

To Whom it May Concern:

I have grave concerns over the natural gas power generating facility planned for Toronto, SD.

Firstly, it is located in an agricultural area. It would be far more suited to an industrial park, of which there is none in Deuel County. The Deuel County Zoning Ordinance states that our county is primarily agricultural and the purpose of zoning is to minimize disruptions to agriculture. A power plant is a disruption to farming, therefore it is not in compliance with our land use plan.

Secondly, there already exists a NG power plant in this same Scandinavia Township, rural Astoria – Toronto area.

We just experienced an extremely cold week, in particular January 23 to 28, 2026. Temperatures were in the range of -25 degrees Fahrenheit with wind chills to -40. I contacted Ottertail Power Company to learn exactly how they used their Astoria Station during this cold snap. I was told the plant was generating electricity from 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, January 24. Those two hours were the only time it ran during a high demand period; the main reason being that the cost of natural gas went sky high, 40-50 times the normal cost, according to the Ottertail representative with whom I spoke.

I am convinced the proposed plant will encounter the same obstacle with being unable to purchase NG at the inflated rate during a peak demand situation.

At the PUC hearing in Toronto in September 2025, the company representative told us the purpose of the plant was to provide additional power for their municipal customers in Minnesota. It is unethical for this company to expect the people of Scandinavia Township, Deuel County, South Dakota to make up for the lack of power being generated in Minnesota. Their state government set them up for an energy catastrophe by demanding all renewable energy by 2030. It is not the obligation of the people of South Dakota to provide energy services to the people of Minnesota when their own government has worked against the people of that state.

Sincerely,

Mary Nosbush

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