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Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 3:43 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Wind Projects in South Dakota

October 16, 2024

Public Utilities Commissioners:

I decided to write this letter after more frustrations with wind turbines on the Tatanka wind project.

Since spring of this year, one of the turbines on my land and one on my sister-in-law's land have had work done on them. Not to mention others in the project. To me, and I would think to other people also, that this is ridiculous to have to work on wind turbines that came on line about two years ago. I think before putting up more wind turbines we need to get the "wrinkles" out of the wind projects that we have. Both times we were not alerted that any work was going to be done. And crops were damaged. Here I will say, that I worked with Ben Dressen, as a local representative, he did work with us. According to him, he does get advance notice on certain things, so we did not get advance notice, which again is ridiculous. Just last week, my son-in-law was going to combine the soybeans that day on the field where they were doing work. Instead of notify, so he could combine them, (which maybe would have taken an hour) They damaged crop. I have another issue with the company. We were promised that the lights would only be on when airplane approached, certain weather conditions, a couple of other reasons. The lights have NEVER gone off!! Ben tells me it is a problem getting the information from another company, etc.... Maybe that tells us the wind companies are not so certain about making things right after they have gotten their incentive money and the warranties run out???

I am going to give some history here. We signed a contract with Heartland Wind, back in 2007. I have letters that date back to 2001 with Enxco. Back then, my husband and I were thinking that there was a need for additional types of energy. But of course, money was the main reason. Agriculture has been a tough industry to be in at times. Over the years, we were signed with other companies. Hard to keep track of the companies. And then Avangrid Renewables built the Tatanka Ridge farm. In 2015, my husband passed away, and in 2017, I moved into Clear Lake. At that time, my daughter and son-in-law moved on the farm and making it the 5th generation to live and farm on land homesteaded by my husband's Great Grandfather. So I have not lived on the farm since the wind project has been constructed. But I still own land and visit all the time. And can see the lights on the turbines from my current home. So since then I have seen the shadows caused by the blades, heard the noise, all that goes along with what wind farms are doing to our county and other counties surrounding us. I said when we got them, that we would get use to them. I compared it to the WAPA line on our property across the road and the Interstate 29 noise, 4 miles from us. But it is nothing like either of those. You "might" hear both of them once in awhile when the wind or the atmosphere is just right. And the WAPA towers are nothing like the turbines.

I also lease land to two turbines in the north part of the county, where I grew up. In Energy North Project. So right here I will say, I don't concern myself as much with those two turbines. Why? Because I don't live by them. Just like all of the people that want the turbines but don't live here. They just want the money! In the Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South, LLC proposed

project, we have counted up and found that maybe only 8 people who lease to Invenergy live by this newly proposed wind farm.

I attended the meeting when you were in Clear Lake. Two of things that I think I found most interesting are: 1. I think there were only 2 people that talk in favor of. A gentleman, I know, he lives in Iowa. His sister-in-law lives in Clear Lake. To them it would be a boost in their income. The second gentleman was from Lake Benton and comes to speak at any type of meeting like this. I am guessing that he is asked by the company. But my second point, No. 2 is that three people sat at the table that represented Invenergy that night. I think, one was their lawyer. MANY questions were asked of them that night. I honestly think that they only could answer one of them. "I will have to look that up" I am not sure on that." Do we really want another wind project where the company that is building it can't answer the questions. Whether they were playing dumb or really didn't know the answers?? Either way, this really needs to be looked at.

I will go back to the gentleman from Lake Benton. I believe he said that those turbines by Lake Benton were scheduled to be decommissioned in 2028? Maybe it is time to put a hold on projects and see that these companies are really going to get rid of all the turbines. I think that is one of the most important things that really concern me and others. I am not sure how much is put escrow account to do this. My guess is not nearly enough for 20 years in the future. Other reasons to put a hold on wind projects, is the design of wind instruments in the future and other devices that will produce power, such as big batteries. I have seen articles on both lately. I have seen a new hexagon wind product. Maybe it is time to let these developments have a chance.

The turbines I have on my land are located in [REDACTED] (Sister-in-law has one in [REDACTED]) and my other location is in [REDACTED]. My daughter and son-in-law live in [REDACTED]. I am looking at the Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South. I did NOT sign a good neighbor with Invenergy. But even then the set back from my land line is not enough. They are proposing a turbine just at the setback mark in [REDACTED] and one in the [REDACTED]. These turbines are way to close to households in the area. There is already a turbine from Tatanka in [REDACTED]. It does causes flickers at certain times and noise. I know they do flicker reports. Not being an expert on reading these, it is hard to tell, but it looks like there is possibility for flicker to the house.

This is not really a testimonial for a certain wind project but for South Dakota as whole. I know it brings jobs, tax income, all the things we have heard about to get these projects approved. But it has taken away from the beauty of northeastern South Dakota. I think we need to slow down with wind projects. It is ALL about money. The money I get.(which at this point, I try to give to charities each year.) The money the people that build the project gets. The companies that get the incentive money to build these projects. The State of South Dakota that gets the tax dollars. At this point I wish that I had not signed with a wind company because of what it has done to the landscape and the people that have to live near them. Please look at this from the perspective whether it is really good for our State and whether these companies will do what they say they will do 20 years from now.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. Please take them into consideration for any future wind project in South Dakota.

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