have the occasional seasonal commercial general aviation aircraft fueling for the long ferry across the State of South Dakota.

The proposed wind towers are of concern since they are near the normal flight path in and out of the Lake. Our prevailing wind is normally out of the West North West along the survey line of SD2. General Aviation pilots are careful flyers but we have allowed our skies to be seeded with taller and taller structures over the past several years. These towers are 2 to 3 times taller than the grain elevators we refer to as Prairie Skyscrapers. Most pilots landing on SD2 are flying for pleasure and sightseeing. Planes taking off into the prevailing wind will have additional hazards to clear shortly after takeoff if these closest towers are allowed. Lake Cochrane, Lake Oliver, South Slough and Carter Lake are interesting from the air but just to the SW is the huge but shallow Fox Lake that will command their attention. The addition of towers into the potential flight path is a dangerous proposition.

We recommend the 3 closest towers that are on the FAA alert watch be removed from the proposed plan for Deuel Harvest Wind since they are a potential aircraft hazard.

Sincerely,

James Ekholm
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