



# McIntosh County Bank

MEMBER FDIC

March 24, 2011

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 25 2011**

Tony Clark, Chairman  
Kevin Cramer  
Brian P. Kalk  
Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

RE: enXco Public Hearing Case No. PU-08-932  
Ellendale, ND

Dear Commissioners:

I was disappointed to see the enXco public hearing on the proposed Merricourt Wind Power Project scheduled for Ellendale. This project is largely located in McIntosh County, 16 miles east of Ashley. Ellendale (Dickey County) is over 30 miles from this project. By my account, over 80% of the affected property owners are in McIntosh County. This meeting should have, by all accounts, been held in Ashley.

I am fully aware of the issues you had relative to the public meeting held at the McIntosh County Courthouse in Ashley last year for the CPV Ashley Wind Power Project. By your own staff's account (Jerry Lien), verified by McIntosh County Auditor Gina Ketterling, this scheduling snafu was largely the fault of your office staff under-estimating the attendance at this meeting.

It is difficult for me to believe you and your staff would not find acceptable accommodations in Ashley other than the Courthouse. Mr. Kalk himself was in Ashley in January speaking at the Ashley Chamber of Commerce Banquet at the Dakota Family Restaurant, a facility that holds up to 100 people.

My disappointment is largely the loss of recognition and prominence Ashley suffers by having such a meeting in a neighboring community. We fight for every little scrap of recognition we can get. When Ellendale is "featured" for the public meetings on this project, it can send a message to enXco, contractors/subcontractors and employees of this potential project to check into Ellendale for housing, commerce and investment. To some extent, Ellendale gets "anointed" the headquarters for the Merricourt farm. From a PSC standpoint, the majority of McIntosh County property owners impacted by this farm will need to travel 30 miles to Ellendale rather than 16 miles to Ashley. These people are doing their commerce primarily in Ashley.

I did give Jerry a list of public meeting areas in Ashley that can be used for future reference. I am hopeful we can work together and communicate more efficiently in the future. Ashley also

From a personal standpoint, please feel free to contact me should you ever have a need to discuss logistics in Ashley. I would be more than happy to help in any way.

On a political note, Ellendale is the home area of Brad Crabtree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Wishek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "W".

Robert F. Wishek  
President/CEO