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North Dakota Public Service Commission
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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Petition for hearing and re-evaluation of high risk wind turbines.

The Public Service Commissioners have been asked to allow a one mile setback for three homes. They have decided against allowing this. As land owners, homeowners and some business owners located in the South Ashtabula Wind Farm project, we are petitioning for a re-hearing on high risk turbines #170,171, 172 and 166.

Look carefully at the strong evidence that was presented at the June 5th hearing in Cooperstown, ND that is all a part of the public record. If this proceeds as planned, some of these issues have great potential to come back to haunt the decision makers.

In the July 8th meeting, the commissioners made the decision to take one of the five high risk turbines out. By this action the commissioners CLEARLY acknowledged the noise problem for guests at the bed and breakfast. They spoke of how people who go to a B & B are seeking quiet. As residents, is our need for quiet less important? We did not merely invest a hundred dollars a night for a night or two, we invested tens of thousands of dollars and a good part of our lives. And we chose to live our lives in this state. Are we supposed to live with this noise night after night as the Stillings have been forced to? Do you remember Cathryn Stillings from the Ashtabula project reading her testimony of how she sleeps each night with ear plugs? Her testimony is part of the public record. You can also read about it in several recent news stories.

To hear more proof of noise, listen to the June, 5th testimony from Mark Askerooth, a participating land owner who clearly and strongly admits that the turbines make significant noise.

Dennis Stillings, one who lives with the noise day after day says “One of the big tricks played by NextEra is to conflate the concepts of *sound* and *noise*. *Sound* is a purely physical concept describable by mathematics and physics; *noise* is sound as perceived by an organism—a human being or animal. It has context. The sound level of a dog growling might amount to very few decibels, but as a noise it has quite another impact. The way the sound of a waterfall or of ocean surf can be quite loud, yet people pay premium prices to live next to them. On the other hand, the slightest irregular noise in the engine of an expensive car can be very annoying. It is said that the sound of the turbines is no more annoying than the sound of a refrigerator, but we know what that is, the place it has in our lives, and we know that it comes and goes. The *whup-whup-whup* of the turbines can continue unabated, 24/7, for days on end. It is also said that the noise level is at about the level of ordinary human conversation. But how would you like to have a stranger in your living room sitting in the corner going “*whup-whup-whup*” at about one-second intervals while trying to hold a conversation with another human.

What NextEra says without blushing or batting an eye condemns them out of their own mouths.”

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Letter Requesting Rehearing and Reevaluation of
Turbine Setbacks

Gerald & Connie Stokka

The PSC office is going to be looking at the current setbacks in the next two to four weeks. How can the decision to allow the four "in question" turbines go forward before the final decision?

If it is vitally important to the economy (tax revenues) of North Dakota to have these four turbines, wouldn't it be wise to not allow it to take away our property value? As landowners, are we so much less important than the participating land owners?

Scott Scovill, from NextEra, insisted that it would not affect our property value. If he is so sure, then why wouldn't he be willing to give us a property value protection plan? He could confidently know that he has not given up anything and we would be reassured the value of our property will not decline.

If the PSC refuses citizens a one mile setback, then we ask for protection from this violation by means of a property value protection plan.

We urge the Public Service Commissioners take another look at their decision.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizens for Proper Setbacks.

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