

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 10:42 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Docket EL25-029 / Philip Wind Partners

RE: PUC Docket EL25-029 / Philip Wind Partners

Dear PUC Commissioners and Staff,

We are 5th generation Farmer/Ranchers in Haakon County. We were at the public meeting and are opposed to this project for a number of reasons;

The U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Duffy restored safety recommendations for wind turbines to be a minimum 1.2 miles setback for turbines built near highways and railroads. Is Philip Wind Partners adhering to this safety rule? According to their site location map, it doesn't seem so.

The sheer volume of land (68,000 acres in this case) placed under lease for decades, and electricity to be shipped out of state. Wind projects take up approximately 30,000 acres to produce the same amount of electricity as a 2,500-acre coal plant. They run at maximum power only 35% of the time compared to natural gas at 64% of the time.

We need to stop sacrificing large quantities of prime agricultural land and pristine prairies for corporate gains. Land is a finite and valuable resource. Using it for energy comes at the expense of using it for agricultural purposes. Wind turbines also disrupt air currents which negatively impacts the precipitation in the region. This area of South Dakota has seen enough severe drought through nature alone, we do not need man-made products impacting it even worst.

When developers receive taxpayer subsidies (300 million to 400 million in this case), they do not have to account for the value of alternative uses for the land. Wind turbines can be a lucrative asset for participating landowners, but also have a negative financial, visual, and possible health impacts on neighbors. According to the American Bird Conservancy, wind

turbines kill an estimated 1 million birds a year in the U.S. They also disrupt the habitats of all wildlife in the area. Western South Dakota is known for it's wide open spaces and abundance of wildlife. The wind farm will not only cause a visual blight on the landscape, but also diminishes the quality of hunting in the region. Given the fact that the blades have a maximum speed of 100 to 180mph, the noise pollution, vibrations, and low-frequency infrasound below 20hz, all have a negative impact on animals and humans within proximity of a mile of a turbine if not further out. There are studies out there about the vibrations causing reproductive issues and loss of milk production in cattle, and horses; the noise is causing behavioral issues also. The added stress to livestock has a direct impact on a ranchers bottom-line. Wind turbines also reduce the land value by up to 12%.

Why has there been little to no testing done on the effects that these towering turbines could have on animals or for that matter, humans in the vicinity? We require testing of chemicals to assure safety before they may be used in the environment. Why is similarly rigorous testing not required to date for wind turbines?

Wind turbines require 11 tons of critical, rare earth minerals for every megawatt of power capacity, while natural gas requires only about 1 ton. They will have an estimated 47 million tons of blade waste by 2050. So from beginning to end, they have a disastrous effects on the environment. If we took away all the subsidies and tax credits, far less wind farms would be built.

Thanks for your consideration,

Sig and Carisa Martin

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Philip, SD 57567

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